



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

The White Rose Resistance and Its Lessons for Today

BY EVA WELLER

Please join the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County on Sunday, October 26, 2025 at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT at 11:30 am for The Norma and Milton Mann Annual Lecture: *The White Rose Resistance and Its Lessons for Today*, which is free and open to the public.

Dr. Jud Newborn, this year's speaker, is one of the foremost authorities on the White Rose, a non-violent intellectual resistance group in Nazi Germany, as well as on Jewish anti-Nazi resistance, the Holocaust and antisemitism today. Using stirring theme music, 90 powerful images and suspenseful storytelling, Dr. Newborn recounts how siblings Sophie and Hans Scholl--former fanatical Hitler Youth leaders, along with a few other students and one professor, all at the University of Munich--became extraordinary heroes of the German anti-Nazi resistance. "We will not be silent," their wartime leaflets declared. "We are your bad conscience. The White Rose will not leave you in peace!" On February 18, 1943, after an array of their daring resistance actions,



Speaker
Dr. Jud Newborn

and just as students poured into the University of Munich's vast atrium, the siblings threw over one hundred leaflets from above, showering those below with a cascade of anti-Nazi leaflets. It was the *only* public protest by Germans against Nazism ever staged. In post-war Germany, the White Rose continues to embody and symbolize the spirit of "Civil

Courage," the *active* intervention to counter injustice, including antisemitism. Indeed, the significance of the White Rose does not end with the past. Dr. Newborn will also explore their legacy and their urgent lessons for today's compelling current events at home and abroad.

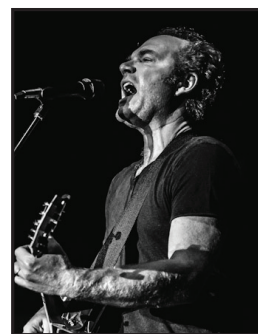
Dr. Newborn, an international multimedia storyteller and lecturer, served as the Founding Historian and co-creator of New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage--A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. He was honored with the prestigious Anne Frank Center's "Spirit of Anne Frank Human Writes Award" in 2018. He is currently

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Superheroes Among Us

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) is excited to present

Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter John Ondrasik of Five for Fighting, in concert on Sunday, September 7 at 7:30 pm at Rippowam Middle School, 381 High Ridge Road in Stamford. The event, entitled "Superheroes Among Us," will celebrate and recognize an array of community leaders for their outstanding service to the local Jewish community. Event chairs are Hannah and Daniel



John Ondrasik of
Five For Fighting

Blonshteyn, Lisa and Jeff Manheim, and Wendy and Jared Siegel. Ondrasik will sing and share his story as part of the evening's program.

Ondrasik has penned major hits, including the chart-topping "100 Years," "The Riddle," "Chances," "World," and "Easy Tonight," which have earned tens of millions of streams and placed him as a Top 10 Hot Adult Contemporary artist for the 2000s. The reflective "100 Years" has joined "Superman (It's Not Easy)" as part of the American songbook and continues to stand the test of time, playing at weddings,

birthdays, graduations, memorials, and in many home videos. More than 350 films, television shows, and commercials, such as the Oscar-winning *The Blind Side*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *The Sopranos*, and the CBS drama *Code Black*, have used Five for Fighting's music.

Following the events of October 7, 2023, Ondrasik became a staunch supporter and ally of Israel and the Jewish people. In April 2025, Ondrasik revised the lyrics to "Superman" as a tribute to Alon Ohel, a 24-year-old

hostage, still currently held by Hamas. Ondrasik performed alongside Alon's brother Ronen, his mother Idit, and a community of friends who gathered in Hostage Square, Tel Aviv.

"As someone who danced to '100 Years' at my wedding, welcoming John Ondrasik to Stamford this September is profoundly personal," says Wendy Siegel, event co-chair. "John may not be Jewish, yet time and again he's used his voice to champion justice and human dignity--values at the heart of UJF's mission. His willingness to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

3 Upcoming Programs

6 JCRC News

8 Holiday Happenings

18 Bits & Pieces

28 Life & Legacy

30 International News

It's a Wrap

(Courtesy of JCC) Summer 2025 is a wrap for Summer Camps at the Stamford JCC. These smiling faces say it all as 100s of campers enjoyed a summer filled with sports, swimming, boating, rock wall climbing, Israel culture, zip lining, trips, Shabbat, and more. (See page 12 for more camp photos)





From UJF's Chief Executive Officer Gratitude and Hope for the New Year

BY DIANE SLOYER

As we approach the Jewish New Year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to our community. Over the past year, we have faced profound challenges—both globally and closer to home. These have not been easy times. Yet, even in difficulty, one thing has remained constant: the steadfast strength, compassion, and resilience of our greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien Jewish community.

I have witnessed incredible moments of support—neighbors helping neighbors, volunteers showing up day after day, donors giving with open hearts, and organizations working hand-in-hand to ensure that no one feels alone. These acts of kindness and solidarity, both large and small, are a daily reality check, reminding me that even in the most trying of times, there is still light.

As we look ahead to a new year, Rosh Hashanah offers us a sacred opportunity to reflect, to recommit, and to renew our collective spirit. It is a time not only to look inwards, but to reach outwards—to repair, to reconnect, and to reaffirm who we are as a people.

We are taught in our tradition: “*Teshuvah* (Repentance), *Tefillah* (Prayer) and *Tzedakah* (Charity) avert the severity of the decree.”

These three pillars—spiritual return, heartfelt prayer, and acts of giving—serve as a roadmap in uncertain times. They remind us that although we cannot always change our circumstances, we can change how we respond to them. And



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

when we respond together, guided by these values, we can move from despair toward hope. In these trying times, I am grateful that the Jewish calendar gives us this opportunity to reset.

Now, more than ever, we are called to do a little more and to be a little more connected. Whether that means volunteering our time, making a donation, checking in on someone who needs a kind word, or simply showing up to community events, each action plays a role in strengthening our shared commitment to community.

Our tradition teaches *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*—“All of Israel is responsible for one another,” reminding us that our strength lies in our unity. When we come together, we not only lift each other up—we lift the entire community.

On behalf of United Jewish Federation, thank you. Thank you for your unwavering support, your compassion, your generosity, and your faith in one another. Thank you for showing up, again and again, in ways big and small.

As we begin this new year, may it be one of renewal, connection, and continued growth. May we enter 5786 with open hearts and a shared commitment to each other and our local and global Jewish community. As One we are stronger. As One, we will continue to build, to uplift, and to endure.

Shana Tova U'Metukah—On behalf of UJF's Staff, Board, and my husband Elliot, wishing you and your loved ones a sweet, healthy, joyous, and peaceful New Year.

UJF President's Message Together for a Sweet New Year

BY BEVERLY STEIN

As the High Holidays approach and we take time to reflect on the year behind us and the one ahead, I keep returning to one powerful idea: **As One**, we can build a stronger, more unified Jewish community.

Rosh Hashanah gives us the opportunity to pause—to reflect on our lives, our relationships, and our responsibilities to one another.

It's a time to ask not only who we've been, but who we hope to become. And just as importantly, who we want to become *together*.

In a world that often emphasizes division, I believe our greatest strength as a Jewish people lies in the bonds that connect us. Across denominations, generations, backgrounds, and beliefs—we are one community. We are one family.

It's easy to forget that. We may worship in different synagogues, observe traditions in unique ways, or hold a wide range of perspectives and opinions, but what unites us is deeper than any difference. We share a heritage, a history, and a collective hope for a better future—for ourselves, for the Jewish people, and for the world.

That shared future inspires the work we do every day at the United Jewish Federation. Our mission is to support *Klal Yisrael*—the whole Jewish people. That means caring for the vulnerable, strengthening Jewish identity, standing with Israel, fighting antisemitism, keeping our community safe, and building a vibrant, inclusive Jewish life—here and around the world.

But we don't do this work alone. We do it with you. Your support, your time, and



Beverly Stein,
UJF President

your passion are what make this work not only possible, but meaningful.

This New Year, I want to invite each of us—myself included—to take one step further. Let's not just support our community. Let's actively build it. Let's reach across boundaries, engage with those we don't yet know, reach out to those

with opinions other than ours and deepen our connections.

That could mean inviting someone new to your holiday table. It could mean checking in on a neighbor, volunteering with a Federation program, or simply learning someone else's story. However you choose to engage, know this: you matter. You are an essential part of this community, and your presence is a gift.

Over the past year, we've seen the power of unity—whether in moments of crisis, in support of Jewish education, or in standing up against hate. Time and again, we've shown that solidarity is sacred.

Let's carry that spirit forward into 5786. Let's be there for each other not only in hardship, but in everyday moments too. Let's celebrate our diversity, strengthen our connections, and commit to a future rooted in compassion, inclusion, and shared responsibility.

To everyone in our community: thank you. Thank you for showing up, for giving, and for helping us build something lasting—together.

May this New Year bring you and your loved ones health, peace, and sweetness. And may we continue to grow, together, as one people with one heart.

The White Rose Resistance and Its Lessons for Today

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

working on the first Hollywood feature film about the White Rose. Dr. Newborn serves today as the Emmy Award-winning producer and host of celebrity guest programs for Long Island's renowned Cinema Arts Centre. He has written for *The Smithsonian Magazine*,

The New York Times and *The Jerusalem Post*, among other publications. He was awarded his PhD from the University of Chicago with Distinction after three years of adventurous fieldwork in Europe, hunting down former SS officers and working undercover for Poland's “Solidarity” freedom movement during communist martial law. He co-authored

the critically acclaimed classic, *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose*, recently updated in a special 80th anniversary edition which will be available for sale and signing at the Lecture.

The Norma and Milton Mann Annual Philanthropic Lecture brings renowned experts to present themes with wide appeal, historical significance, and vital impact on

the present and future. The Lecture is the first and only named Lecture of the Society and is underwritten by the Mann Family Foundation, honoring the memory of their parents, two extraordinary leaders of the Society and community.

Registration is suggested. Please email info@jhsfc-ct.org or call 203 359-2196.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

October 2025 Edition

Deadline: Thursday, September 4, 2025

November 2025 Edition

Deadline: Monday, September 29, 2025

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

September 5.....	7:04 pm
September 12.....	6:52 pm
September 19.....	6:40 pm
September 26.....	6:28 pm

Calling All Lions of Judah

(Courtesy of UJF) Join United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (UJF) for an exclusive evening of connection, inspiration, and community dedicated to Lion of Judah supporters—women making a difference in our community through gifts (individual or family) of \$5,000 or more. The event will take place at a private residence on September 18, starting at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$50 per person.

The Lion of Judah is an internationally recognized symbol of women's philanthropy created by Jewish Federations of North America, representing women who make significant philanthropic contributions to support Jewish causes through the local Federation. Donors embody leadership, compassion, and a commitment to strengthening Jewish life locally and globally.



**Jewelry designer
Freida Rothman**

Nancy Mimoun, a past UJF president, is chairing this evening. She shared, "I am excited we will have the opportunity as a group of committed and like-minded women to delve into what it means to live 'beyond the Lion pin'—exploring deep connections, identity, and impact."

"We look forward to welcoming guest speaker, jewelry designer Freida Rothman, known for her Jewishly inspired pieces that blend contemporary style with meaningful heritage. She will share the stories behind her creations," Mimoun continued.

The evening will include dinner, great company and a special gift designed by Freida Rothman for each attendee.

Register at www.ujf.org/lion.

Any questions, contact Jillian Moore, UJF's Director of Programs and Outreach at jillian@ujf.org.

As One, Commemorating Two Years Since October 7

(Courtesy of UJF) As we near the two-year anniversary of the atrocities of October 7, 2023 the community will gather in remembrance and solidarity to observe the date. The commemoration will take place on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 7:00 pm at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford.

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF), the Stamford Board of Rabbis, UJA-JCC, the Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County, and AJC (American Jewish Committee) invite the community to join in commemorating the tragic events of October 7, as well as the need to come together to find strength in community.

"This gathering will focus on light, faith, and survival and will honor the lives lost, and the hostages that still have not come home. Our greatest strength is coming together," shares UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.

This year's commemoration features Micha Biton, a pioneer in the ethnic-rock genre of Israeli music. Micha's mesmerizing concert "From Sderot to Jerusalem" uses anecdotes and song to tell the story of his childhood as a refugee. Today, Micha performs sold-out concerts in Israel's most popular venues and is traveling the world, both solo and with his band. On



Micha Biton

October 7, Micha spent 13 hours in a safe room with his family in Netiv Ha'asara, a Gaza border community. During their heroic evacuation, he grabbed his beloved guitar and now shares his story through music - one of light, faith, and survival.

To register and attend the October 7 commemoration, please visit www.ujf.org/oct7. There is no charge, but registration is required. For more information, please contact Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org.

One Shabbat: One CommUNITY

(Courtesy of UJF) Mark your calendars for a new and exciting event coming soon to our community. One Shabbat: One CommUNITY will take place the weekend of December 12-13, 2025. This collaborative initiative is designed to unite individuals, families, and organizations throughout the greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien Jewish communities.

This event will mark the culmination of a year-long planning process among a diverse, broadly represented group of community members, dubbed the "Big Idea" committee. Together, this group met frequently, responded to surveys, and brainstormed ideas to bring the entire

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Local Jewish Community Opens Their Homes and Hearts

(Courtesy of UJF) When Reut and Joseph traveled from Israel to Stamford, CT, they intended to stay for 10 days, celebrating Passover with their 3-year-old son and with family that lives in the US. But then, fate stepped in, and the Stamford Community stepped up. Reut, seven months pregnant, experienced a medical emergency and arrived at Stamford Hospital. With the family concerned about Reut and their unborn child, they also had to worry about managing the observance of the Passover holiday.

Luckily, they arrived at their hospital room at the same time as Carol Krim and Gail G. Trell, who were delivering Shabbat packages to Jewish patients, an activity initiated many years ago by the Stamford Board of Rabbis. Carol and Gail moved right into action, helping the family learn



Gail G. Trell, Reut, Joseph, and Carol Krim

about kosher for Passover meals for the patient and about the Shabbat elevator that runs on Shabbat and all Jewish holidays,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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A Busy Year Ahead for Friendship Circle

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) Friendship Circle staff were busy over the summer preparing for the 2025-26 school year. Events for the upcoming year include both Friendship Circle favorites and new initiatives. Children and Adult Circle and Friends at home, as well as Bowling League, Winter Camp and Holiday programming are back, along with many others. New programming includes a special Friends at Home personalized birthday celebration, as well as an adult employment program at Beldotti's and some other fun surprises.

The Friendship Circle continues to provide support to individuals with special needs and to the entire family. In addition to

the array of activities for Friendship Circle participants, there are many ways for parents, siblings and grandparents to be involved and find community. Offerings include outings, Zoom events, therapeutic support and more.

Community teens have the opportunity to volunteer in programming of their choice. There are many different needs and many ways to be of service. There are also

additional social opportunities, training workshops and leadership possibilities. Volunteers may receive credit at school for community service hours.

Malya Shmotkin, Friendship Circle Director shared, "Every September I am filled with the excitement of another year of creating and continuing the beautiful friendships the Friendship Circle helps to

foster. The real beauty of the Friendship Circle is that it has so many winners—the individuals with special needs, their families, the volunteers and our supporters who allow it all to happen."

To learn more and to become involved, please reach out to Malya at malya@friendshipct.com.

New Canaan Hebrew School Begins a New Year

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) The New Canaan Hebrew School, operated by Chabad New Canaan, will reopen for the 2025-2026 academic year on Sunday, September 14, offering a fresh curriculum and expanded programming for children ages 5 to 13.

Classes will take place weekly on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 am, with a curriculum designed to

foster Jewish identity, values, and knowledge through engaging, hands-on experiences.

This year, the school is introducing two new theme-based tracks.

Students in grades K-2 will take part in "My Jewish Treasure," a program that explores Jewish *mitzvot*, traditions, and values through games, crafts, and stories. Each week, students will collect symbolic "treasure tokens" to reinforce lessons and build their own personal Jewish Treasures Chest.

Older students in grades 3-5 will join "Israel Quest," which takes them through the history of the Jewish people in ancient Israel—from the biblical entry into the land with Joshua to the founding of Jerusalem under Kings David and Solomon. The program aims to deepen students' connection with Israel by linking its ancient heritage to its relevance today

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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A Night of Inspiration with Omer Shem Tov

(Courtesy of Agudath Sholom) Join Congregation Agudath Sholom on Tuesday, September 16 at 7:30 pm for an unforgettable evening with Omer Shem Tov, a symbol of resilience and faith, as he shares his harrowing experience as a hostage held captive by Hamas for 505 days after being kidnapped from the Nova Music Festival on October 7, 2023.

The evening will include a personal and emotional account of Omer's experiences in captivity, insights into the importance of faith and community in overcoming adversity, and a unique opportunity to connect with Omer and hear his story firsthand, as the community lifts up their



Omer Shem Tov

voices in song, prayer and hope.

"Omer's story is one of hope and inspiration, showcasing the power of faith and determination in the face of unimaginable adversity. During his captivity, Omer found strength in his Jewish heritage, observing Shabbat and reciting prayers, including making *Kiddush* with grape juice that miraculously never ran out," said CAS Senior Rabbi Daniel Cohen.

"Omer Shem Tov is a testament to the human spirit's capacity for resilience and hope. Omer spent 505 days in captivity, subjected to physical and psychological abuse. Despite these unimaginable

challenges, Omer maintained his faith and found strength in his community," Rabbi Cohen continued.

Since his release, Omer has become an advocate for the release of remaining hostages and a source of inspiration for many.

The evening is sponsored by Barry Sternlicht in memory of Mark Sternlicht whose love for Israel and family, and optimism, resilience and generous spirit continue to shine.

Admission is free, but RSVP is required. A sign-up link will be available on the synagogue's website at www.cas-stamford.org

For more information, visit www.cas-stamford.org or contact Rabbi Daniel Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org

Local Jewish Community Opens Their Homes and Hearts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and brought Joseph to Aaron's Place, the Kosher Comfort Room (a project of United Jewish Federation) where he could get Kosher for Passover meals as well as snacks and drinks for himself and Reut. All the food is provided free of charge by 613 Restaurant, Schoke Jewish Family Service Freedberg Kosher Food Pantry, and community donations through UJF. Carol and Gail also contacted Chabad and the Kosher room volunteers to solicit help, and kept in touch with the family, visiting

and offering warm support.

After the holiday, local Jewish WhatsApp group members reached out and found a family willing to give Reut and her family their finished basement as a home in Stamford. What was expected to be a few days of accommodation stretched to over a month. Chabad welcomed their son at the Gan. Many families from across the Stamford community synagogues, invited the family to join in Shabbat meals.

Reut and Joseph welcomed baby girl, Avigayil, who arrived early and tiny, needing time in the Stamford Hospital NICU.

After quite a journey, the family of four was able to return to Israel in early July, after a farewell swim and ice cream date at the home of the Krims. They left knowing that they were blessed to land in the middle of the warm, caring, giving Stamford Community.

Aaron's Place, a Kosher Comfort Room at Stamford Hospital, is operated by volunteers and is available free of charge to anyone in need. Volunteers are needed, and anyone who is interested can contact ronsichel@aol.com. More information can be found at www.ujf.org/aaronsplace.

UJF Launches New Corporate Partners Program

(Courtesy of UJF) This summer, United Jewish Federation launched a new Corporate Partners program, designed to create high-value mutually beneficial relationships between the corporate community and the local Jewish community.

With roughly 16,000 Jews now living in Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, the time was right to mount a concerted effort to reach out to companies and businesses in the area, which have an interest in reaching the Jewish community. By partnering with UJF, companies can reach attractive demographic groups, including business, financial, legal, technology, real estate, and medical professionals, gaining an opportunity to shine a positive light on their brand.

"According to the 2019 Porter Novelli/Cone Gen Z Purpose Study, 90% of consumers believe that companies must act to help social issues, and 75% will do

research on a company's values before making a purchase," said UJF Deputy Director, Eric Ross. "And UJF donors place a high value on good corporate citizenship, supporting businesses that hold values similar to their own."

Businesses interested in partnering with UJF can select from a robust list of benefits, including social media highlights, branded pop-up banners at UJF events, swag bag opportunities, recognition on UJF's website, Annual Report, and weekly Upcoming Events emails, and free and discounted ads in the *New Jewish Voice*.

Ross continued, "We are committed to ensuring that a partnership with UJF is one of the highest value to local companies, and the best value for their investment."

To learn more about UJF's Corporate Partners program, please visit www.ujf.org/Partners or contact Eric Ross at eric@ujf.org.

Chabad of New Canaan to Celebrate 15 Years

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) Save the date of Thursday, November 20, 2025, when Chabad of New Canaan will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a Gala Dinner. The event will honor the leadership and generosity that have helped build the growing Jewish community in New Canaan.

The evening will recognize the impact of the Weinman Jewish Academy, the Lifelong Learning program of Chabad of New Canaan, established in loving memory

of Roberta Weinman z"l. Special awards will be presented to Yan and Valerie Klats, recipients of the Young Leadership Award, and Aria Babayev, who will receive the Teen Volunteer Award.

Community members are invited to join the celebration as Chabad marks this important milestone and continues to strengthen Jewish life in the area. Further details about the event will be announced in the coming weeks.

A Chance to Do Good While Sharing Joy

(Courtesy of UJF) Any time you send flowers to someone, you can now help support the local Jewish community at the same time!

Do you have a sister in St. Louis who just landed her dream job? How about a grandparent in Santa Fe with a big birthday coming up? Maybe a grandson graduating from high school in Orlando? Or perhaps a new neighbor just moved in next door?

Thanks to a new partnership between Crayola Flowers and United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, Crayola Flowers will donate a significant percentage of every purchase to UJF. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ujfflowers> to place your order. Now is a perfect time to do good while sharing joy!

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A Journey of Blessing, Connection, and Renewal

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Just a short drive from Stamford lies what many consider a "treasure house of blessings", the Ohel, the sacred resting place of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, of blessed memory. This summer, community members participated in two meaningful visits to this place of holiness, led by Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov.

Chabad of Stamford organizes trips to the Ohel throughout the year and can also help facilitate individual visits. Community members are encouraged to take advantage of these special opportunities to experience the power of this sacred space.

Email programs@stamfordchabad.org or visit www.stamfordchabad.org.



Local community members gather with Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov in front of the Ohel.

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JCRC Update

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

On behalf of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (UJF), I attended the Jewish Federations of North America United for Security Fly-In to Washington to lobby Congress to address Jewish community security requirements.

The Fly-In was held over a 24-hour period in late June to address the recent manifestations of murderous antisemitism, including: 1) the attempt to burn down the Governor's mansion in Pennsylvania, occupied by Josh Shapiro, a Jewish Governor; 2) the shooting outside an American Jewish Committee conference in Washington in which two members of the staff of the Israeli Embassy were murdered; and (3) the firebombing of a march held in Boulder, Colorado in support of the Israeli hostages which resulted in one death.

In response to these attacks and the accelerating growth of Jew hatred in our country, leaders of 46 Jewish organizations worked together to produce a joint six-point plan to enhance Jewish security (the "Security Plan"). Following is a summary of the six points:

- a substantial increase in funding for the current Nonprofit Security Grant program.
- additional federal funding to provide direct financial assistance to local police departments to protect Jewish institutions.
- provide direct financial assistance to Jewish communities to help pay the massive costs of hiring security guards and extra duty police officers.
- new laws regulating hate speech and incitement to violence on social media.
- expanding FBI resources to combat domestic terrorism.
- a renewed emphasis on enforcing and prosecuting existing hate crimes laws.

More than 400 lay and professional leaders from across the country descended on Washington to demand a rigorous Federation response to the increasingly difficult challenge of protecting the Jewish community and its institutions.

It was clear that the level of the Jewish response to the crisis was noticed and appreciated



**Gary Jones,
JCRC Director**

by our Representatives and Senators. I was honored to be one of the Fly-In participants representing UJF and other Connecticut Jewish Federations. We met with both of our Senators and three of our five Representatives, reviewing the six points of the security plan. They shared their commitment to finding solutions necessary to fight antisemitism and to protect the Jewish community.

Locally, the JCRC has been working with the Connecticut General Assembly to pass legislation creating a "working group" to study and recommend remedies to address the rampant growth of antisemitism in K-12 schools.

All seven Connecticut Federations have worked hard to gain passage of the bill to establish the working group as the first step in our important effort to fight the increase in antisemitism in our K-12 schools. Although the bill was passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives as part of an omnibus bill, it was never considered by the senate when the legislature adjourned on the last day of the session.

There will be a one-day special session of the legislature in September, and UJF is working to ensure that the omnibus bill containing our working group bill will be addressed. Advocacy will be key, and when we have more details, we will ask for your help in reaching out to our State Representatives and Senators to ensure this bill is acted upon and passed.

If you have any questions or suggestions on these or other JCRC issues, please contact me at gary@ujf.org.



(l-r) Rachel Levy, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut, Congressman Jim Himes, and Gary Jones, JCRC Director of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

Securing Our Community

**BY JAMES COMSTOCK,
REGIONAL SECURITY DIRECTOR, UJF**

With continuous threats to the safety and security of the Jewish Community, the summer has been filled with camp assessments and trainings and has now shifted to preparing for back to school and the High Holidays.

In the last two months or so, I have had the opportunity to provide the following security services to our Jewish institutions:

- Provided Arya training (a form of active threat security training) to 100 plus camp counselors.
- Attended Fairfield County Police Chiefs' meeting to confirm that our local law enforcement leaders are continually involved in protecting our community.
- Completed Threat Assessments at Temple Beth-El and at Temple Sinai.
- Scheduled Active Threat Trainings

and Cyber security trainings at several Jewish institutions.

- Assisted Community Security Services (CSS) in providing training services at several locations.

Community Services Initiative (CSI), the non-profit Jewish security company hired by United Jewish Federation, received grant funding to help defray the costs of security guards hired to cover outdoor events occurring throughout the summer. I am pleased that Temple Sinai put this grant to good use with two outdoor congregational programs over the summer.

As part of my comprehensive service to the community, I am here to advise your organizations on recommended security coverage for all upcoming events.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at 203.321.1373, ext. 1006 or at comstockj@csiny.org.



Jim Comstock trains Stamford JCC Summer Camp counselors.

Superheroes Among Us

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stand up for what's right is inspiring Jews everywhere and reminds us that true allies transcend faith. I can't wait to share an unforgettable night of music and meaning with our community."

Adds co-chair Hannah Blonshteyn, "Along with enjoying John Ondrasik in concert, we are really looking forward to the night to honor all the heroes in our community who help bring us together and keep us safe."

Lisa Manheim, co-chair, emphasizes, "We want to stress the 'unity' part of the event. It will be powerful to see our community—wonderful in its diversity—come together to honor so many and celebrate our collective strength."

Recognizing those special "superheroes" who have strengthened our community, the event will celebrate those who have

made a meaningful impact in the life of a community member or the community as a whole. This may include community volunteers, a teacher or coach who inspired confidence in a child, a neighbor who always showed up, a friend who always listened, among others. With a donation of \$18, a hero will receive a personal acknowledgment and be recognized on September 7. To thank a superhero, go to www.ujf.org/superhero.

Ticket pricing for the event is \$75/NextGen, \$100/general admission through August 26. Tickets will increase to \$136 on August 27. Sponsorships at the \$500 level at the \$500 level are available and include two tickets, meet and greet access, and reserved seating. For more information about the event, please visit www.ujf.org/superhero or contact UJF CEO Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy 70 Years of Lighting the Way

For 70 years, Bi-Cultural has been inspiring and educating our students to learn with purpose, pride, and passion — from their first steps in Early Childhood to their launch into High School and beyond!

Join us for one of our upcoming Open Houses!

We invite prospective families to come meet our dedicated faculty, explore our inspiring spaces, and discover how we blend academic brilliance with Jewish soul— shaping the future one student at a time.



High School Open House

Sunday, November 9, 2025
10:00 am



Early Childhood Open House

Sunday, November 16, 2025
10:00 am



Please contact **Bonnie Marcus, Director of Admissions**,
at bmarcus@bcha-ct.org to register or for further information.

To learn more,
scan here:



Shana Tovah U'Metukah!



Cooking With Honey

BY RONNIE FEIN

I never need an excuse to eat or cook something with honey. It's one of those ingredients that I love so much that I look for ways to use it. I try different kinds because each variety of honey has a unique flavor – even the supermarket brands.

So you can imagine that when Rosh Hashanah comes around, my menu will most certainly feature recipes with honey.

Of course, we always have traditional apples and honey as a snack when we get home from synagogue. But, because honey is such an iconic food for the new year, I use it throughout the meal, not just for dessert.

Among the family favorites is Carrots with Honey, Scallions and Hot Pepper. This recipe is from my latest kosher cookbook, *Kosher Cooking For Beginners*. It is a lightly sweet dish and the hot pepper gives it a perfect balance. However, if your family doesn't like spicy food, you can substitute a garlic clove or just leave it out. Either way, because carrots are also traditional for Rosh Hashanah, it's a fitting side dish.

This carrot dish is a natural with classic braised brisket, which so many people prepare for the high holidays. But it is also a big winner with roasted chicken or with

another glamorous chicken dish, like this one, which is also from my new book: Roasted Chicken Breasts with Citrus and Honey.

To end the meal? How about another honey-infused treat: Honey Poached Plums.

ROASTED CHICKEN BREASTS WITH CITRUS AND HONEY (FROM *KOSHER COOKING FOR BEGINNERS*)

- 4 large half bone-in chicken breasts (or 4 whole legs or a cut-up chicken)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 2 teaspoons finely grated orange zest
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lime zest
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh ginger
- 2 medium scallions, finely chopped
- 1 large clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon thyme leaves
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1/3 cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons lime juice

Rinse and dry the chicken pieces. In a bowl, combine the vegetable oil, parsley, orange zest, lime zest, ginger, scallions, garlic, thyme, honey, and cayenne pepper and mix thoroughly. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Add the chicken to the bowl and coat the pieces with the mixture. Let marinate for at least one hour in the refrigerator. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Place the chicken in a baking pan, skin side down. Bake for 10 minutes. Reduce the heat to 350 degrees. Turn the chicken pieces. Continue to bake for about 30 minutes basting, occasionally with the pan juices or until cooked through (a

meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part will read 160 degrees.)

Makes 4-6 servings

CARROTS WITH HONEY, SCALLIONS AND HOT PEPPER (FROM *KOSHER COOKING FOR BEGINNERS*)

- 1 pound carrots
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1-1/2 tablespoons coconut oil
- 2 scallions, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon grated lime peel
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped chili pepper
- salt to taste

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Peel the carrots and cut them into 1/2-inch slices. Place them on the parchment paper. Heat the honey and coconut oil together over low heat until the coconut oil has melted. Pour over the carrots. Sprinkle with the scallions, lime peel, and chili pepper. Sprinkle with salt. Toss the carrots to coat them completely. Roast for about 15 minutes, turning the carrots once or twice, or until the carrots are hot, tender and crispy.

Makes 4-6 servings

HONEY-POACHED PLUMS

- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 cups water
- 12 slightly crushed cardamom pods (or use 2" cinnamon stick)
- 1-1/2 teaspoons finely grated fresh orange zest
- 6 large plums
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1-1/2 to 2 cups plain or vanilla yogurt, or use sorbet
- 1/2 cup chopped toasted almonds

Place the honey, water, cardamom pods and orange zest in a saucepan, bring to a boil and simmer for 5 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat. Wash the plums, cut them in half and remove the pit if possible (if not it will be easy to remove after poaching). Place the plum halves in the poaching liquid. Mix in the vanilla extract. Let rest until the liquid cools, at least 2 hours. Remove the plums and set them aside. Bring the poaching liquid to a boil over high heat and cook for 4-5 minutes or until thickened to the consistency of maple syrup. Let cool. Place 2 plum halves per person on dessert plates. Mix a small amount of the boiled-down liquid into the yogurt and spoon some of the yogurt next to the plum halves. Drizzle the plums with the remaining poaching liquid. Scatter the nuts on top of the plums and yogurt. Makes 6 servings.



Honey-poached plums

KOSHER COOKING for Beginners



Ronnie Fein

Simple and Delicious Recipes for the Modern Kitchen

JCC Hosts Community Rosh Hashanah Luncheon

(Courtesy of JCC) On Friday, September 19, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, the Stamford Jewish Community Center will host its annual Community Rosh Hashanah 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 for all those 60+. All are welcome. Guests will

enjoy a festive holiday meal (dietary laws observed), live music, and hear the blowing of the shofar. The luncheon is presented in partnership with Catholic Charities.

RSVP is required no later than Friday, September 12. Attendees can register online at www.stamfordjcc.org or contact Catherine Cimbalo at 203.487.0979 or ccimbalo@stamfordjcc.org.

Become Your Best Self this New Year

(Courtesy of Agudath Sholom) People align their cars and check their bank accounts, but the High Holidays are the perfect time for an alignment of the soul. Are you leading your best life? Do you live in sync with your highest aspirations? Rabbi

Daniel Cohen offers free 30 minute spiritual consultations in advance of the holidays to help you chart the path for a year of exponential and eternal growth and impact. For more information, contact Rabbi Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-STAMFORD.org

Sounds on the Sound

(Courtesy of Agudath Sholom) All are welcome to join together on Sunday morning, September 14 at 6:05 am for an early bird service on the water to greet the light of the sun and the soul. The service

will include "sounding" the shofar on the Long Island Sound, at Cummings Park, 464 Shippan Avenue in Stamford. Please RSVP to Rabbi Daniel Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org.

New Canaan Hebrew School Begins a New Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

through immersive storytelling and creative learning.

In addition to these new tracks, the Hebrew School offers a full range of educational and cultural activities, including Hebrew reading, bar and bat mitzvah preparation, Jewish cooking, holiday celebrations, arts and crafts, and participation in JewQ, an international Torah competition.

"Our goal is to create a joyful and welcoming environment where children not only learn about Judaism but experience it

in a way that's personal, meaningful, and fun," said Michal Mendelow, director of the Hebrew School.

The school uses curriculum materials developed by the Chabad Children's Network (CKids), which supports Jewish educational programs for over 25,000 children in 26 countries.

Registration is currently open. For more information, contact Michal Mendelow at Michal@NewCanaanJewish.org or call 203-972-7708. Details are also available at www.newcanaanjewish.org/hebrewschool.

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.

TEMPLE BETH EL

(Conservative)

Rabbi Michael Knopf and Cantor Katie Kaplan
Associate Rabbi, Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg
350 Roxbury Road | 203-322-6901 | www.tbe.org

Selichot

Saturday, September 13
Selichot Dinner: 7:00 pm
Reservation required.

Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 23
Family service in the tent on the grounds of TBE
10:00 am - 10:45 am: Family Service with children 5 and younger
11:00 am - Noon: Youth service with children in Elementary School
Reservation required:
https://tinyurl.com/HHYouth25
Wednesday, September 24
8:45 am in the main sanctuary
Reservations/ticket required:
https://tinyurl.com/rh2free25

Yom Kippur

Thursday, October 2
Family service in the tent on the grounds of TBE
10:00 am - 10:45 am: Family Service with children 5 and younger
11:00 am - Noon: Youth service with children in Elementary School
Reservation required:
https://tinyurl.com/HHYouth25
Mincha: 3:30 pm
Neilah: 5:45 pm
Yizkor: 5:00 pm
Shofar: 7:00 pm

For all required registrations, call (203) 322-6901 ext 300.

CONGREGATION AGUDATH SHOLOM

(Modern Orthodox)

Rabbi Daniel Cohen & Assistant Rabbi Aryeh Roberts
301 Strawberry Hill Ave. | 203-358-2200 | www.agudathshlom.org

Spirited Selichot Night Service

Saturday night, September 20 at 10:00 pm
Led by Yair Sapirstein, official Cantor of the Bahamas and the Manhattan Jewish Experience
The entire community is invited to the launch of the high holiday season as we usher in the holidays with prayers and singing. For more info, visit our website.

Rosh Hashanah Discovery Service

Tuesday, September 23 at 4:30 pm
Hosted at Atria (77 Third Street)
Featuring shofar blowing, selected singing and prayers and inspiration
Led by Rabbi Daniel Cohen of Congregation Agudath Sholom.

Neighborhood Shofar Blowings

Tuesday, September 23 and Wednesday, September 24
Visit www.cas-stamford.org for exact times and locations

Free Yom Kippur Afternoon Yizkor Service with Rabbi Daniel Cohen

Thursday, October 2 at 4:00 pm
Agudath Sholom, 301 Strawberry Hill Ave.
Honor your loved ones and be inspired by their memories.
Reveal the secrets of renewal and grow from the holiest day of the year.

Reservations Required. To register contact Rabbi Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org

CHABAD OF NEW CANAAN

Rabbi Levi Mendelow
www.newcanaanjewish.org

Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 23 (1st day)
Morning Service: 8:30 am
Children's Program: 11:00 am
Shofar Sounding: 11:30 am
Tashlich and Shofar (Meet at Waveny Park pond): 6:00 pm
Wednesday, September 24 (2nd day)
Morning Service: 8:30 am
Children's Program: 11:00 am
Shofar Sounding: 11:30 am

Yom Kippur

Wednesday evening, October 1
Kol Nidrei / Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Thursday, October 2 (Yom Kippur Day)
Morning Service: 9:00 am
Children's Program: 11:15 am
Yizkor Memorial Service: approximately 11:30 am
Mincha & Neilah / Closing Service: 5:00 pm
Shofar Sounding and Break-Fast: 7:14pm

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

CHABAD AT HARBOR POINT

Rabbi Yisrael Deren
101 Washington Blvd, Unit 110 (Private entrance on Pacific St)
High Holidays with Chabad @ Harbor Point, Stamford CT
The High Holidays will take place at the Ponus Yacht Club, 41 Bateman Way, Stamford CT, 06902. For more information and to RSVP, visit: www.JewishHarborPoint.com ~ 203.864.4440

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 22
7:30 pm: Mariv, Candle Lighting, and Dinner at Chabad Harbor Point
Tuesday, September 23
9:00 am: Morning
11:00 am: Shofar
1:30 pm: Kiddush
6:30 pm: Shofar in Commons Park and Tashlich
7:30 pm: Mariv, Candle Lighting, and Dinner at Chabad Harbor Point
Wednesday, September 24
9:00 am: Morning Services
11:00 am: Shofar
1:30 pm: Kiddush

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 1
6:15 pm: Kol Nidrei
Thursday, October 2
9:30 am: Morning Prayers
11:00 am: Yizkor
4:45 pm: Mincha
6:15 pm: Neilah
7:15 pm Break Fast

YOUNG ISRAEL OF STAMFORD

(Orthodox)

Rabbi Eli Kohl
69 Oaklawn Ave. | www.youngisraelstamford.org

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 22
Mincha: 6:45 pm
Tuesday, September 23
Shacharit: 8:30 am
Mincha: 6:45 pm
Wednesday, September 24
Shacharit: 8:30 am
Mincha: 6:45 pm

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 1
Kol Nidre: 6:20 pm
Thursday, October 2
Sharacharit: 9:00 am
Mincha: 5:00 pm

For additional information, visit www.youngisraelstamford.org

TEMPLE SINAI

(Reform)

Rabbi Jay TelRav and Cantor Micah Morgovsky
458 Lakeside Dr. | 203-322-1649
www.templesinaistamford.org

Selichot סליחות

Saturday, September 13
7:30 pm*: Program, Service with Rabbi TelRav, Cantor Morgovsky and Kolot Sinai
Sunday, September 14
Cemetery Memorial Service אזכרה
Fairfield Memorial Park: 1:00 pm

Rosh Hashanah שחרית לראש השנה

Tuesday, September 23
Families with Young Children Service (ages: under 5): 1:30 pm

Yom Kippur יום הכיפורים

Wednesday, October 2
Families with Young Children Service (ages: under 5): 1:30 pm
Avodat HaLev Afternoon Service: 3:30 pm
Yizkor/N'ilah Services: 4:30 pm
Break-Fast: 6:30 pm

CHABAD OF STAMFORD

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

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 22
- Erev Rosh Hashanah
Mincha and Maariv: 6:30 pm
Communal Rosh Hashanah meal: 7:30 pm
Tuesday, September 23
- First Day Rosh Hashanah
Shacharit: 9:00 am
Tashlich and Shofar at the J: 5:00 pm
Mincha and Maariv: 6:30 pm
Wednesday, September 24
- Second Day Rosh Hashanah
Shacharit: 9:00 am
Mincha and Maariv: 6:30 pm

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 1
- Erev Yom Kippur
Mincha: 3:00 pm
Candle lighting & Fast begins: 6:18 pm
Kol Nidrei: 6:30 pm
Thursday, October 2
Shacharit: 9:00 am
Torah reading & Yizkor: 11:00 am
Mincha and Neilah: 5:15 pm
Shofar, Maariv and Breakfast: 7:15 pm




L'shanah Tova

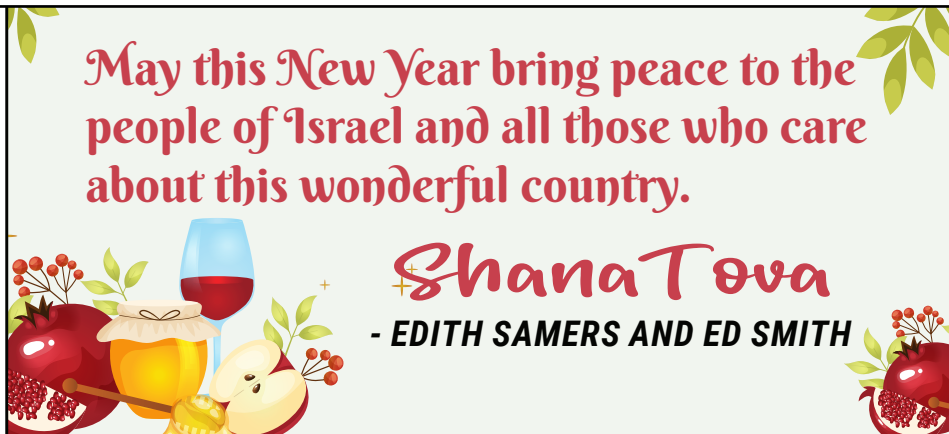
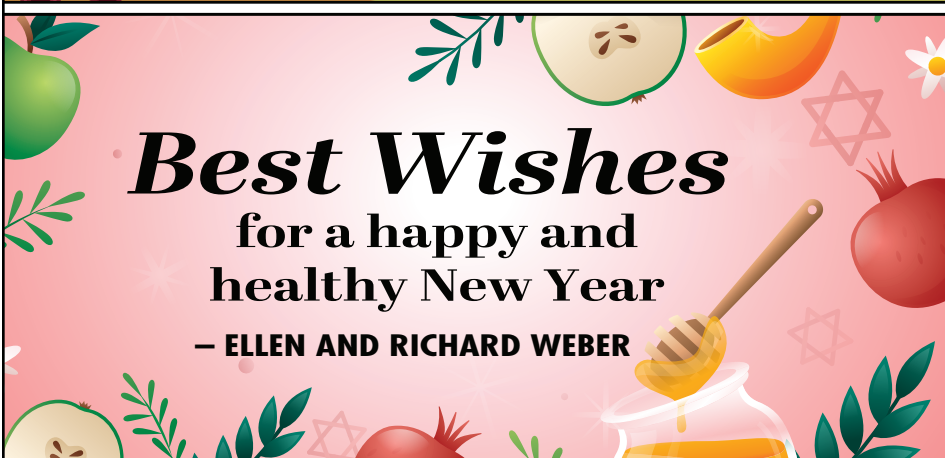
MAY THE YEAR AHEAD BE FILLED
WITH BLESSINGS AND JOY!

- MONICA AND MICHAEL SCHLESSINGER

May this New Year bring peace to the
people of Israel and all those who care
about this wonderful country.

Shana Tova

- EDITH SAMERS AND ED SMITH

Best Wishes

for a happy and
healthy New Year

- ELLEN AND RICHARD WEBER

Wishing the Entire Community
A Good, Sweet, Healthy New Year!

- MERYL AND DAVID GORDON




BEST WISHES

for a Wonderful Year

- MARILYN AND HARRY SOFFER

May You All
Have A Year Filled
With Peace.

- LYNN AND JEFFREY LOWIN




Shana Tova Umetuka

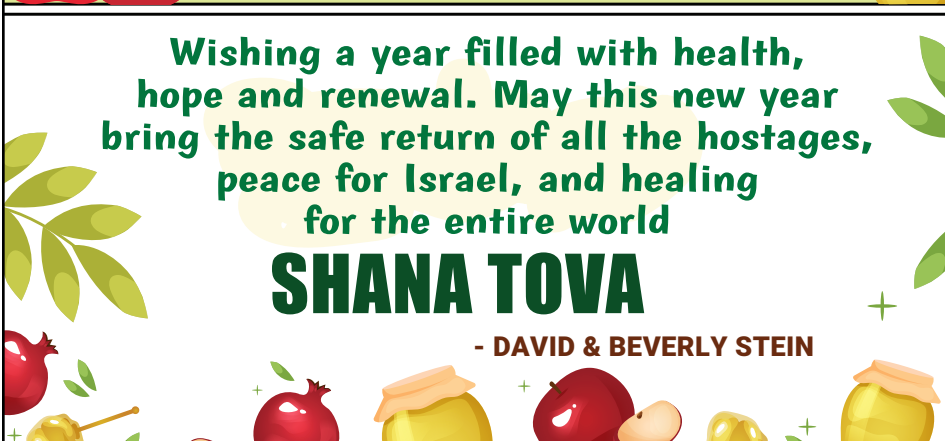
To a year ahead of revealed goodness,
growth and blessing for all!

- Rabbi Moshe & Leah, Tzemach, Mussie,
Shternie, Levi, Yisroel, Shaina,
Rivka and Gavriel Shemtov,
Chabad of Stamford & Gan Yeladim

May 5786 bring us health, peace and joy
With continued prayers for the release of the
hostages and peace for Israel.

Shana Tova

- DIANE AND ELLIOT SLOYER

Wishing a year filled with health,
hope and renewal. May this new year
bring the safe return of all the hostages,
peace for Israel, and healing
for the entire world

SHANA TOVA

- DAVID & BEVERLY STEIN



Shana Tova

May the year ahead be filled with peace, health, and hope.

- Nancy & Gadi Mimoun

Shana Tovah

Wishing your family a year of sweet
blessings, filled with abundant joy,
peace and happiness!

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July 4th BBQ and Fireworks

(Courtesy of Chabad at Harbor Point) The “Young & Jewish” community in Stamford gathered for a lively Fourth of July celebration with a barbecue, drinks, and fireworks. It was a beautiful evening spent together in friendship and unity, celebrating as a community. To join our warm and vibrant group of young Jewish professionals in Stamford, go to youngandjewish.org or call reach out to 203-912-7708.



The Young & Jewish community enjoys a July 4th barbecue at Chabad at Harbor Point.

Keeping Cool with PJ Library

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) and PJ Library brought summer fun to families all throughout July, hosting Wacky Wednesdays around Stamford in community parks and at the JCC. Each Wednesday was filled with reading, frozen treats, and the opportunity to socialize with other like-minded Jewish families with young children. Thank you to all who attended!

Through PJ Library and PJ Our Way, UJF

proudly sends over 7,200 Jewish-themed books per year to Jewish children in Fairfield County, absolutely free. The Federation-funded program is designed to strengthen the bonds between parents and children through stories about Jewish traditions and values, and to build their connection to the Jewish community.

If you would like to get more involved or help plan future PJ Library programs, please contact UJF Director of Programming and Engagement Jillian Moore at jillian@ujf.org.



Community Shlichah Eden Refaelovitch reading *Dinosaur Goes to Israel* at the Stamford JCC.



Children enjoyed the Israel coloring activity with Eden at the Stamford JCC.



Rhonda Greif, Shea and Nora, and Heather Lafantano Greif having fun with holiday stuffies at Chestnut Hill Park.



Abbe Pick and daughter Libby at Harbor Point Commons Park.

(ALL PHOTO CREDIT: ERIC ROSS)

JCC Campers Shared a Summer of Adventure and Fun

(Courtesy of JCC) Campers of all ages enjoyed a fun-filled summer of exciting and unique activities at The Stamford JCC. From archery, boating, and color war to woodworking, yoga and ziplining, there was something for everyone at Day Camps@The J and its Hand-In-

Hand inclusion program. Children also enjoyed specialty camps like Stamford J Basketball and Performing Arts at the J.

Laughter and energy filled the JCC all summer long as campers made lasting memories and friendships.



Campers put their finishing touches on their woodworking project.



No days off for J Basketball campers working on their skills.



Summer Dance Theater campers shine during their performance of *La Boutique Fantastique*.

Bringing Summer Joy through One Happy Camper

BY LARA AGATSTEIN

Each year, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (UJF) is proud to help local families send their children to Jewish overnight camp for the first time, an experience that often creates lasting friendships, memories, and a stronger connection to Jewish identity. This is made possible through a partnership with the One Happy Camper program.

Powered by the Foundation for Jewish Camp and supported by local federations, One Happy Camper provides need-based grants of up to \$1,000 to families whose children are attending an accredited, nonprofit Jewish overnight camp for the first time.

Over the past four years, thanks to generous support from UJF and the One Happy Camper initiative, nearly 40

children from the community have had the opportunity to attend overnight camps across North America.

This program is designed specifically for children who are new to overnight camp and are not enrolled in Jewish day schools. The goal is to open doors for campers to explore their Jewish identity, culture, and values in a fun and engaging environment. Campers immerse themselves in Jewish learning through music, dance, art, Israeli culture, and meaningful experiences that help shape who they are and who they may become.

It is not too early to think about summer, 2026! To learn more about eligibility and to see a full list of participating camps, visit www.jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper or contact Lara Agatstein at Lara@ujf.org

Families Take to the Trails

BY MELANIE VORM

More than 30 participants from the PJ Library and the NextGen community recently gathered for a nature walk and scavenger hunt at Bristow Sanctuary and Wildwood Preserve in New Canaan's Mead Memorial Park.

Families followed wooded trails through the preserve, with children eagerly checking off frogs, insects, birdhouses, and other items from their scavenger hunt lists. The walk offered families a chance to spend

time together outdoors while meeting others from the community in a relaxed setting.

The morning ended at The Apple Cart Café, where attendees were treated to ice cream for a sweet finish.

Julia Linsner, a member of the NextGen community, attended with her niece and nephew. "They had such a great time exploring the trails and checking things off their list," Linsner said. "It was such a fun, low-key way to spend time together outdoors."



Julia Linsner enjoys a fun morning with her niece and nephew.



Families enjoy a fun-filled day in Mead Memorial Park.

Curiosity Leads the Way at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) At Gan Yeladim, learning begins with curiosity. When *morahs* (teachers) noticed the children playing at being doctors, they leaned in, sparking a months-long, child-led exploration of the human body.

What transpired was an immersive biology unit, with the children exploring the five major body systems through hands-on, play-based learning. From transferring "blood" through "arteries" to building blood models and learning how white blood cells fight germs, the children developed a tangible understanding of how their bodies work.

At Gan Yeladim, when children lead the way, learning comes alive.



"Future doctors" proudly dressed the part as they prepared to welcome their parent "patients" to Room Chet's Family Practice.



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One offer per family.




SHANA TOVAH!

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy Rosh Hashanah.

Mayur Caroline Simmons





Celebrating Amidah Leadership Graduates

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) “Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.” (Jack Welch, long-time GE CEO and legendary corporate leader). For more than fifteen years, Temple Sinai has been helping its members acquire leadership skills and learn to exemplify its motto, “*Growth Happens Here*,” 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.” This was the eighth class and brings the total number of participants over the years to 85.

The most recent ALI members are Nicole Bliman, Melissa Friedman, Eric Goldman, Elisabeth Giles, Rachel Hager, Mike Heller, Sarah King, Allison Lear, Ellen Lewis, and Tamra Lichtman. 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 consisted of Sunday morning seminars throughout the academic year led by current congregational leaders and clergy as well as two leadership training experts, Jonathan Fass and Michael Markovits. The sessions addressed leadership skills and techniques, as well as the distinctive aspects of Jewish leadership and the particular governance structure and issues at Temple Sinai. Congregational engagement was a particular focus. Each session included ample opportunities for Q&A and discussion among the participants. The group also attended a temple board meeting in the spring to see it all “in action.”

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 Steve Zales, “ALI has become our primary tool for developing new lay leaders at Sinai. Many of our current officers, trustees and committee chairs are ALI graduates. And they all get off to a running start in their new temple



ALI participants (rear, l-r) Sarah King, Elisabeth Giles, Nicole Bliman, Rachel Hager, Eric Goldman, Mike Heller, (front row) Melissa Greenberg, Tamra Lichtman, Allison Lear (not pictured: Ellen Lewis) (PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE HELLER)

leadership roles thanks, in part, to their participation in the program.”

Participants typically are a diverse group, with a wide range of ages and membership tenure. “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,” said Rabbi Jay TelRav. In fact, four members of this year’s group are current members of the temple

Board of Trustees, including two who were newly elected this summer.

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

For more information about ALI, contact committee chairs Martha Kramer and Steve Zales, or committee members Amy Fischer, Lee Ann Heller, Meryl Japha, and Mike Stone.

One Shabbat: One Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

community together. This in-depth process generated the idea for One Shabbat: One Community. The weekend will have two components: first, celebrating Shabbat, a day observed across the spectrum of Jewish backgrounds; and second, a Havdalah pre-Chanukah celebration and community-wide party.

For the Shabbat portion of the weekend, each participating community organization has been invited to submit a brief grant application to United Jewish Federation for funding their own inclusive Shabbat celebration. The celebration of Shabbat can occur during the 25 hours of Shabbat, such as through enhanced Shabbat services, or before Shabbat even starts, such as by funding an art project with a Shabbat theme. In the October and November editions of the *New Jewish Voice*, more will be shared about each organization’s celebration, which will be open to all.

The second component of the weekend focuses on UNITY and coming together through community collaboration. Plans are underway for the community to join together for a Saturday night celebration of Havdalah and Chanukah, which starts the following evening. Committees are



being created to plan an event that will be built by all of our wonderful community organizations. Community members are serving on committees focusing on food, décor, entertainment and more.

“This initiative was built on feedback from the community to increase feelings of connection, spirituality, and joy in Jewish life. As Jews face challenges at home and abroad, now is the time to celebrate what unites us,” shared Rob Hoff, chair of the Big Idea committee that helped build and define this initiative.

For more information, contact Jillian Moore, Director of Engagement and Programming at Jillian@ujf.org.

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United Jewish Federation
of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien

2025 Annual Campaign for **CommUNITY** Impact

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

As One

**We Inspire Jewish Connection
We Stand United Against Hate
We Rebuild Israel**

Community IMPACT

Where it's Needed Most | **UNLIMITED**

By directing your gift to "where it is needed most," you are enabling UJF to fulfil the important needs throughout this booklet.

Infrastructure of UJF | **\$389,000**

Help keep the UJF engine running so we can continue to convene, strengthen, and build our community.

Israel & Global Jewry | **UNLIMITED**

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

Communal Scholarship Fund | **UNLIMITED**

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

Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) | **\$98,000**

Support UJF's JCRC, which advocates for Jewish interests with public officials and agencies at the Federal, state, and local levels.

LIFE & LEGACY® | **\$112,000**

Help assure our community's Jewish tomorrows with Life & Legacy, an initiative spearheaded and funded by UJF. With support from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, UJF promotes legacy giving with local agencies and synagogues.

New Jewish Voice Newspaper | **\$94,000**

Keep UJF's community newspaper, The New Jewish Voice, free! The publication reaches over 12,000 readers per month and features the latest news taking place around the local Jewish community and internationally. All communal organizations contribute articles and photos free of charge.

Communal Security | **\$164,000**

Support UJF's Director of Communal Security amid a growing threat of safety, hatred, and antisemitism. The Director trains and advises local agencies and institutions at no cost to them.

Community Shaliach (Israel Emissary) | **\$114,00**

Help UJF host a Shaliach who works throughout our community. This communal position, through a partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel, works with all synagogues, agencies, and schools, connecting our community to Israel.

Impact, Engagement, & Outreach | **\$69,000**

Provide engaging speakers, NextGen, Women's Philanthropy, networking, social, and educational opportunities to connect with like-minded people and find strength and community in one another.

Shalom/Welcome Program | **\$19,000**

Ensure all newcomers get a proper "shalom" from the UJF family. New community members get a personal visit and information to connect Jewishly. Shalom Baby welcomes new babies with gifts and relevant information for parents.

Yom HaShoah Commemoration | **\$12,000**

Bring the local Jewish community together to remember individuals and entire communities lost in the Holocaust.

JCC Arts & Culture Program | **\$70,000**

Designed to foster personal connections and promote cultural engagement, this program is targeted for community members ages 60+ and offers a variety of events including health and wellness, author series, workshops, and much more.



Youth & YOUNG ADULTS

PJ Library Family Engagement | \$28,000

Provide Jewish family engagement through PJ Library programming.

BCHA Learning Support Services | \$78,400

Support Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's efforts to provide support services for students with unique learning styles which enable them to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

BCHA Community Chesed/Tikkun Olam Program | \$56,000

Support the Community Chesed/Tikkun Olam Program at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy which provides students with opportunities to assist and benefit communal agencies and institutions.

Schoke JFS Mental Health Services & Wellness for Adolescents & Youth | \$56,000

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

Temple Sinai Programming & Educational Resources | \$20,780

Help enrich Families with Young Children (5 years old or younger) at Temple Sinai's Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) through youth programs, and a teen program, TS Inspire, which establishes and grows international youth engagement.

Mitzvah Makers | \$16,800

Join Temple Beth El's efforts to engage local middle schoolers in social action/social justice activities and projects. This program provides monthly mitzvah opportunities, including an educational and hands on component, partnering with local organizations.

Community Jewish Experience | \$7,000

Enable Congregation Agudath Sholom to collaborate with local organizations to foster a welcoming, engaging, and thought-provoking educational and social experience, Jewish understanding, and more.

Young Israel of Stamford Youth Program | \$13,440

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

One Happy Camper | \$18,000

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 | \$10,400

Support Friendship Circle's teen volunteer-led educational inclusion fair. Volunteers will learn about different special needs, giving them skills, tools, and language to become ambassadors of inclusion.

UConn Stamford Hillel Shabbat | \$11,200

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

Social Services & SENIOR SUPPORT

Jewish Holiday Food Distribution | \$36,000

Partner with Schoke JFS to purchase the increasing quantity of food needed to assist families in need to celebrate Jewish holidays.

Schoke JFS Senior Care Navigator | \$49,000

Enable Schoke Jewish Family Service to hire a Senior Care Navigator to provide older adults, families, and caretakers a wide range of care management services.

Schoke JFS Holocaust Survivor Fund | \$28,000

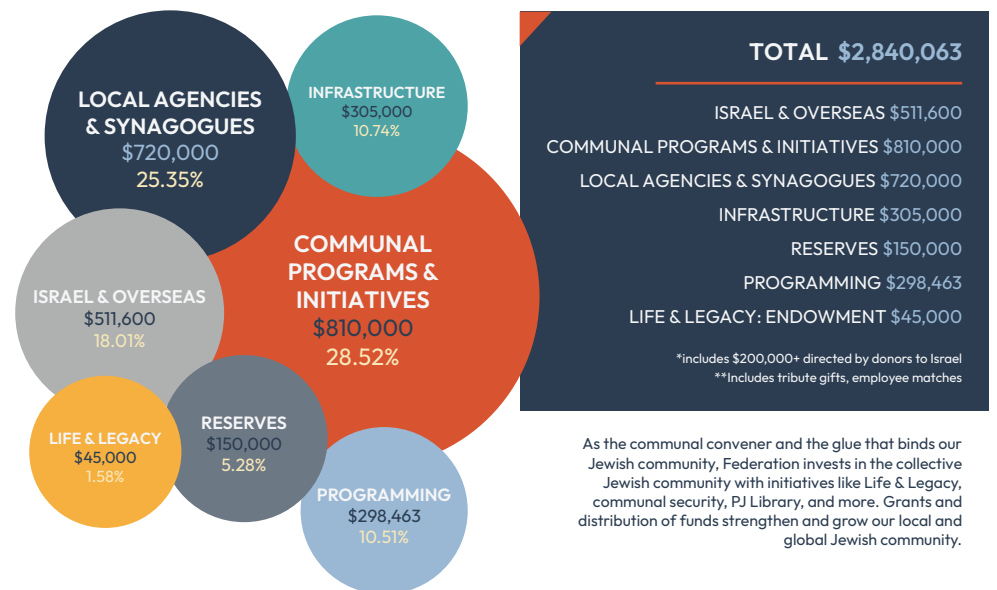
Help meet emergency needs of local Holocaust survivors. These funds raised by UJF are matched by Kavod Shef, a national organization dedicated to survivors.

Anachnu Holocaust Survivor | \$33,600

Join UJF in offering Anachnu Holocaust Survivor programming all year round.

Your 2024

Donations At Work!



As One...
support the Annual Campaign
by donating to www.ujf.org/give



Bits & Pieces



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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Sandy Golove
Adrienne & Michael Alexander on the birth of a grandson, son of **Lizzie & Eli Reichner**.
Ariel & Stephen Bedik on the birth of a son, Brody Harrison Bedik; grandson of **Caryl Ferber Poser & Peter Poser and Robin & Scot Bedik**.
Stacie & Aaron Berk on the birth of a daughter, Eden Alanna, granddaughter of **Karen & Ira Berk** and great-granddaughter of **Tamara Feurstein**.
Darona & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein on the arrival of a granddaughter, a daughter to **Franni & Josh Negel**.
Judy & Jeff Cahn on the birth of a grandson, son of **Jayne & Brian Cahn**.
Zoe & Harry Chiel on the birth of a son, Adrian Kenny; grandson of **Toby & Gene Tabachnick**.
Dina Green & Greg Celniker on the birth of a daughter, Ava; granddaughter of **Jill & Arthur Green**.
Pam Ehrenkranz & Matt Greenberg on the birth of a grandson, Eytan, son of **Ilana & Roi Shabtay**.
Meryl & David Gordon and Yvette Gordon on the birth of a grandson and great-grandson, Felix Herman Gordon, son of **Jonathan Gordon & Jonathan Rohner**.
Diane Indyk on the birth of a grandson, son of **Shosh & Doniel Levie**.
Laura & Elliot Linder on the birth of a

daughter.
Rhonda Schaffer-Maroon & Jeffrey Maron on the engagement of their son, **Max to Yael Diamond**, daughter of **David Diamond & Laura Felson**.
Shira & Chazan Yoel Maya on the birth of a son, Yosef Yehuda.
Tamar Novagrodsky & Daniel Greenblum on the birth of a daughter, Shir Roslyn.
Alex & Brett Olsson on the birth of a daughter, Jordana Clara.
Annie & Jeremy Watman on the birth of a son.

MAZEL TOV ON MARRIAGES/ ENGAGEMENTS:

Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker on the marriage of their son, **Eli Pinker to Adara Rosenbaum**, daughter of **Alyssa & Jay Rosenbaum**.
Elise & Steven Cohen on the marriage of their son, **Jacob Cohen to Shoshana Edelman**.
Rachel & Ephraim Cohen and Sheila Cohen on the marriage of their son and grandson, **Adam Cohen to Gila Weinrib**.
Rica & Ari Lieberman and Yospa Lieberman on the marriage of their daughter and granddaughter, **Gabriella Lieberman to Elye Robinovitz**.
Ron & Bonnie Nyman on the engagement of their son **Kevin to Sarah Fruchtman**, daughter of **Michael & Beth Fruchtman**.
Sheryl & Mark Schwartz on the engagement of their daughter, **Jay Schwartz to Simon Löwen**, son of **Debbie Löwen and Peter Löwen**.

MAZEL TOV TO OTHERS:

Rabbi Levi Shmotkin, son of **Malya & Rabbi Zalman Shmotkin**, on his published book

Letters for Life about how young people around the world are approaching their mental health.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NEI MITZVAH:

Shlomo Shochet: grandson of **Judy & Jeff Cahn**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Sumner Barnett: father of **Alan Barnett**.
Martin Bodner: husband of **Susan Bodner**, father of **Erica Safar, Jared Bodner, Mason Bodner and Raquel Godgart** and brother of **Philip, Steven and Joey Bodner**.
Shirley Farber: wife of **Selwyn Farber**; and mother of **Trevor, Jody and Ricky Farber**.
Cecile Forkos: grandmother of **Eric Hayden Shakun**.
Robert Goodman: father of **Jeffrey Goodman**.
Harold Hessel: husband of **Naomi Hessel**; father of **Nancy Hessel Gross, Mark Hessel, Gail Hessel Goodman, Deborah Chaikind, Maura Chaikind Miles and**

Alyssa Chaikind.

Myron Katz: father of **Ross Katz and Jeremy Katz**.

Dorotea Krausz: mother of **Emilio Krausz**.

Herman Liebenzon: husband of **Bessie Liebenzon**; and father of **Jeff Liebenzon, Diane Duralde, Nancy Rex and Craig Liebenzon**.

Michael Manheim: husband of **Barbara Manheim** and father of **Jeff and Marc Manheim and Jill Goldberger**.

Marion Manheimer: mother of **Steven Manheimer**.

Rita Rathman: mother of **Peter Rathman**.

David Harvey Robin: brother of **Noel Robin**.

Sheldon Rothman: brother of **Howard Rothman, Shirley Siegel and Joan Blank**.

Paula Shulman: partner of **E. Arthur Morin** and mother of **Jamie Mark**.

Asher Spitzer: grandfather of **Mihal Ariyeh**.

Anita Stein: mother of **Linda Yoffe-Solon**.

Louise Stern: mother of **Elaine, Deborah and Michael Stern**.



A Message from UJF's Community Shlichah My First Year as Israeli Community Shlichah

BY EDEN REFAELOVICH

One year ago, I began an incredible journey that changed my life. I left my job, family, and friends behind, moving to the other side of the world filled with many fears and expectations. Today, after a full year here, I am proud of the path I've taken. My expectations went beyond, and my fears have disappeared.

Over the past year, I've learned a lot about myself, grown personally and professionally, and most importantly, I've deepened my understanding of the Jewish community in America. I've come to truly appreciate the strong connection we all share, no matter where we are in the world and the importance of Israel in our daily lives.

During this year, I've connected with hundreds of children, teaching preschool classes, reading Israeli-themed books at PJ



Eden Refaelovich

Library's Wacky Wednesday, working at the JCC summer camp, and teaching Sunday school. I've also had the privilege of engaging with teens through BBYO, BCHA, leadership programs, holiday celebrations, and community events.

I've spoken at synagogues, participated in services, joined community members for Shabbat meals, organized events for young adults, and collaborated with various organizations to create meaningful programming for all ages.

I have built meaningful connections and engaged with many of you at celebrations, and community gatherings. Even during difficult times, like the recent war, I felt how much you care and support me here.

Together with the JCC, United Jewish Federation (UJF) runs a "Shulchan Ivrit"

to strengthen and practice Hebrew language skills.

As part of our community's partnership with Afula Gilboa, we launched two pen pal projects between schools and between families, which continues to thrive and I am proud and happy to stay updated on the friendships that have grown from this program.

For the first time, UJF hosted two IDF soldiers, which was a meaningful experience for all.

Looking forward, together with the Israel Committee, I am working on new ways to create an even greater impact and bring Israel closer to everyone in Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien.

Thank you all for being a part of this journey. Your presence, participation, and support unite us as one community, no matter where we are in the world. And, of course, your ongoing support through the

Federation is what makes my role here as Shlichah possible.

I wish us all a year filled with hard work, meaningful achievements, success, and, most importantly, may all our hostages return home soon.



UJF community shlichah makes bracelets in art electives with the kids at the JCC summer camp.

Adult Learning Flourishes at Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) From foundational texts to practical inspiration, Chabad of Stamford's adult education offerings are designed to meet learners wherever they are on their journey. Community members of all ages and backgrounds can find meaningful Jewish learning throughout the year.

Every Tuesday morning, Torah & Tea, led by Morah Leah Shemtov, offers a fresh take on the weekly Parsha and Jewish calendar. The class is known for its uplifting tone and relevant lessons that resonate deeply with women balancing work, family, and spiritual life.

On Wednesday evenings, Morah Leah leads *Shaar HaBitachon* ("Gate of Trust"), a women's study group exploring this timeless guide to living with confidence by trusting fully in Hashem while fulfilling one's obligations in life.

For those seeking to explore the spiritual underpinnings of Judaism, Tanya classes are offered multiple times each week, Thursdays at 11:00 am with Morah Leah, and Sundays at 7:30 am and 9:00 am with Rabbi Moshe Shemtov. Tanya, the foundational text of Chassidic thought, offers profound insight into the soul, human behavior, and the inner workings of the divine.

Men in the community also gather each Sunday morning from 8:00 am to 9:00 am for the "Men's Torah Study & Tefillin Club." The morning begins with wrapping tefillin and reciting Shema, followed by a

Torah discussion over bagels and lox. It's a chance to start the week with spiritual focus, camaraderie, and learning.

Thursday nights at 8:00 pm feature "Torah with Tzemach," a popular and interactive class led by Tzemach Shemtov that invites open discussion on Jewish thought, Halacha, and current events through the lens of Torah. The welcoming atmosphere and engaging format make it a favorite among both regular attendees and new learners.

In addition, for those whose schedules don't align with group classes, Chabad offers one-on-one learning opportunities. Community members can arrange personalized study sessions with a teacher or mentor, choosing topics that speak directly to their interests, whether it's Jewish law, mysticism, prayer, or philosophy.

"Our goal is to make Torah learning accessible, meaningful, and personal," says Rabbi Moshe Shemtov. "No matter your background or level, there's a place for you to grow."

With its wide range of offerings and an inclusive spirit, Chabad of Stamford is helping to build a community where Jewish learning is not only a value, but a lived experience, one that enriches individuals, strengthens families, and brings people together.

To learn more about upcoming classes or to get involved, visit www.stamfordchabad.org or email programs@stamfordchabad.org.



Chabad of Stamford's Jewish Women Connected came together at Leah Shemtov's home to mark the culmination of another year of learning together.

UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION PRESENTS:

Commemorating October 7

Finding Strength and Resilience in our Collective Community

Sunday, October 5th, 7pm
Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road
Musical Guest Micha Biton

Micha Biton is ethnic-rock Israeli music, singer, and song writer whose life changed on October 7, 2023. He spent 13 hours in a safe room with his family in Netiv Ha'asara, a Gaza border community. In the heroic evacuation of Micha and his family, he grabbed his beloved guitar. He shares his music while telling a story of light, faith and survival.

This is a free event, but registration is required at www.ujf.org/oct7



United Jewish Federation
Stamford.New Canaan.Darien

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Stamford Board of Rabbis, UJA-JCC Greenwich,
American Jewish Committee,
Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield



CHECK OUT THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THE CALENDAR CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTANT TO AVOID CONFLICTS

WWW.UJF.ORG/CALENDAR

QUESTIONS?: EMAIL LARA@UJF.ORG

The Power of Lifelong Learning

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) On June 27, Temple Sinai congregants and extended family members celebrated the accomplishments of the synagogue's Adult B'nei Mitzvah class. During this inspiring service, celebrants stood before the Torah and the synagogue community to lead the congregation in prayer, read from the Torah, and shared powerful words of teaching.

The Adult B'nei Mitzvah program was designed for adults of all ages who wanted to deepen their connection to Jewish life. Some participants never had the chance to become B'nei Mitzvah at age thirteen. Others wanted to mark a return to Jewish practice or were celebrating a personal milestone by taking

this sacred step.

For the past year, the group, led by Cantor Micah Morgovsky and supported by Rabbi Jay TelRav and volunteer Hebrew tutor Robin Himmelstein, met bi-weekly to study Hebrew, Jewish prayer, Torah, lifecycle events, Jewish holidays, the theology and Jewish values. Through their time learning together, the participants formed lasting connections with one another, shared life stories, and supported each other on a path of spiritual discovery and renewal.

The service served as a reminder that it is never too late to take ownership of one's Jewish identities and to say "yes" to something sacred. The journey is lifelong.



Temple Sinai Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class. (Back row l-r): Kyra Fealey, Bruce Goldstein, John Conti, Debora Liebman, Marilyn Shapiro, Moira Morrissey, and Robin Himmelstein. (Front row l-r): Rabbi Jay TelRav, Debbie Ferri, Lesley Gehr, Evgin Heath, Muriel Ashley, Rebecca Levin, and Cantor Micah Morgovsky. Not pictured: Lisa Silver. (PHOTO CREDIT: STU MADISON)

An Evening of Hope

(Courtesy of Chabad at Harbor Point) Approximately 350 community members came together at the Armon Hotel and Conference Center in Stamford in mid-June, to hear the painful yet uplifting story of Sasha and Sapir, who endured unimaginable suffering during their captivity by Hamas. Sapir was held for 54 days and Sasha for 498 days. Attendees were deeply moved and inspired by the hope and strength that carried them through, allowing them to emerge on the other side full of love and resilience. The community came together with generosity to support them as they rebuild their lives. Just a few weeks later, the world celebrated the amazing news of

their engagement. It was truly special to gather as an extended family and hear this story of resilience and prayer.



Sasha Trufanov and Sapir Cohen share their story with the Stamford community.



The community gathered to hear Sasha and Sapir's story. (ALL PHOTO CREDIT: KAI ROISOVSKY)

Schmoozing in Shippan

(Courtesy of Chabad at Harbor Point) A fun and relaxed afternoon on the harbor brought 50 young Jewish professionals together at The Beer Garden at Shippan Landing. With drinks, food, an icebreaker activity, perfect weather, and stunning

waterfront views, it was an ideal setting to meet new friends and connect as a community. To join this warm and vibrant community of young Jewish professionals in Stamford, go to youngandjewish.org or call reach out to 203-912-7708.



We Want To Hear From You!

Please take a brief survey about the New Jewish Voice.

Your opinion matters

Scan the QR code below or visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/TDJD2QM to take our survey!



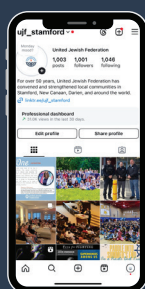
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Free Uniper Access for Seniors at Schoke JFS

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service is proud to continue offering Uniper, a cutting-edge, grant-funded initiative available at no cost to older adults in the Fairfield County community. Uniper provides an easy way for participants to stay connected with family, friends, and peers from all over the world, right from their own home.

Uniper is a simple device that connects to

your TV, tablet, or mobile device, offering a “window to the world.” It requires no internet service, as a dedicated hotspot is provided. With just the click of a button on the remote, participants can join exercise classes, explore new hobbies, attend lectures, and much more. The device has no impact on your TV or internet service, making it user-friendly and stress-free.

Uniper is designed to be incredibly easy

to use. In just four simple steps, Schoke JFS can set up the device and help participants connect to a variety of interactive classes and activities. These offerings are available in multiple languages and cover a wide range of topics, including fitness, creative workshops, and group discussions. The program fosters both learning and social connections, allowing participants to meet others with shared interests.

This initiative, generously funded by the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (NJHSA) and The Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA), reflects Schoke JFS’s belief that every individual deserves access to the tools and community that promote a vibrant, fulfilling life.

For more information or to get started with Uniper, contact Marina Sapir at msapir@ctjfs.org or visit www.ctjfs.org/uniper.

Love and a Bond to Israel

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) At Chabad of Stamford, welcoming a new baby is a celebration that extends far beyond the family. It’s a moment embraced by the entire community.

This year, Chabad of Stamford has introduced three beautiful initiatives to celebrate new babies in the community: New Mom’s Brunches, *Loaves of Love* Shabbat packages, and Israel Bonds.

Thanks to the generosity of Harry and Marilyn Soffer, each baby born in the community over the past few months has

received an Israel Bond in their name. The purchase of an Israel Bond is a way to invest in the future of Israel.

For the Soffers, this thoughtful gift lovingly plants the seeds of connection to the Land of Israel in the hearts of the next generation. Chabad thanks them for sponsoring 30 such bonds to date.

The Soffers, devoted grandparents with four Gan Yeladim graduates and one currently



Marilyn and Harry Soffer

enrolled grandchild, are beloved members of the Chabad family and the greater Stamford Jewish community. Their dedication to Jewish life is evident not only at Gan but also through their active involvement in many Jewish organizations across the community.

In addition, Chabad hosts a monthly New Mom’s Brunch, delivering a delicious brunch hamper to new mothers’ doorsteps to offer connection, care,

and support. In addition, Chabad’s *Loaves of Love* program delivers fresh challah and Shabbat treats to new parents.

Chabad is deeply grateful to the Soffers and to all the volunteers and sponsors. These programs would not be possible without their generous support. Leah Shemtov, Co-Director of Chabad of Stamford, noted: “Together, we all build a community that nurtures each new beginning with care, connection, and love.”

If you’d like to get involved, please contact Chabad of Stamford at programs@stamfordchabad.org.

CONGREGATION

Shir Ami

We welcome you to join Shir Ami and Rabbi David Evan Markus for our inspiring High Holy Days Services

☆ With our uplifting musicians and choir, and a community gathering in an intimate setting ☆

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

2025 ~ HIGH HOLIDAYS ~ 5786 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

☆ ROSH HASHANAH ☆		
Erev Rosh Hashanah	Monday Sept 22nd	6:30 pm
Rosh Hashanah Morning -Tashlikh	Tuesday Sept 23rd	10:00 am
Rosh Hashanah Day 2	Wednesday Sept 24th	10:00 am
☆ YOM KIPPUR ☆		
Kol Nidre	Wednesday Oct 1st	6:15 pm
Yom Kippur Morning	Thursday Oct 2nd	10:00 am
Midday Program	Thursday Oct 2nd	2:00 pm
Yom Kippur Afternoon	Thursday Oct 2nd	3:00 pm
Yizkor-Neilah		4:30 pm
Havdalah /Break Fast		6:30 pm

Doors will open 30 minutes prior to all services for RH and YK.

MEMBERS – no charge ☆ GUESTS per person – \$250 in-person (\$750 cap per family) / \$72 virtual
You may register 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

Shanah Tovah

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Wishing You a Healthy and Peaceful New Year 5786

Serving Greater Stamford and Greater Bridgeport

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Phone: 203-921-4161
www.ctjfs.org

Dignity Grows Goes Back to School (Shop)

Back to School Shop (BTSS) and Dignity Grows, a program of United Jewish Federation, partnered for the second year to provide tote bags filled with menstrual and hygiene products for individuals in need for distribution to the hundreds of families visiting the Japha Family Resource Center (JFRC) during this year's Back to School Shop event. Back to School Shop provides elementary school children from low-income families in the community with brand new clothing and school supplies, to help build the confidence and enthusiasm they need for a successful start to the school year. As the children shop, parents visit the JFRC to meet with representatives of local agencies.



Dignity Grows bags are ready for distribution in the JFRC
(PHOTO CREDIT: BETH PETERS)



Volunteers came together to pack 400 bags at Temple Sinai. (l-r) Laurie Chase, Lisa Rich, Tamra Lichtman, Meryl Japha (Co-chair BTSS), Fran Pribish, Wendy Lewis, Lorraine Kweskin, Marcy Kurzman, Adele Goldsmith. Not pictured: Lew Finkel, Nancy Fahey, Mona Kubli.
(PHOTO CREDIT: LEW FINKEL)

Schoke JFS Supports Families at Back to School Shop

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service was happy to be present at the Japha Family Resource Center, where the agency had the privilege of registering hundreds of families for food pantry services and distributing peanut butter, apple sauce, and other essential items.

Schoke JFS is deeply grateful to partner with community organizations like Back to School Shop, whose work makes a significant impact in ensuring children have the support they need to start the school year with confidence.



Schoke JFS table in the Japha Family Resource Center at Back to School Shop.
(PHOTO CREDIT: TIM OSTHEIMER)

Packing Party with a Creative Twist

BY MELANIE VORM

More than 35 women from Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien recently gathered for an inspiring evening of community, creativity, and giving at a NextGen Dignity Grows Packing Party. Hosted at the home of Robin Fischel and co-chaired by Robin, Jennie Fishman, Elana Barer, and Meira Scheiner, the event combined impact with fun, featuring wine, cheese, and a unique twist: custom cosmetic bag designing.

In addition to packing 175 Dignity Grows totes filled with menstrual and hygiene products for individuals in need, guests had the chance to decorate cosmetic pouches with a colorful array of patches. Designed and cut by Jennie Fishman using her Cricut craft machine, the decorations included personalized names, hamsas, Israeli flags, fluffy hearts, stars, and more, adding warmth and individuality to each bag that the participants took home.

The packed totes from this event were delivered to New Covenant Center and Stamford Public Schools, providing essential products to those who may otherwise go without.

Dignity Grows has been expanding, rapidly growing from distributing 1,000 totes in 2022 to 2,000 in 2023, and over

4,500 last year alone. The initiative now supports seven local social service agencies: Person to Person, New Covenant Center, Inspirica, Schoke JFS Food Pantry, Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Pacific House, and Help for Kids. Stamford Public Schools are also ongoing recipients.

With every tote packed and every patch applied, this vibrant and growing community continues to affirm a powerful message: everyone deserves access to basic hygiene with dignity. For more information visit www.ujf.org/dignitygrows or contact Jillian Moore, UJF's Director of Programs and Engagement at jillian@ujf.org.



Rachel Zehden, Wendy Siegel, and Molly Schrag channel their inner artistic talent and create pouches to take home.



Participants packed 175 Dignity Grows bags for those in need.



Join in a day of unity, philanthropy, and community building...
As One

Event Chairs:

Robin Fischel

Toby Lazarus






Sunday, October 19

with something for everyone!

Register for The Big Give



Scan Here to Donate



Exciting details can be found at

www.ujf.org/thebiggive

Schoke JFS Celebrates Volunteers at Second Annual Celebration

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) In June, Schoke Jewish Family Service held its second annual Volunteer Celebration at Temple Sinai, bringing together more than 50 dedicated individuals. Representing multiple towns and a wide variety of programs, this diverse group reflected the heart and strength of the agency's volunteer network. Each year, more than 300 volunteers generously give upwards of 3,800 hours in service by delivering meals, assembling grocery packages, preparing hygiene kits, and offering warmth and kindness to those who need it most.

This gathering gave volunteers a chance to enjoy one another's company and be recognized for their essential contributions to Schoke JFS's mission. The night's entertainment featured the talents of Phil the Magic Man, a local mentalist known for captivating audiences nationwide. His performance filled the room with laughter and joy, echoing the daily magic volunteers bring to the community through their

care and time.

Words of gratitude were shared by Schoke JFS Board Chair Ken Neuhaus, volunteer and community member Dr. Julie TelRav, and Elizabeth Hinds, the agency's former coordinator for Volunteer Services and Programs.

This year's celebration held particular significance as part of Schoke JFS's 50th anniversary. In its five decades of service, the organization has grown dramatically, propelled by an ever-growing community of volunteers and leaders. In just the past two years, volunteer involvement has surged, with this year's contributions on track to exceed 4,000 hours, a new agency record.

With opportunities ranging from weekly to quarterly commitments, there are plenty of ways to get involved. Volunteers currently hail from 14 different towns, all united in their dedication to making life brighter for Fairfield County residents.

For more information about how to volunteer, visit www.ctjfs.org/volunteer.



(l-r) Elizabeth Hinds, former Coordinator for Volunteer Services and Programs, with volunteer Lori Drucker.



(l-r) Peter Lilienthal, Phil the Magic Man, and Steve Trell, as Steve is surprised by a magic trick.

Voices Create a Harmonious Community

(Courtesy of Zamir Choral Foundation) More than 400 singers joined together in Stamford this July for the 2025 North American Jewish Choral Festival (NAJCF), to celebrate Jewish choral music and to feel a sense of pride and belonging. Participants enjoyed five days of a musical experience, hosted by the Zamir Choral Foundation.

Attendees of all ages came from across the U.S., including Stamford, as both members of choirs and individual singers, and represented a variety of musical experiences, from amateur singers to professionals, cantors, and conductors.

The 2026 North American Jewish Coral Festival is set for August 2-6, 2026, and will once again be held in Stamford, CT.



Matthew Lazar conducts the Festival community in singing Lewandowski's "Halleluyah". (PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE SINGER)



Experience the High Holy Days in a way that truly resonates with your life. Our services beautifully blend traditional liturgy and music with contemporary reflections, creating a thoughtful and engaging experience.

At Temple Sinai, you'll discover a warm and welcoming community that feels like a second home. If you haven't experienced the High Holy Days with us before, be our guest to find a meaningful connection within our extended Jewish family.



Temple Sinai

458 Lakeside Drive | Stamford, CT
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Welcome the

New Year

with Temple Sholom



May all your days in the New Year be filled with beauty, joy and peace.

STAMFORD - We are closer than you think. Come experience our vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community!

Those who are new to Temple Sholom or new to the area may be eligible for complimentary High Holiday tickets. Contact Gina Cristino, Director of Engagement, at gina.cristino@templesholom.com if interested.

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

Smiling Faces All Around

(Courtesy of UJF) Summer was full of Shalom Baby Visits! United Jewish Federation Deputy Director Eric Ross and Director of Programming and Engagement Jillian Moore delivered “Shalom Baby” bags and visited with doting parents Kimmie and David Warmflash, Brooke and Max English, and Gregory and Dina Celniker. They also welcomed new-to-town residents Taylor

Amato Simantov and Ariel Simantov with a “Shalom Stamford” bag.

UJF delivers “Shalom Baby” bags to all new Jewish babies in town, and “Shalom Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien” bags to all new Jewish arrivals. If you know of someone who recently moved to the area or welcomed a child into their family, please contact Jillian Moore at jillian@ujf.org.



New arrivals to town, Taylor Amato Simantov and Ariel Simantov (PHOTO CREDIT: ERIC ROSS)



Baby Ava caught snoozing on the job, with father Gregory Celniker (PHOTO CREDIT: ERIC ROSS)



Smiling parents Max and Brooke English fawn over baby Netta (PHOTO CREDIT: ERIC ROSS)



The Warmflash family shows off their new baby brother (PHOTO CREDIT: JILLIAN MOORE)

*May the year 5786 bring peace
and harmony to the community
of Stamford and the family of Israel*

 JCC
Stamford
www.stamfordjcc.org

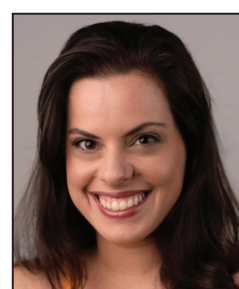
Peter Rosen,
President

Marshall Kurland,
Chief Executive Officer

New Around Town

Jillian Moore, UJF Director of Programming and Engagement

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien is proud to announce that Jillian Moore has joined the staff as UJF's new Director of Programming and Engagement, where she will be focusing on NextGen, Women's Philanthropy, PJ Library, and volunteer engagement.



Jillian Moore

Jillian is a South Florida native who moved to Connecticut to attend The Hartt School, where she obtained her BFA in Music Theater with a minor in Performance Arts Management. During her time in school, she discovered her love for building meaningful Jewish connections while working as a religious school teacher at

her local synagogue and taking on various board positions at Hillel and her Jewish sorority. After college, she worked as the Youth Engagement Coordinator at Congregation Kol Tikvah in Parkland, Florida, where she engaged teens in fun and engaging programming. Most recently, she worked as the

Manager of Youth Education Administration at Temple Shaaray Tefila on the Upper East Side, where she supported all the logistical, administrative, and operational functions of the religious school.

Jillian has enjoyed working in various facets of the Jewish life ecosystem and is passionate about spreading Jewish joy. She can't wait to make a difference in the community.

Rabbi Aryeh Roberts, Assistant Rabbi at CAS

Congregation Agudath Sholom welcomes Rabbi Aryeh Roberts as its new assistant rabbi. He is joined by his wife Lele and daughter Liora.

Rabbi Roberts was ordained from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University and served as Rabbinic Intern at the Young Israel of Ohab Zedek in Riverdale, NY. He has served in numerous roles since graduating from the University of Maryland, including as a Rabbinic Intern at Shir Chadash in Jerusalem and the Mizrahi Shul in Melbourne, Australia.

Rabbi Daniel Cohen shared, “Rabbi Roberts is deeply committed to the values of our shul, rooted in Torah, welcoming of Jews of all backgrounds, anticipating opportunities for impact and strong love and advocacy for Israel. We are excited to welcome him and his family to Stamford.”

“Rabbi Roberts is dedicated to *Yiddishkeit* and Torah learning, and has a passion for outreach to Jews of all stripes and individuals outside the Jewish community. In these ways, he embodies



the values that our congregation stands for. This is an exciting next chapter for Agudath Sholom,” shared Rob Hoff, CAS President.

Rabbi Roberts shared, “I’m really excited to be joining CAS and working with Rabbi Cohen. This is a community known for its warmth and vibrancy, and I look forward to learning together, building relationships, and strengthening this community as we continue to grow.”



DON'T FORGET TO USE THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR!

THE CALENDAR CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT ASSET TO OUR COMMUNITY!

WWW.UJF.ORG/CALENDAR
QUESTIONS?: EMAIL LARA@UJF.ORG

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) For 70 years, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford, CT (BCHA) has served as a pillar of Jewish education in Fairfield County, cultivating generations of students grounded in Torah values, academic excellence, leadership and a commitment to making a more ethical and spiritual world in which kindness and respect for each other is reflected in the conduct of all community members.

Since its founding in 1956, the school has remained steadfast in its mission: to unlock the potential of every child, guided by educators deeply devoted to both intellectual growth and moral development. At the core of the BCHA philosophy is the belief that it is their responsibility to nurture strong Jewish leaders and compassionate global citizens with an unwavering dedication to *Tikkun Olam*.

For seven decades, these values have guided students who have gone on to lead,

serve, and innovate in meaningful ways. But what is it about Bi-Cultural that inspires this kind of impact?

Some point to the presence of *Legacy Leaders*—faculty members who have taught at the school for more than 20 years—infusing classrooms with continuity, wisdom, and heart. Others highlight the school's pioneering approach to education, from its nurturing Early Childhood program to its dynamic Upper School offerings in engineering, innovation, and Israel education. All are connected by a deep sense of community and shared purpose.

"Every teacher, student, parent, and supporter has contributed to what BCHA is today," said Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, Head of School. "BCHA is a living legacy built on purpose, passion, and people."

This year, as BCHA marks its 70th anniversary, it is embracing a new school-

wide initiative grounded in an ancient and powerful value: *Gratitude*.

Launched this fall, BCHA's new Gratitude campaign spans pre-K through 12th grade and is designed to encourage the daily practice of *Hakarat HaTov*—recognizing the good. The initiative aims to shift the community's focus away from what's missing to what's meaningful, helping students and families reflect more deeply on the blessings in their lives.

Research supports this approach. Studies show that cultivating gratitude can reduce anxiety, lower stress levels, improve sleep, and contribute to better overall health. For BCHA, however, the goal is both personal and communal: to build a culture where

recognizing and appreciating the good we receive from God and Man becomes a way of life.

This is not the school's first initiative focused on character development. A "Kindness Counts" program, launched several years ago, led to a notable increase in intentional acts of kindness across campus. The Gratitude Program, leaders hope, will yield similarly meaningful results, both within and beyond the walls of the school.

"As we celebrate 70 years of Bi-Cultural, we are filled with deep appreciation for those who built, sustained, and elevated this community," said Bernstein. "Now, we're renewing our commitment, not just to teach gratitude, but to live it."

Training Opportunities



(Courtesy of UJF) Robin Fischel, UJF board member; Jillian Moore, UJF Programming and Engagement Director; Eric Ross, UJF Deputy Director, and Leslie Heyison, UJF board member attend Jewish Federations of North America's Regional Campaign training at Jewish Federation of MetroWest in New Jersey.



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

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

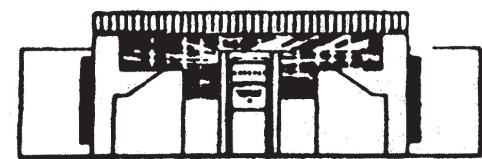
Aaron's Place
A Kosher Comfort Room

Aaron's Place, on the ground floor of Stamford Hospital, provides kosher snacks, drinks and meals, in a comfortable environment.

If you are caring for a hospitalized loved one or waiting for tests, this comfort room is a place to relax and refresh.

Information is available at the hospital front desk, the code, in Hebrew letters, is on the door of the room.

Aaron's Place is run by volunteers!
If you are interested in volunteering for 1-2 hours a month, email ronsichel@aol.com.



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
Rabbi Aryeh Roberts, Assistant Rabbi
Rob Hoff, President

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



Embracing Love



A packed room enjoyed learning from inspirational female entrepreneurs.

(Courtesy of UJF) In celebration of Tu B'Av, the holiday of Love, UJF's Woman's Philanthropy brought together over 35 women of all ages for the first "Salon" type evening.

Guest speakers and entrepreneurs, Liliach Porges and Elina Furman shared their passion and joy, showcasing their creative spirit and embracing love in all that they do. Porges is an Israeli fashion designer and the founder and creative

director of Procode Dress. Her work centers around developing innovative methods for 3D printed garments with robotic arms, exploring architectonic shapes with the ambition to bring the worlds of science, engineering, and fashion together to empower women.

Furman is the founder of *Ora Magazine* and Kahlimi, which is the first baby massager and wellness brand for families. Her work as a baby



Guest speakers Liliach Porges and Elina Furman.

massage product inventor has won her awards from the Juvenile Product Manufacturing Association, the Baby Innovation Awards, and a Best of Seal from Pampers.

Participants met new community members while mingling over light bites and drinks. The next Salon will be held on October 28. To learn more and to help shape future events, contact Jillian Moore Jillian@ujf.org

Free Books for All



Throughout August, UJF held an adult book giveaway. After years of collecting books from the Jewish Book Council, Sheara and Bar Amouyal, among 20 others, stopped by the UJF offices to browse a wide assortment of Jewish Books.

Shanah Tova!

Rabbi Michael Knopf, Senior Rabbi



Cantor Katie Kaplan
Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg



Erica Newman
Leo Linder
Jeff Cohen, President

Temple Beth El
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Can you hear the future calling?



This New Year, answer the call by making a legacy gift, ensuring a strong Jewish community for future generations.



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

Life & Legacy
ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS

Be remembered forever with a gift to United Jewish Federation in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

Find us online: www.ujf.org/life-legacy
Contact Eric Ross, UJF Deputy Director, eric@ujf.org; 203.321.1373 Ext. 1004



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WESTCHESTER & CONNECTICUT
ANNUAL DINNER

A NIGHT TO SALUTE OUR HEROES

Sunday, October 26, 2025 | 5:30 PM
Greenwich, Connecticut

LENORE AND ILAN FOGEL
Dinner Chairs

For more information, contact
Anat Chavkin, Executive Director,
at anat.chavkin@fidf.org

Shana Tova

from the
Friends of the IDF
(FIDF)

Wishing you a sweet, healthy New Year
and heartfelt thanks for your steadfast
support of Israel's soldiers.

You've stood with them long before 10/7,
through the heartbreak of war, and
beyond Operation Rising Lion.

Am Yisrael Chai. Forever.

Anat Chavkin

Iris Bartov and Lisa Zach

Rebecca Grossman and Tomer Hoory





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.

28 Anonymous
29 Anonymous
Craig Adler
Adrienne & Michael Alexander
David Amsellem
Alice & David Andersen
Jeri Appel
Mark Appel
Ricky Snow Arbron
Mihal & David Ariyeh
Suellyn Bache
Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
Rachel Tyd & Robert Beldock
Gayle & Mitchell Bell
Debra & Michael Berg
Dina & Paul Berger
Karen & Ira Berk
Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz
Lynn & Harvey Berman
Berkun Family
Darona & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
Jen & Andy Bernstein
Melody & Claude Bernstein
Bruce & Nancy Blasnik
Judith Block
Ilana Springer Borkenstein & Daniel Borkenstein
Jodi & Richard Boxer
Amy Bubel
Henry Bubel
Blake & Daniel Bueckman
Rita & Michael Buttermann
Judy & Jeff Cahn
Kate & Peretz Cik
Roberta & Alan Cohen
Andrea & David M. Cohen
Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen
Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeff Cohen
Judy & David S.* Cohen
Mimi Cohen
Rachel & Ephraim Cohen
Saul Cohen*
Marsha Colten
Kahla & Gordon Cooper
Randie Katz & Lawrence Cryer
Tracy & Nahum Daniels
Janice Steinberg & Stephen Davidson
Andrea Dener
Elayne Dener
Rabbi Yisrael Deren
Helen & Marty Donner
Fran & Bob Dorf*
Shoshana Dweck
Heather & Glenn Dynner
Debra & Dan Faizakoff
Michelle Fanwick
Esta & Jay Feinsod
Sharon & Michael Feldstein
Peggy & Jerry Fensterstock
Linda Hurwitz & Richard Fine
Robin & Jason Fischel
Gail Berman & David Fogel
Stephanie & Howard Fogel
Lenore Fogel
Ilan Fogel
Miriam Lavinsky & Morton Folb*
Beverly Frank
Sharon Franklin
Robin Frederick
Julia & Eli Freedberg
Connie & Alan Freeman
Maxine & Jay Freilich
Susan Frieden
Rachel & Keith Friedman
Marc Friedman
Donna & Edward Fuhrman
Nancy & Mark Funt
Heidi & Harrison Ganz

Lisa & Gadi Gavronsky
Lesley & Dennis Gehr
Gary Gepner
Cynthia Gordon & Doron Ginat
Carole Gladstone
Herbert Gladstone*
Sylvia & Herb Gladstone*
Leslie Glenn
Michael Gold
Abby Goldberg
Cyndy & Eric Goldberg
Marilyn & Irving Goldblum
Alicia & Jason Goldstein
Caryl & Melvin Goldstein*
Judy & Howard Goldstein
Sharon & Bruce Goldstein
Meryl & David Gordon
Nan & Paul Gordon
Linda Gornitsky
Loralee & Philip Granowitz
Shira & Ethan Green
Allison & Frederic Greenbaum
Sharon & Larry Greenberg
Susan & Edward Greenberg
Pam Ehrenkranz & Matt Greenberg
Rhonda Greif
Grecia & Ron* Gross
Caryn Halbrecht & Tommy Haendler
Jeremy Hager
Michael Handel
Scott Handelman
Kayla & Leon Hanna
Wynd Harris
Jacqueline Herman
Elissa & James Hyman
Rebecca Isenstein
Shara & Rabbi David Israel
Sari & Alan Jaffe
Meryl & Ron Japha
Anne Liss Johnson
Sadae & Michael Kadish
Judith & Grant Kallen
Peggy Kalter
Helene & Harvey Kaminski
Chanie Kamman
Ronny & Ira Kaplan
Roni & Jan Kaplowitz
Jason Kaplowitz
Lisa & Arnold Karp
Jeannie Kasindorf
Jessica & Ilan Katz
Joy Katz
Larry Katz
Judith & Sheldon Katz
Neil Katz
Mark S. Kaufman
Betsy & Peter Kempner
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Liz & Marc Kitay
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Sharon & Jeffrey Lewis
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Ronnie & Gary Lilien
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Vered & Mark Links
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Stu Madison
Lisa & Jeff Manheim
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Rhonda Schaffer-Maron & Jeffrey Maron
Melanie Massell
Sandra Mehl*
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Janice & Jake Meyer
Wendy Goldberg Miles
Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun
Cecile E Minkoff
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Marguerite & Kenneth Neuhaus
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Marsha & Louis Panzer
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Robin Evans & Jeffrey Perry
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Michele & Scott Piskin
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Caryl Ferber Poser & Peter Poser
Tanya Barton- Radin & David Radin
Molly Schrag & Adam Rafalowicz
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Jessica & Laurence Sheinman
Leah & Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
Marsha Kaiser Shendell
Carol Ruth & Herman Shepherd*
Rosalyn Mae Sherman
Stephanie & Bob Sherman
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Lisa & Grant Silver
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Paula Simon
Gloria & Randy Skigen
Marty Skrelunas
Diane & Elliot Sloyer
Michal Fox Smart
Brenda & Bruce* Smith
Ed Smith
Marilyn Sofer
Greta Solomon
Miriam & Steve Sosnick
Sandy & Moshe Speter
Ed Spilka
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Eileen Springer
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Phyllis & Harvey Walzer
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Ellen & Richard Weber
Linda Gornitsky & Harvey Weber
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Sheryl & Dan Young
Lauren & Joe Zalis
Joan Zinbarg*
Renee Zinn
Alex Zislis
Navah & David Zizmor
Shira & Mitchell Zucker

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

Life & Legacy Testimonial

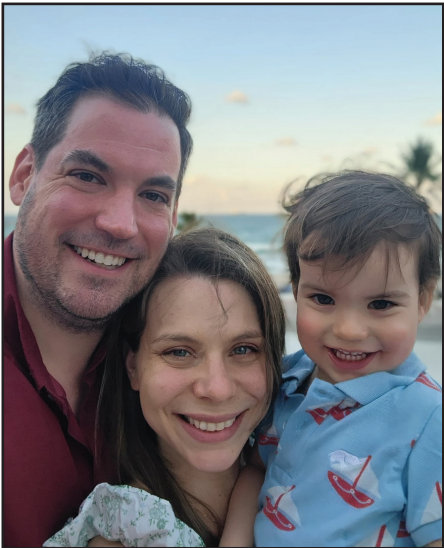
Each edition of the New Jewish Voice features the testimonials of community members just like you who have declared their intent to leave a legacy gift to a Jewish organization in the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish community. This program is funded by United Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon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

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

ADAM RAFALOWICZ AND MOLLY SCHRAG TESTIMONIAL

When we think about the future of our community, we think about our son Jack — and about the generations who came before us, whose commitment and generosity built our hometown communities and the Jewish community here in Stamford we cherish today.

Molly and I both grew up in New Rochelle, where our families were involved in organizations like UJA and Young Israel of New Rochelle. It is there that our parents nurtured the fundamental belief that the Jewish community needs to stand strong and together, to grow and thrive through challenging times.



Adam Rafalowicz and Molly Schrag with their son Jack

My parents, Joseph and Karen Rafalowicz, have spent their lives devoted to the Jewish community, serving in leadership roles across numerous organizations. Their example instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility to pay it forward — a value that continues to guide our family today. Though they live outside Stamford, they remain deeply connected and supportive of our community, sharing in our commitment to its future.

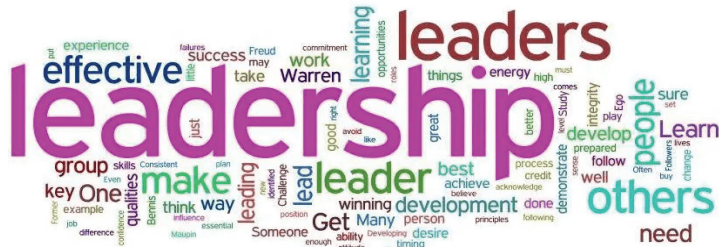
member of the local Jewish community.

As fate would have it, Molly and I reconnected right here in Stamford while I was managing Six Thirteen Restaurant and catering a Bat Mitzvah at Young Israel. That moment was the beginning of a shared journey rooted in Jewish community and values. Today, we're proud to give back together at UJF: Molly serves on the NexGen board and I serve as Treasurer on UJF's executive committee. It's our hope that our children, too, will carry on this commitment and continue to be part of this vibrant community.

Molly's family has deep roots in this community. She and her brother Robbie moved to Stamford as children and their ties have only strengthened since then. Her aunt, Valerie Warmflash, is part of a remarkable four-generation family that continues to live in Stamford. Jonah Schrag, Molly's uncle, has long been a central figure in the Young Israel of Stamford community. Molly's brother Robbie Schrag and his wife Danielle are raising their two children, Max and Allen, here in Stamford. Her father, Howard Schrag, is also a proud and active

For us, participating in the Life & Legacy program is about honoring that past and ensuring a vibrant future. We hope others will join us in taking this meaningful step. Together, we can ensure that Jewish life in Stamford remains strong for generations to come.

Kuriansky Teen Leadership Initiative



Calling All Teens!
Grades: 10th–12th
Join like-minded teens for an immersive leadership program

- Develop leadership skills
- Learn about philanthropy
- Explore how our unique Jewish community works
- Earn community service hours
- Hands-on volunteer experiences
- And more...

Session Dates:
Sundays (5–7pm)
October 26
November 23
December 21
January 11
February 7
March 15
April 19
May 31

More information can be found at www.ujf.org/leadership or email Eric Ross at eric@ujf.org

Registration closes October 17, 2025 (space is limited)

Save The Date

Woman's Philanthropy Salon

October 28th, 7:00pm
Location TBD

Join Artist + Designer SARA JOY
"Why Jewish Joy is an Act of Strength"

Create ✨ Connect ✨ Be Inspired

\$36 per person until October 22nd

More information and registration at www.ujf.org/joy

For more information contact Jillian Moore at Jillian@ujf.org

United Jewish Federation



The Versatile Hospital Worker that NEVER Calls in Sick

Unlimited Robotics' Gary robot is already on the job in Israel and Philadelphia, supporting overburdened healthcare staff with a myriad of tasks.

BY JOHN JEFFAY/ISRAEL21C

Gary works in a hospital. He does a lot of fetching and carrying. He cleans and sanitizes. He also chats to patients, acts as a translator and records and transcribes doctors' consultations. And he's learning to clean toilets.

He works every shift available, he never calls in sick, and he doesn't stop for a coffee, a cigarette or a bathroom break. But he does need time to recharge his batteries – literally.

Gary is a robot, designed and built by Israel-based startup Unlimited Robotics.

Since the start of this year a dozen Garys have been working at two of Israel's largest hospitals — Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva and Shamir Medical Center in Be'er Ya'akov.

Guy Altagar, the company's CEO, says it's only the start and there will be many, many more Garys.

The company has signed an agreement with Israel's Ministry of Health to provide robots for public hospitals.

And 10 Garys began working at a hospital

in Philadelphia in July. The US is a huge target market for the company.

Gary is one answer to a global recruitment crisis in healthcare facilities, says Altagar. There simply aren't enough people willing to work in a hospital when they can get a job in Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts or McDonald's for the same money.

By 2030, the problem will be so acute that there will be a shortfall of 18 million health workers globally, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Gary costs around \$30,000 to buy (plus a monthly fee), which is less than a year's salary for a typical US hospital worker (\$35,000 to \$42,000), says Altagar. Except that Gary works a 140-hour week with no vacations.

Unlimited Robotics, founded in 2020, has narrowed its original focus from "general purpose" robots that could help around the home or workplace – factories, hotels or airports – to those specifically suited to hospitals.

"Focus is part of our maturity as a startup company," Altagar tells ISRAEL21c. "You

learn that to conquer the world, you have to start with baby steps that are very carefully measured."

In other words, there are many opportunities for Gary, but Unlimited Robotics must concentrate on one at a time.

So why healthcare? "To be honest I didn't think of it as a prime sector, but it chose us," Altagar says. "The demand that we're getting from organizations both in Israel and the US is huge."

Gary is an autonomous robot, which means he takes "initiative" rather than relying on minute-by-minute instructions.

He also has two arms, whereas most robots have just one because coordination of two simultaneously is exceptionally complicated.

And he's adaptable. Most robots are designed for a single task, but Gary can quickly pick up new skills thanks to an open-source platform that allows software developers with no prior experience of robotics to build applications.

"Our operating system allows us to add more and more capabilities with a relatively



Gary robots have two arms and can handle many kinds of tasks. (PHOTO COURTESY OF UNLIMITED ROBOTICS)

short development time," says Altagar.

I was wondering how patients experience Gary, but although patients do benefit from the robot's presence, it is primarily there for the employees.

"The main problem is a severe shortage of staff, not just nurses and doctors, but the teams surrounding them that help them to achieve and perform better," says Altagar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

From The Shlichah's Kitchen

Alfajores Cookies

★★★★★

Ingredients:

- .400 grams (about 14 oz) soft butter (unsalted)
- .2 cups (240 grams) sifted powdered sugar
- .8 egg yolks
- .3 cups (420 grams) flour
- .3 cups (400 grams) cornstarch
- .2 teaspoons (10 grams) baking powder
- .One jar of dulce de leche
- .Shredded coconut (optional)

TIP

You can get Dulce De Leche from Amazon!

How to make:

1. Mix the butter and powdered sugar in a stand mixer. (I usually microwave the butter for about 30 seconds to soften it – not fully melted.)
2. Once the mixture is smooth, add the egg yolks and mix until combined.
3. In a separate bowl mix the flour, cornstarch, and baking powder and then, gradually add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture, mixing until a smooth dough form.
4. Roll out the dough on a floured surface and cut into round shapes using a rolling pin and cookie cutter
5. Bake at 350°F (175°C) exactly for 9 minutes, just until the cookies are slightly golden.
6. Let the cookie rounds cool completely
7. Take two cookies and spread a bit of dulce de leche in the center of one and gently press the second cookie on top to form a sandwich – but don't press too hard, as the cookies are delicate and can break.
8. Smooth out any excess dulce de leche around the edges, then roll the sides in shredded coconut (optional).

BON APPÉTIT

בתיאבון

RECOMMENDED

NEXTGEN & PJ LIBRARY PRESENT:

Apple Picking

FAMILY DAY

SEPTEMBER 14
10:30am – 12:30pm
SILVERMAN'S FARM
451 Sport Hill Road, Easton, CT
MEET AT THE JFS TRUCK

JFS food pantry truck will be on site for those who would like to donate apples in time for Rosh Hashana

WWW.UJF.ORG/APPLES

NOMINATE A COMMUNITY SUPERHERO!

Recognize someone who has made a meaningful impact on our community!

For a donation of \$18, your nominated superhero will receive a special email acknowledgement and be listed on signage at UJF's September 7 Superheroes Among Us evening!

The event will kick off UJF's annual campaign in the best way possible: celebrating the agencies UJF supports, honoring community superheroes, and enjoying an inspiring performance from Grammy-nominated John Ondrasik (Five for Fighting), a steadfast ally to the Jewish people.

Visit www.ujf.org/superhero to nominate!

The Versatile Hospital Worker that NEVER Calls in Sick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

"At the same time there's a rise in demand for healthcare services, people are living longer, they're hospitalized more and the pressure on healthcare systems is growing. Gary is designed to help the medical teams."

Gary provides a range of services in healthcare facilities, for example meeting the constant demand for bed linens, water, medical devices and other items so that medical personnel can spend more time treating patients.

Gary also engages selected geriatric patients in conversation, to maintain or improve their cognitive capabilities. He recognizes them and (using AI) personalizes every conversation. Eight out of 10 patients say they are happy to chat to a robot, says Altagar.

Gary also functions as an interpreter and note-taker. In Israel, many patients don't speak Hebrew so Gary provides real-time translations between them and the medical professionals.

He also records and transcribes conversations with patients and adds them to their medical files so the doctor doesn't have to write up notes of every interaction.

"It sounds like a small task, say three to five minutes for each patient, but it adds up," says Altagar.

And Gary cleans. He can mop the floor and sanitize surfaces, and by early next year he'll be able to clean toilets and urinals.

He also keeps an eye out for lost property, broken windows, and anything out of the ordinary that requires human intervention.

"The bottom line is that we're trying to increase the amount of time that the medical teams invest in patients rather than in logistics, administration and simple tasks that they shouldn't have to do," says Altagar.

Staff can see where the Garys are in their hospital on a smartphone app. In theory they can summon one – like a Gett or an Uber – but in practice requests for a Gary generally go through an administrator.

There's inevitably some trial and error. Gary sometimes takes the wrong elevator, or gets out at the wrong floor.

"The technology is young and there's no textbook on how to build a robot for hospitals," says Altagar.

"But the one thing that I noticed is that hospitals are very patient and willing to accept those mistakes."

Having said that, he accepts there will be resistance from some hospitals to the idea of robotic helpers.

"Gary is not as smart as a human," says Altagar. "But Gary's not replacing humans, he's assisting them."

Unlimited Robotics, based in Petah Tikva in central Israel, has attracted \$10 million in funding from big names in the startup world – including Avishai Abrahami, CEO of Wix; and Micha Kaufman, CEO of Fiverr. The company has 30 employees, and offices in Boston (USA) and Bogota (Colombia).



The round challah gracing our tables this Rosh Hashana, reminds us of the continuity of Jewish tradition, connecting us across generations, oceans, and denominations.

In this season of renewal, we recognize that our greatest strength comes from our resilience and unity.

As One, we create meaningful Jewish experiences, welcome all who seek a place at our table, and ensure a vibrant Jewish future.

Shana Tova,

The Board and Staff of United Jewish Federation

Beverly Stein

President

Diane Sloyer

Chief Executive Officer

Young Israel of Stamford

Shana Tova!

WISHING YOU A YEAR
OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

High Holiday Services

Free and Open to Whole Community

Youth Groups

For more information about services email
rabbi.kohl@youngisraelstamford.org



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A NIGHT OF UNITY
SEPTEMBER 7TH AT 7:30PM

Tickets available at
www.ujf.org/superhero

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Next Gen: \$75
General Admission: \$100
Sponsorship: \$500
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Event Hosts: Hannah and Daniel Blonshteyn,
Lisa and Jeff Manheim, Wendy and Jared Siegel

For more information, contact dianesloyer@ujf.org



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