



# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF  
GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

## Young Israel Welcomes New Rabbi

Young Israel of Stamford announced the appointment of Rabbi Eli Kohl as its new rabbi, effective August 1. Rabbi Kohl and his wife, Naomi, come to Stamford from Mount Kisco, NY, where Rabbi Kohl was the rabbi of the Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation and also served as part of the pastoral care team at Northern Westchester Hospital. He previously served for seven years as the rabbi of the Orthodox community at the University of Maryland. Rabbi Kohl will also assume a position at Bi-Cultural Day School at the start of the next academic year.



Rabbi Eli Kohl

“Rabbi Kohl has spent his time in the rabbinate creating relationships, studying with community members, and helping to foster vibrant, dynamic, and growing communities,” said Greg Teitel, president of the synagogue. “With his easygoing nature, warm personality and engaging teaching style, he has helped community members find a place to call home.”

He has been invited to speak in Jewish communities across the Northeast to talk about current events and issues facing the future growth of Jewish life. When asked about his

See “Rabbi” on page 3

## Back to School Shop Ready to Roll!

Meryl Japha and Jane Levene can’t believe how much difference a year makes. The co-founders of the Back to School Shop were wondering last year if they could pull it off. They wanted to create a new event in Stamford where financially disadvantaged children could “shop for” their own new school clothes, coats, sneakers, backpacks and school supplies at no charge in a department store environment created just for them. “We wanted every child to feel the excitement of getting ready to go back to school. Without basic clothing and school supplies it’s hard to have the confidence necessary for academic success,” says Japha.

And one year later, volunteers have been recruited, funds have been raised,

clothing and school supplies have been purchased and plans are in place for the inaugural event, which will occur on Sunday, August 9. “We couldn’t be more excited about how this has come together,” said Levene.

Japha and Levene said they were thrilled with the breadth of support they’ve received from the Stamford community. Early on, they presented their idea to the UJF Board of Directors, which agreed to bring the program under its umbrella, providing administrative support that made the program viable. The Stamford Public School system also jumped on board, making an elementary school available for the event, and allowing its social workers to choose the

See “School” on page 2

## “Tikkun Olam Makers” Turn Technology into Solutions for People with Disabilities

BY MAAYAN JAFFE  
JNS.org

From cyber-security to medicine to agriculture, Israeli innovators are coming up with ideas that make life safer, easier and more efficient. These creations, in turn, simultaneously fund the Jewish state and yield profits for their overseas investors. A new organization is taking this entrepreneurial ecosystem to a new level, merging technological savvy with *tikkun olam* (the Jewish value of repairing the world) to solve societal needs.

Tikkun Olam Makers (or TOM), a

project of the Reut Institute and ROI Community, is bringing together strategic thinkers, engineers, designers, and project managers to solve unmet social challenges in disadvantaged communities. TOM is built on six core values: scalability, community integration, collaborative competition, affordability, smart development and innovation.

In March, TOM held its second “make-a-thon” in Tel Aviv (an event dubbed TOM: TLV), partnering with the Ruderman Family Foundation to harness cutting-edge technology

See “Technology” on page 18

## JCC Annual Run/Walk Benefits JumpStart Program

BY NANCY SCHULMAN

More than 450 people of all ages are expected to run, walk, sprint and stroll their way through the eighth annual “Give a Child a JumpStart 5K/10K Run/Walk and Family Fun Day.” The event is sponsored by The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Charitable Foundation, Auslander Kasindorf Group/Keller Williams Realty and the Dorf and Gotler families, and is presented by The Center Women of the Stamford Jewish Community Center. Now a Labor Day tradition in Stamford, the Run/Walk will be held on Monday, September 7, rain or shine. Check-in will begin at 9 am

and the race will start at 9:30 am. The event raises funds for JumpStart, the Jewish Community Center’s pre-school program for young children with special needs.

JumpStart is the only program of its kind serving families in the Greater Fairfield County area. The program follows the pattern of a typical nursery school classroom, offering social and educational experiences in a group setting for children who typically require one-on-one services at home. Money raised from the Run/Walk will go toward the program’s general operating costs, including new equipment,

See “JumpStart” on page 2

Candle Lighting	2	Bits & Pieces	6	Family Central	13	Senior Happenings	15	Adult Education	17	Chapter Two	20
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### Women’s Philanthropy Spring Dinner Celebrates and Remembers

Past United Jewish Federation Presidents Nancy Mimoun (far left) and Shoshana Dweck (far right) joined current UJF President Ellen Weber (second from left) in welcoming Joan Lunden, speaker for the Women’s Philanthropy Spring Dinner held on May 20 at Temple Sinai. The evening was dedicated in memory of Penny Horowitz, z”l, former Women’s Philanthropy president. (Photos by Aviva Maller Photography)  
See page 9 for more photos from the event.

CEO Message

# Joan's Life Lesson Number Three

BY JAMES A. COHEN



James Cohen,  
UJF CEO

At UJF's Women's Philanthropy Spring Dinner on May 20, guest speaker Joan Lunden shared many of her "life lessons," which have guided her over the years. Each lesson has value for each and everyone one of us – men, women and children alike. (As one of the few men in the room that evening, I can say in all honesty that she would have been inspirational for any audience.) But one of the lessons struck me as particularly important in today's world. When faced with

challenges, or opportunities, Ms. Lunden learned to "Just Say Yes."

Why is this answer, which is so antithetical to Nancy Reagan's 1980s outcry "Just Say No," so important in 2015? I think the answer is quite simple. Oftentimes, in a world with overwhelming choice, overscheduled schoolchildren and 24-hour news, the easiest way to cope is to opt out. The way to deal with the daily din the world seems to generate is to shut it out and not make choices at all.

As Jews, or certainly as Jews who care about the future of our community, we cannot afford to go down that path. Saying no will have unacceptable consequences. We face too many challenges – whether it be the rise of antisemitism on college

campuses, the increasing numbers of the unaffiliated, or the safety of Jews in Europe – so each and every one of us needs to do our fair share to make certain that these issues are dealt with sensibly, collectively and effectively.

Ms. Lunden shared with her audience how when a professional opportunity presented itself, even if she was scared, she always said, "yes," because she had the ambition and the determination to succeed. We have the ambition. We have the determination. We know what we have to do. So the next time you are asked to volunteer at any of the wonderful Jewish organizations in town, or to give a little more so that more people can be served and sit at the table of prosperity, follow Joan Lunden's example. "Say Yes!"

## JumpStart.....

staff development, maintenance of the boundless playground, special events and scholarships.

The Run/Walk will leave from the JCC, located at 1035 Newfield Ave., and take participants through the Pepper Ridge section of Stamford, a family-friendly route favored by local runners. Participants doing the 5K will complete the route one time; those doing the 10K will complete it twice. Strollers are welcome and there will be water stations along the way. For the safety of all participants and to satisfy insurance requirements, no bikes, skates, scooters or animals are permitted. There will be many family activities after the event.

The event is certified by U.S.A. Track and Field, and the run portion of the race is professionally timed. The fee to enter the Run/Walk, for those who reg-

ister by Saturday, August 1, is \$30 per adult/\$15 per child ages 6-18. For those who register after August 1, the cost is \$36 per adult/\$18 per child ages 6 to 18. Children 5 and under are free.

In addition, the JCC is collaborating with St. Francis Episcopal Church to present an Interfaith Road Race Series. "Miles for a Mission 5K Run/Walk and Dogapalooza!" will be held on Sunday, September 27, at 11 am. Participants with the fastest combined time for both races will receive a prize at Miles for a Mission. Register at any time for both races and receive the early registration discount for both.

Online registration for the JCC Run/Walk is

## School.....

children most in need of this program.

The co-founders said one of the most touching aspects of the support that Back to School Shop has received has been the support received from children in the community. "The first grant we received was due to a grant application that a 16-year-old Stamford teenager made to a foundation that encourages middle and high school students to get involved in philanthropy," said Levene. "He was so excited when his application resulted in both a grant and a personal donation from a foundation board member."

And recently the Jewish Community Center Sara Walker Nursery School children chose Back to School Shop as one of the causes they would support with their *tzedakah*. Anne Liss Johnson, managing director of the nursery school, said, "When I heard a presentation about the Back to School Shop, I thought it would be a perfect fit with our theme of *chesed*, or kindness. We explained to the children that not everyone is able to get new school clothing and supplies, and that through their *tzedakah*, they are able to help other children in our community have access to these things."

On May 28, Japha and Levene were on hand to accept the donation and thank the children personally. "What a joy to see these young children filled

with compassion for other children who are less fortunate. This was definitely a highlight of our year so far," exclaimed Japha.

The Back to School Shop's inaugural event will serve more than 100 kindergarten-fifth grade children. To find more information about the program or to make a donation, visit [www.ujf.org/backtoschoolshop](http://www.ujf.org/backtoschoolshop), or follow it on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/backtoschoolshop](http://www.facebook.com/backtoschoolshop).

All proceeds go directly to the JumpStart program.

The Jewish Community Center is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

Continued from page 1

available at [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org) or by calling 203-322-7900 for more information. Families and local businesses can also support the JumpStart program by becoming sponsors of the communitywide event. Information on sponsorship levels is available by contacting the JCC. In addition, registration and sponsorship forms are available on the website for download, and completed forms can be mailed or dropped off at the JCC.

Continued from page 1



Jewish Community Center Sara Walker Nursery School students Harrison Stoenke and Ellie Stroum, and their teacher, Irene Okun, added their classrooms' *tzedakah* money to the box. The nursery school classes chose to donate their money to the Back to School Shop, the new program that provides economically disadvantaged children in the Stamford community with brand new clothing and school supplies.



Jewish Community Center Sara Walker Nursery School students passed along their donation raised by all of the nursery school children through their *tzedakah*, to the Back to School Shop co-chairs, Jane Levene and Meryl Japha. Front (l-r): Nursery school students Milla Kaplan, Raela Polanish and Harrison Stoenke. Back (l-r): Levene, Japha (co-chair), Anne Liss Johnson, managing director of the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School, and Sandi Waldstreicher, educational coordinator of the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School.

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

June 19.....	8:11 pm
June 26.....	8:13 pm
July 3.....	8:12 pm
July 10.....	8:10 pm
July 17.....	8:06 pm
July 24.....	8:01 pm
July 31.....	7:54 pm
August 7.....	7:46 pm
August 14.....	7:36 pm
August 21.....	7:26 pm
August 28.....	7:16 pm
September 4.....	7:04 pm
September 11.....	6:53 pm
September 13.....	6:49 pm
September 14.....	after 7:47 pm
September 18.....	6:41 pm

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## JHSC Appoints New Head of School

The Board of Trustees and Head of School Search Committee for The Jewish High School of Connecticut announced that they have appointed Rabbi Elisha Paul as the next head of school, effective July 1.



Rabbi Elisha Paul

Currently the head of school at Sulam, a kindergarten-12 Jewish school for diverse learners located on the campus of the Berman Academy in Rockville, MD, Rabbi Paul has been called as an engaging leader and visionary educator. Rabbi Paul holds a master's degree in education administration from Seattle Pacific University and a doctoral certificate in Jewish educational leadership from Boston Hebrew College. He has more than 20

years of experience as a Jewish educator and administrator, having served as assistant principal at the Northwest Yeshiva High School, associate head of school at the RASG Hebrew Academy and head of school at the Yeshiva Atlanta (Atlanta Jewish Academy) High School. "In each of his positions, he provided outstanding leadership in all aspects of day school life," said Randie Weseley, president of the Board.

Search Committee members said they were deeply impressed by Rabbi Paul's professional experience combined with his profound understanding of how today's students learn, lead and serve in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. Following a national search to

identify the school's next leader, the Search Committee and the Board of Trustees have endorsed Rabbi Paul's candidacy.

"His intelligence, warmth, passion and outstanding record of accomplishment made it clear that Rabbi Paul has the essential qualities and characteristics necessary to lead JHSC masterfully through the school's next phase. He is deeply committed to JHSC's mission and vision, and is a strong believer in meeting the individual needs of each student," said Weseley.

Rabbi Paul is thrilled at the opportunity to lead our school: "I am honored and excited to become JHSC's next head of school. In its relatively short existence, JHSC has already set itself apart as an excellent educational institution, steeped in Jewish values and Jewish life, and providing students with all of the skills they will need to succeed as leaders in their chosen fields and, equally, if not more importantly, leaders of our community. I look forward to meeting all of the students, their families and, of course, spending time with the stellar faculty so we can all work together to build upon JHSC's successes."

## Young Israel Sizzling Summer Series

While summer is a slow programming season for some organizations, there will be plenty of adult education classes at Young Israel of Stamford, as part of the synagogue's annual Sizzling Summer Series in Stamford.



Rabbi Jeremy Wieder

Rabbi Jeremy Wieder of Yeshiva University will conduct a four-part series on Wednesday evenings titled "What Does Judaism Say About...." On July 8, his topic will be "Saving the Life of a Non-Jew." On July 15, he will cover the subject of "Gender Roles." On July 22, Rabbi Wieder will discuss the topic of "Abortion." Finally, on July 29, Rabbi Wieder will speak about "Vigilante Justice."

Rabbi Wieder is a *yeshiva* at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University. He holds the Gwendolyn and Joseph Straus Chair in Talmud. Rabbi Wieder was one of the first Americans to win the International Bible Contest, and later graduated *summa cum laude* from Yeshiva College in 1991. He also received an M.S. in American Jewish history from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. In 2005, he received a Ph.D. in Hebrew and Judaic studies at New York University. Rabbi Wieder has been called a prolific scholar; more than 500 of his lectures on Judaism have been captured on media and available online.

Michael Feldstein, who is chairing the program, said, "We are extremely excited to bring Rabbi Wieder to the Stamford community for this series. Rabbi Wieder is a scholar par excellence and he is extremely qualified to tackle these difficult subjects in Jewish law."

On Shabbat weekend, August 7-8, Young Israel will host Shani Taragin, a crowd favorite who will be appearing for the fourth summer in a row at Young Israel. She will be speaking three times on Saturday – a sermon, a post-*kiddush* talk and a class in the afternoon between afternoon and evening services. All three of her talks will focus on the theme of "All Jews are responsible for one another."



Shani Taragin

Taragin completed a B.A. and M.A. in Tanach and Talmud at Bar-Ilan University. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Tanach while teaching at Midreshet Lindenbaum. She also teaches collegiates and adults at MaTaN, Migdal Oz, Sha'alvim for Women, Lander's College and the Women's Beit Midrash in Efrat and Ramat Shilo. Taragin is a graduate of Nishmat's Keren Arie Program during summers at Camp Moshava.

For more information about the summer programs, contact Feldstein at [michaelfeldstein@gmail.com](mailto:michaelfeldstein@gmail.com).

## Rabbi.....

Continued from page 1

new role at Young Israel of Stamford, Rabbi Kohl was very enthusiastic: "I am excited and humbled to have been chosen to serve as the rabbi of Young Israel. I am looking forward to infusing my optimism, energy and Torah knowledge into the Stamford Jewish community."

Rabbi Kohl grew up in Brooklyn, NY. After attending Yeshivat Hakotel in Jerusalem, he continued on to Yeshiva University. He completed his rabbinic studies at RIETS at YU while simultaneously spending three years studying in the Marcos and Adina Katz Kollel program. He also completed advanced training toward a certificate from Machon Puah in reproductive health and *halachah*. His wife completed her B.A. in psychology at Stern College for Women and received an M.S.W. in social work from YU's Wurzelweil School. She also completed her coursework toward her M.A. in Jewish education from the Azrieli School at YU. Rabbi Kohl and his wife have three children, Yisrael (age 7), Shira (age 5) and Elana (age 3).

## Deadlines for articles

The deadlines for the next three issues of *The New Jewish Voice* are:

- Monday, July 27 ..... September
  - Monday, August 31 ..... October
  - Monday, September 21 ..... November
- Send *New Jewish Voice* article submissions to Sandy Golove at [sandy@ujf.org](mailto:sandy@ujf.org) marked "Stamford Voice" in the subject line. Expect an acknowledgment; please re-send if you do not receive one.

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## CAMOS to Host Shabbaton for Prospective Residents

CAMOS (Committee to Advance Modern Orthodoxy in Stamford) is organizing its second annual Shabbaton, to be held on Saturday, August 22, for those families who are considering a move to the Stamford community.

"Last year's Shabbaton was a huge success," said Michael Feldstein, who founded the CAMOS effort several years ago. "Eleven families visited, one family is moving here this summer, and two others are seriously exploring a move. We hope we can build on the success of the first Shabbaton, and attract others to visit... and eventually move here."

In the past, CAMOS has hosted a Summer Sunday in Stamford event for families looking to get a feel

for the community, but many of CAMOS committee members felt that a Shabbaton is the best way to draw people to visit. The CAMOS Shabbaton Committee consists of Kate Frommer Cik, Elaine Finkelstein, Jessica Kfare, Abigail Kurtz, Miriam Sperber and Alisa Weisser.

In April, CAMOS organized an exhibit at the Orthodox Union's Job and Relocation Fair in New York City, which generated more than 100 leads. "Many of the people we met at the fair are definitely interested in visiting for a Shabbat," said Feldstein.

As part of the Shabbaton, the committee plans to have a get-together in the park, and involve as many of the members of the Stamford community in the

Shabbaton as possible. "The best way to sell Stamford as a place to live is to allow prospective residents to meet other like-minded families who are happy living here," said Feldstein.

Feldstein also pointed to the presence of four kosher eateries as "a very positive development" in the Jewish community, which help make Stamford a more attractive place for an observant family to live.

Anyone who knows of an observant family who might be interested in moving to Stamford and attending the Shabbaton, or who might benefit from the services that CAMOS provides, should have them contact Feldstein at michaelgfeldstein@gmail.com.

## Chabad Stamford's Green House Grows

BY TALY FARBER

Anybody driving down High Ridge Road may be familiar with the sight of the small green house sitting on Chabad Stamford's property. It's called the "annex" and its purpose is to house the different teachers, or "morahs," who come to Stamford to work at Chabad, Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center and the Friendship Circle. Initially, the young morahs were housed in Rabbi Yisrael and Morah Vivi Deren's home. In subsequent years, they have been staying in the "green house."

For more than 20 years, young women have come from Costa Rica, Argentina and England in order to train, teach, learn and enrich the lives of local community members. After their teaching years here are over, many move to other communities to take those skills learned at Chabad Stamford and implement them in Chabads all over the world. The

morahs that live and work here seek to positively impact the lives of the children they teach and the programs they run, and then move on to other parts of the world and seek to enrich the lives of their new communities.

Previous annex alumni now run Chabads in areas such as Rochester, NY, in colleges such as Tufts University, in Tzfat (Israel) and China, as well as the remote island of Mauritius.

Says current annex resident and teacher Dabrushie Liberow, "Working in Stamford, and the warmth of the community, is an experience that will stay with me for a lifetime."

The annex is currently undergoing a facelift with new windows, siding and roofing having been updated to help it be more structurally sound and ready to take on the next set of morahs. Chabad thanks the community members who stepped up to participate

in the "Transform The Annex Campaign." By the time of press, it is hoped that transformation will be complete.

For more information about the Chabad Stamford's annex, contact morahleah@chabadstamford.org or 203-324-2223, ext. 418.

## A Remarkable Kindness

BY ELISSA KAPLAN AND PETER LILIENTHAL

Diana Bletter, a National Jewish Book Award finalist, first-prize winner of Family Circle Magazine's 2011 Fiction Contest, and contributor to *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *L*, *Huffington Post* and *Commentary Magazine*, will discuss her book, "A Remarkable Kindness," on Thursday, August 20, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's August "Bonus" Program. It will be held at the Darien Library, 1441 Post Rd., Darien, with refreshments following the program. It is free and open to the public.



Diana Bletter

Bletter's recently published novel is the story of four American women, who have made *aliyah* to Israel. The setting is the seaside village of Peleg. The time is 2006, just before the Lebanon War, which Hezbollah and Israel fought for 34 days. The four women lead very different lives. Lauren is a nurse, married to an Israeli doctor. Emily is divorced and seeking adventure. Aviva, who has been in Israel for years, was in Intelligence, and then married, settled down and raised a family in Israel. Rachel, originally from Wyoming, is a young, fervent college graduate. The four women come together as part of a burial society, *chevra kadisha*, to wash, dress and prepare women from the village for burial. The ritual of *tahara*, the final burial rite, and the outbreak of the Lebanon War bring these four diverse women together in a common cause. Through this ritual associated with death, the women find life, strength and resilience. The novel tells the story of how each woman's life is transformed. According to Janice Steinberg, author of "The Tin Horse," "Bletter brings this quartet of complex, gutsy, smart, passionate women to life with rare delicacy and depth... Loss and endings are part of this novel's rich fabric. Gracefully written scenes... such respect and tenderness."

Bletter has written two other books: "The Invisible Thread: A Portrait of Jewish American Women," with photographs by Lori Grinker, and a memoir, "The Mom Who Took off on Her Motorcycle." She also maintains a blog about "writing and living - your best chapter." Bletter grew up on Long Island and attended Cornell University. Then, she moved to Paris and Rome. Currently, she lives in a small beach village in northern Israel with her husband and their six children, plus an adopted Ethiopian daughter. She is active in a Christian-Druze-Jewish-Muslim women's group. Like the characters in her novel, Bletter is a member her local *chevra kadisha*, the burial circle in her community.

For more information or to get answers about the program, contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148 or elissa@de-kaplan.com. For additional information, visit website <http://jhsfc-ct.org>.

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

## JCC Annual Meeting

The Jewish Community Center's annual meeting on May 14 was a celebration of the Center's 100th anniversary and volunteers.

This year's meeting was highlighted by the announcement of plans for the JCC's 100th anniversary in 2016.



At left: JCC President Jeff Goldblum brought the 2015 annual meeting to a close.



At right: Marni Amsellem accepted the Center Woman of the Year Award, presented each year to an outstanding volunteer by The Center Women of the JCC.



Executive Committee members responsible for the planning of the JCC's centennial year, which will include 100th anniversary celebrations, a capital campaign and hosting of the 2016 JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest in Stamford. L-r: Eric Koehler, JCC CEO; Rachel Rothman, JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest director; Jeff Goldblum, JCC president; Maxine Freilich, Centennial Committee co-chair; Rich Vogel, Centennial Committee co-chair; Jeannie Krifchev, JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest co-chair; and Michael Gold, JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest co-chair. (Photos by Aviva Maller)

### ► The 92nd Street Y Comes to Stamford

In a brand new partnership, The Palace Theater and the Stamford Jewish Community Center have announced a collaboration with New York's 92nd St. Y "Talks" series, which will include live-streamed broadcasts as well as "in-person" speakers that will be held at The Palace during the year. The talks will focus on the best in thought, literature, current events and the arts.

The initial program was held on April 21 at the Palace Theater, and featured *New York Times* columnist David Brooks, who was live streamed in from the 92nd Street Y. At the Brooks event, attendees viewed the lecture on a large screen in real time - and were even able to ask questions after the program was over.

On May 19, Ronald Keaton and Tricia McDermott of the off-Broadway hit "Churchill" appeared live at the Palace Theater to discuss the making of the play, and the challenges of bringing a larger than life figure such as Winston Churchill to the stage.

On June 9, Dr. Ruth Westheimer appeared at the Palace Theater through a live stream, and discussed her secrets of living a full and meaningful life. She recently published a new book, "The Doctor Is In: Dr. Ruth on Love, Life, and Joie de Vivre."

The organizers of the project hope to be able to choose programs with the broadest appeal to the Stamford community, with a focus on literature, current events and the arts.

Other programs will be announced soon. For more information, contact The Palace Theater at 203-3254466.



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- Torah Academy of Bergen County
- Westchester Hebrew High School

### We Also Wish a Mazal Tov to Carmel Academy's Alumni Class of 2011 on its Graduation from High School!

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## BITS AND PIECES

BY SANDY GOLOVE

To submit information to Bits and Pieces, call 321-1373, ext. 107, or e-mail me at sandy@ujf.org.

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

**Belinda and Ephraim Akyuz** on the birth of a son, Charles Efraim; grandparents are **Johanna and Selim Akyuz**.

**Aliza and Chazan Rafael Bokow** on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Gital and Rabbi Avigdor Bokow** and **Margie and Larry Nussbaum**.

**Hillary Jassey and Adam Eidelberg** on the birth of a daughter, Hazel Rose Eidelberg; grandmother is **Elayne Jassey**.

**Natania and Dmitry Ostrovsky** on the birth of a son.

**Lindsay and Peter Rosen** on the birth of a son, Jack Benjamin Rosen; grandparents are **Dan and Sabrina Benjamin**; great-grandparents are **Sondra and Jack Barocas** and **Vicky Benjamin**.

**Daniella and Dawa Sherpa** on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Ilana Schwartz and Richard Schwartz**.

**Jill Shiffman Sax and Alex Sax** on the birth of a daughter, Samantha Jay Sax; grandparents are **Claire Shiffman Brenner and Donald Brenner**, **Harriet and Chuck Sax**, and **Barb and Ted Shiffman**.

**Chaya and Rav Matiyahu Shochet** on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Judy and Jeff Cahn**.

**Nicole and Marcos Torres** on the birth of a daughter, Violet Aria Rose Torres; grandparents are **Cym and Bernard Edwards**; great-grandmother is **Anita (Kandi) Wasserman**.

MAZEL TOV TO:

**Netanel Friedenberg** on his graduation with honors from Washington University; mother is **Doris Pinhas Friedenberg**; grandmother is **Judy Bragin**.

**Rabbi Eli Kohl** as the new rabbi of Young Israel of Stamford.

MAZEL TOV ON YEAR END AWARDS:

**Bi-cultural Day School Annual Dinner Honorees:**

**Robert Abrams** – Alumni Award  
**Yospa Lieberman** – Jane Shozitz Memorial Award

**Maria and Glenn Reicin** – Guests of Honor

**Sarah Rich** – Young Leadership Award

**Chabad** – Commitment to the Stamford Community:

**Shira Nerenberg, Doris Warmflash and Ellen Weber**

**Jewish Community Center:**

**Marni Amsellem** – JCC Center Woman of the Year Award

**Beth Baer, Jenn Corbin, Madeline**



**Field, Jenny Fishman, Marlene Gatz, Wendy Handler, Jacob Herz, Denise Rafailov, Nofie Rosovsky, Carlie Sozaransky, Alissa Joy Wooland Stephanie Zelazny** – JCC Center Volunteers of the Year Awards

**Brian Kriftcher** – JCC Hyacinth and Harold Hoffman Humanitarian Award

**Temple Beth El:**  
**Judy Schneiderman** – TBE Sisterhood Rose Rosner Award

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

**Jewels Harrison, son of Mary and David Harrison**

**Justin Kaplan, son of Elizabeth and Seth Kaplan**

**Morgana Knopoff, daughter of Jill and Alejandro Knopoff**

**Zachary Schaff, grandson of Frances Schaff**

**Charlie Wallace, son of Angelique and Adam Wallace**

CONDOLENCES TO:

**Marshall Ackerman** on the loss of his mother, Dorothy Ackerman.

**Lee Brauer and Samuel Brauer, Jennifer Brauer and Nathan Brauer** on the loss of his wife and their mother, Rima Brauer.

**Karen Farber** on the loss of her mother, Marilyn Meckler.

**Ruth Fox** on the loss of her brother, Marvin (Mendel) Gottlieb.

**Peter Kempner** on the loss of his mother, Nancy Stone.

**Libby Libo** on the loss of her husband, Dr. Hersh Libo.

**Madeline Mann and Pamela Mann** on the loss of their father, Milton Mann.

**Meta Willis** on the loss of her sister, Riva Jean Mandel.

**Correction: Robert Wechsler** on the loss of his wife, Barbara Wechsler; children are **Jeffrey Wechsler** and **Matthew Wechsler**.

## JEEP\* TRACKS: MUSINGS ON EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

### The Balancing Act

BY CANTOR MARCIA LANE



As the summer approaches, I'm looking for my stack of books to read, or for a course to take. Like many of you, I don't harbor the idea that "school" is only for kids! I am eternally excited about learning.

For the past couple of years, I've been on the roster of rabbis and cantors who writes *divrei Torah* – Torah commentaries – for my seminary, the Academy for Jewish Religion. Every six weeks, I look at the upcoming Torah portion with an eye to writing something that actually has a new point of view, something interesting to impart! It's an interesting challenge because, as we know, Torah has been around, more or less in the form that we have it, for more than 2,000 years, and people have been commenting on it for that long. Wiser people than I have examined every letter, every word, every mark, every ornamental "thorn" at the top of every letter, every mysterious blob above a letter and even the white spaces in the scroll. How could I possibly find something new to say, much less to impart to others for inspiration or enlightenment?

Part of the secret of having something to say has to do with understanding that the Written Torah is actually both fixed and mutable. The fixed, immutable part has to do with the letters, markings and spaces on the scroll. Those are matters of law and tradition, and may not be altered. But there is

also the essential "I." I am in the Torah, and I have the right – no, the sacred obligation – to claim the Torah. And "I" am constantly changing. The "I" who interacts with Torah is different from one year to the next.

My other obligation is to learn from those who have gone before me. That is, I can't be an interpreter of Torah in a vacuum. I can't be ignorant of the Hebrew and claim to have something to share about the text just because I feel one way or another. My life experiences are informed by my studies, which in turn are filtered through my day-to-day encounters. I am Torah, given at Sinai, but given new every day. One of my favorite expressions about Torah is from the Mishnah: *eyn kemach, eyn Torah*. The literal meaning is "no flour, no Torah," but it's really shorthand for "you can't have the study if you don't earn a living." And the response is, "*Eyn Torah, eyn kemach*." You can't just be a work-a-holic. You have to have balance in life.

Still, it's hard to remember balance when you have deadlines to meet. That's why there's summer: To remind us that without the work, you can't have a vacation, but, without some time off, time to learn something new, or read or swim, you can't keep working. So I'm making my summer reading list, taking an on-line course and hoping to re-charge my batteries.

Happy summer!

\**JEEP* = Jewish Education and Engagement Project of United Jewish Federation

Cantor Marcia Lane is UJF's director of education and engagement.

## KLEI KODESH

### A MONTHLY COLUMN FROM OUR CLERGY

#### When July 4 and Shabbat Coincide

BY RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN



This year, Independence Day coincides with Shabbat. I've done some research to see what Jewish practices are in order, and came across a little known rabbinic source related to "Ethics of the Fathers," called "Ethics of the Uncles." There I found the following, attributed to "Dod Sh'muel," or "Sam, the Uncle."

1) We begin the Shabbat with not two, but three candles. The third is to be lit by remote control from a safe vantage point at least 100 feet away.

2) At the Sabbath meal, two *chalot* are served, each with apple pie filling.

3) Cookouts are allowed, as long as the charcoals are lit before sunset and the food is prepared beforehand. In other words, cookouts are not allowed.

4) It is customary to sing "Adon Olam" to the tune of "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

5) When reciting the *Amidah*, instead of facing Jerusalem, we face Washington, DC. Or if Joe Lieberman is in town, we simply face him.

6) When walking around with the Torah, it is customary for the cantor and rabbi to do a do-si-do with the president, singing "Turkey in the Straw."

7) At the beginning of the Torah reading, the *gabbai* (sexton) shouts, "Play Ball!" and the reader takes the *yad* (pointer) and tries to knock a knish out of the park.

8) The popular Shabbat afternoon dish known as cholent, featuring simmering vegetables and chunks of meat, is pureed so that all the items blend together and then simmered in a melting pot.

9) NASCAR runs the "Shabbat 500." Precisely at sundown, all the drivers get out of their cars and run for the finish line.

As of this writing, my two-year term as chair of the Board of Rabbis comes to a close. It has been a time of transition

for our Jewish community for rabbis, congregations and organizations. We rabbis have been delighted to welcome Jim Cohen and his brand of inclusive partnership.

Over these two years, that partnership has borne fruit in a number of areas, most notably in our successful first "Shabbat Across Stamford," which will now be followed up with an even greater one next March. We've also seen an increase in cooperation between the Jewish communities of Fairfield County – we need to continue that process. And we've seen an infusion of new talent and energy as Stamford has grown.

For the past two years, Limmud New York has chosen Stamford as its host venue, and we are increasingly being noticed by our Jewish neighbors to the south. As I wrote in welcoming them here: "The kind of inclusiveness that Limmud accomplishes once a year, we do all the time. It's fitting that the Diaspora's most concentrated Jewish urban center is taking its annual Jew-palooza out to the periphery. The welcome rebirth of urban Jewish life does not have to mark the death knell of suburbia – especially when that suburb can itself become a mini-core, taking on some of the more salient qualities of urbanization while remaining eminently livable."

There is so much to be proud of, as we look to the future of Jewish Stamford.

\**Klei kodesh*: sacred vessel; also used to indicate rabbis and cantors

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman is the spiritual leader at Temple Beth El.

## Jewish Senior Services Home Care Celebrates 10 Years

Ten years ago, the Jewish Home in Fairfield began providing private duty home care services in the community. "Recognizing the need in our community we wanted to offer this service to seniors and families as an extension of the services we provided at the Jewish Home," commented Andrew H. Banoff, president and CEO, who developed the business model for the program. The program has been called a great success and, as the need for compassionate and quality care continued to grow, the program expanded as well.

In 2010, medical home care was added as a Medicare-certified service, providing a host of services to individuals after hospital discharges or homebound. The two services worked in conjunction providing private duty aides, skilled nursing, social work and physical, occupational and speech therapy. Again, in 2012, services expanded to include hospice for end of life care. Friedman Home Care and Chaifetz Family Hospice reflect the



Doreen Brown-Wade

contributions of the Friedman and Chaifetz families, who are committed to ensuring the community has access to these services. All three programs have grown both separately and together, serving thousands of clients.

This year, Jewish Senior Services announced Doreen Brown-Wade has been appointed director of Home Care and Hospice. Brown-Wade has served as administrator of

Home Health Services of Connecticut, Visiting Nurse Services of Southern Connecticut and hospice manager for VNA Care Network and Hospice in Dedham, MA. Most recently, she served as hospice director at Masonicare Home Health and Hospice. She holds a B.S. degree in nursing and an M.B.A. Over the past 10 years, Friedman Home Care and Chaifetz Family Hospice have served thousands of clients in their homes, apartments, or assisted living residences throughout Fairfield and New Haven counties.

## Elder Abuse Prevention Symposium

This spring, Jewish Senior Services organized "The Role of Culture in the Prevention of Elder Abuse" symposium sponsored by the Coalition for Abuse Prevention of the Elderly (or CAPE). The symposium, held at UConn Stamford, was attended by healthcare and social services professionals from around the state; the event highlighted unique aspects and needs of minority and marginalized older adults, and taught attendees how to be culturally aware when working with diverse populations.

Featured speakers included Michael Ego, Ph.D., professor of human development and family studies and Asian American studies at UConn; Lisa Barry, Ph.D., M.P.H., a chronic disease epidemiologist, gerontologist and assistant professor of psychiatry

at UConn Health Center's Center on Aging; Amanda Aaron, T.R.D., R.M., director of life enrichment and resident advocate with Hebrew HealthCare; Jennifer Glick, R.N., LMSW, director of older adult services at the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; and Lirio Negroni, Ph.D., M.S.W., associate professor at UConn School of Social Work.

Jewish Senior Services' Center for Elder Abuse Prevention in Fairfield opened in 2007 to empower victims through safe haven and services, and champion safer communities for older adults. The Center is the first of its kind to serve frail elderly in Connecticut. Anyone who knows of a person who may be a victim of elder abuse should call 203-396-1097 or e-mail elderabuseprevention@seniors.org for assistance.

## JHSFC and National History Day

Since 2013, the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County has been awarding prizes in conjunction with the yearly themes of National History Day. To be eligible for these awards, Connecticut students in grades six-12 had to incorporate Jewish history/heritage and/or a Jewish personality into their entry.

This year's NHD theme was "Leadership and Legacy in History." Three prizes were awarded in celebration of JHSFC's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Varun Aggarwal, of the Talcott Mountain School in Avon, received the Celebration Award for his essay "Unwavering Resolve: the Life, Leadership and Legacy of Golda Meir and Her Fight for Zionism." Alexandra Bergman, of AITE in Stamford, received the 2015 Fairfield County award for her essay "Barbara Walters: Pioneering a

Movement and Satisfying Inquiring Minds for Half a Century." Fairfield Woods Middle School students Maggie Limone and Caroline Lauf were awarded the Connecticut State NHD prize for their performance, "Emma Goldman."

All of the winning entries will be available for viewing at the Jewish Historical Society's archives.

JHSFC intends to continue sponsoring National History Day prizes in conjunction with National History Day. Fairfield County teachers of public, private and religious schools will be contacted with information about each yearly theme and the requirements for eligibility. Resources are available in the historical society's archives and library for students. Complete details will also be available on the JHSFC website (www.jhsfc-ct.org).

UJF Tribute Cards are a wonderful way to connect with your family and friends and mark any occasion while supporting the extraordinary work of UJF. To send a tribute, go to [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org).

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Please contact: Marlyn Agatstein, Director of Reading Partners at [Readingpartners@ujf.org](mailto:Readingpartners@ujf.org) or 203-321-1373 x115

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# Reading Partners on the Move!

Reading Partners announced that Westover Magnet Elementary School joined its partnership in April and now all 12 Stamford elementary schools participate in the program. In the fall of 1999, 13 volunteers started the program by reading with children at Julia A. Stark and Springdale Elementary Schools. Over the years, one by one, the other elementary schools have joined the program, which helps children who need a boost in reading skills.

"I am thrilled that this opportunity arose, rather unexpectedly, and now we can say we have the chance to serve all the children in Stamford," reported Marlyn Agatstein, director of Reading Partners.

The school volunteer teams are assembled early in the school year and start serving the children after the Jewish holidays. Each school has a volunteer team leader who works with the school's staff liaison to match students and present an in-school orientation. When it came to Agatstein's attention that an opportunity might be available at Westover, she was unsure if the program could have any benefit starting in April and if she could assemble a team that late in the year. A few seasoned volunteers answered the

need and a small team of four was developed. Agatstein contacted Amy Neer, Title I reading teacher at Westover School, who quickly put together the remaining pieces for the program. As Neer reported, "The program was implemented successfully and seamlessly. The teachers have been supportive and can see how valuable this program is. The students look forward to being picked up by their tutor every week. I can't wait to start this program again in the fall!"

Right around the corner from Westover School, the Boys and Girls Club of Stamford experienced its best year yet with Reading Partners. Last fall, a teen volunteer from Greenwich Academy contacted Agatstein and asked if there was an opportunity to read at an after-school program. Even though there was already a Westhill High teen presence at the club, Agatstein felt this was another opportunity to bring in young people as volunteers and mentors. She started a relationship with the administration at the Academy and in January, a group of seven teens started volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club. The teens said they were hooked and brought in two more friends to volunteer. By the end of the school year, the program had enlisted 20 teens from Westhill and Greenwich Academy.

"Reading is basic, it is an important key to life. There is nothing quite as satisfying as seeing the smile on a child's face when they've successfully read a favorite passage from a book or can relate to a story they're reading," said Agatstein. "Consider giving one hour a week to join Reading Partners and bring that smile to 'your' kid's face when they make progress."

The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners Program is sponsored by the United Jewish Federation



L-r: Reading Partners volunteers Jim Benjamin, Carolyn Bonheim and Thomas McEvoy joined Westover staff liaison Amy Neer at Westover Magnet Elementary School.

aviva maller PHOTOGRAPHY

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avivamaller@aol.com

while the photographer is never in photographs, her reflection is seen in the eyes or the very soul of her subjects.



The end of year party at the Stamford Boys and Girls Club was called a success - 27 children who went through the program received Certificates of Accomplishment and a summer reading book. Westhill teens in attendance helped read "Happy Birthday to You" by Dr. Seuss.

## PJ Library at Barnes and Noble



On May 17, United Jewish Federation and the PJ Library kicked off a week-long book fair with a whole day of storytelling, glitter tattoos and songs at the Barnes and Noble store in Stamford Town Center. UJF Reading Partners Director Marlyn Agatstein and clown Gail G. Trell greeted kids and parents who came by. PJ Library Coordinator Marcia Lane supplied stories and songs. L-r: Agatstein and Trell (standing) with siblings Pablo Solares and Monica Solares (sitting).

of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

Call Agatstein at 203-321-1373, ext. 115, or e-mail her at readingpartners@ujf.org for more information.

## NEW AROUND TOWN

**Matt Feinberg - Director of Operations, Congregation Agudath Sholom**



Matt Feinberg

Congregation Agudath Sholom welcomes Matt Feinberg as its new director of operations. A Stamford-native, he is the second of four children of Karen and Bruce (z"l) Feinberg. After graduating from King Low-Heywood Thomas, Matt attended the University of Florida, where he obtained both a B.S. in finance and an M.B.A. After working several years in finance in Jacksonville, FL, Matt and his wife, Nikki, decided to relocate back to Stamford. He said he is thrilled to be back in his hometown, working in the Jewish community.

"We are excited to add Matt to our leadership team at Agudath! We value our membership greatly, and Matt will be focused on ensuring that the day-to-day operations at our synagogue run smoothly and ensuring the highest level of member engagement and satisfaction. Matt possesses a wonderful spirit and can-do attitude, and we look forward to building our shul community together, with God's help, for many years," says CAS Rabbi Daniel Cohen.

**Amy Ritell - Interim Education Director, Temple Sinai**



Amy Ritell

Amy Ritell will join Temple Sinai as interim education director for the year beginning on July 1. Ritell is a longtime Jewish educator and mother of two, who loves to cook and enjoys music of all genres. She and her husband, Jeff, reside in Ridgefield. Ritell has been the education director at Temple Shearith Israel of Ridgefield for 14 years, developing family and special education programs. In addition to her duties as director, she has taught religious school in both Ridgefield and Mount Kisco for 20 years. Working in the Jewish community runs in her blood, having grown up attending a Hebrew school where her mother served as educational director for 36 years.

## MAZEL TOV TO AREA PROFESSIONALS

**Bi-Cultural's Michal Smart Wins National Education Award**



Michal Smart

Michal Smart, director of Jewish studies at Bi-Cultural Day School, has recently won an Excellence in Jewish Education award from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation selected 33 educators across North America to receive awards for Excellence in Jewish Education. A panel of leaders in education has named six of the 33 as North American Awardees, including Smart. The Foundation chose the candidates from a broad spectrum of ideologies, traditions and educational settings. Each professional educator was evaluated on their skills to meaningfully engage students and families, with proven abilities on combining traditional and creative approaches to teaching, including integration of Jewish and secular studies, collaboration among generations and a focus on Jewish values. With this award, Smart will receive many educational opportunities, including mentorship, attendance at a national conference and a stipend for professional development and programmatic enhancement.

"Our educators play a vital role in expanding Jewish identity by promoting Jewish values and inspiring students to grow in their Judaism," said Jackie Herman, principal and head of school at Bi-Cultural. "They nurture spirits, enliven minds and provide a Jewish lens through which to make the most of every day, and we couldn't be more proud of Michal for winning this prestigious award."

# Joan Lunden Inspires Local Women

On May 20, more than 200 women from the Jewish communities of Stamford, Darien and New Canaan gathered to celebrate the work of United Jewish Federation, whose mission is to support the Jewish community locally, in Israel and around the world. Lorraine Kweskin, Women's Philanthropy president, sought to inspire the group by educating them about the 3 SQUARE program that feeds hungry children in the Stamford School District and "Chapter Two," which engages women who are empty nesters and/or retirees. Event Chairs Sissy and Elissa Stein spoke about UJF's relationship to Israel and the importance of supporting the organization. Many considered the highlight of the evening listening to past "Good Morning America" host Joan Lunden, who spoke about *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and her struggles with breast cancer.



Joan Lunden held all 200 attendees captivated with her story. (Photos by Aviva Maller Photography)



L-r: Barbara Field, Edith Samers, Susan Mark and Grecia Gross.



Front row (L-r): Sheila Romanowitz, Arlene Kay, Sue Harinstein, Gari Dansky, Dorothy Zeide, Karen Denker and Amy Bloomenthal. Back row: Janice Rosenstock, Lori Tobin and Judy Jacobson.



L-r: Sissy Stein, Joan Lunden and Elissa Stein



L-r: Lisa Manheim, Lori Gilbert and Emily Wirgin



L-r: Devra Jaffe Berkowitz, Joan Lunden and Rachel Dayan



L-r: Joan Lunden and Stephne Behrend

The winning floral arrangement was from Palmer's Market of Darien, designer is Traci Shefcyk.

Thank you to all the florists who participated and donated flowers for the Annual Spring Women's Philanthropy Dinner:

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## YLD New Family Event

Save the Date

Join Us for the Young Leadership Division's New Family Event

Sunday, September 27

A meet and greet for new families in the greater Stamford community... a great opportunity for parents to mingle while children enjoy a fun activity!

Light refreshments will be served (dietary laws observed)

Suggested for new families in the last 18 months.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or 203-321-1373, x109

# WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN OUR HANDS

## Your Gift Helps Us Answer The Needs Of Global Jewry.

You could say that we encompass the entire global Jewish village. Federation is there supporting Jewish cultural festivals in Bulgaria, children's services in Cuba, and rebuilding Nepal after the devastating earthquake. Wherever there's a need to rebuild, or a longing to reconnect, you'll find Federation.

In Israel, where we gathered three million Jews from all corners of the Earth, we are ensuring that everyone can achieve the Israeli dream, whether they come from Paris, Buenos Aires or Minsk. From a Head Start program for disadvantaged preschoolers, to scholarships for gifted teens, job-skill programs for their parents, and housing assistance for Holocaust survivors, your gift ensures that no one is left behind.

From St. Petersburg to Siberia, Kiev to Kazakhstan, today the vast cultural and geographic expanse of the Former Soviet Union (FSU) is home to some of the world's poorest Jews and the most inspiring, budding Jewish communities. Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, your Federation dollars have been the lifeline for vulnerable Jews in the Former Soviet Union, providing the critical assistance needed to survive, and the Jewish connection and strength that can only come from community.

You could say we've got the whole world in our hands, won't you join us?

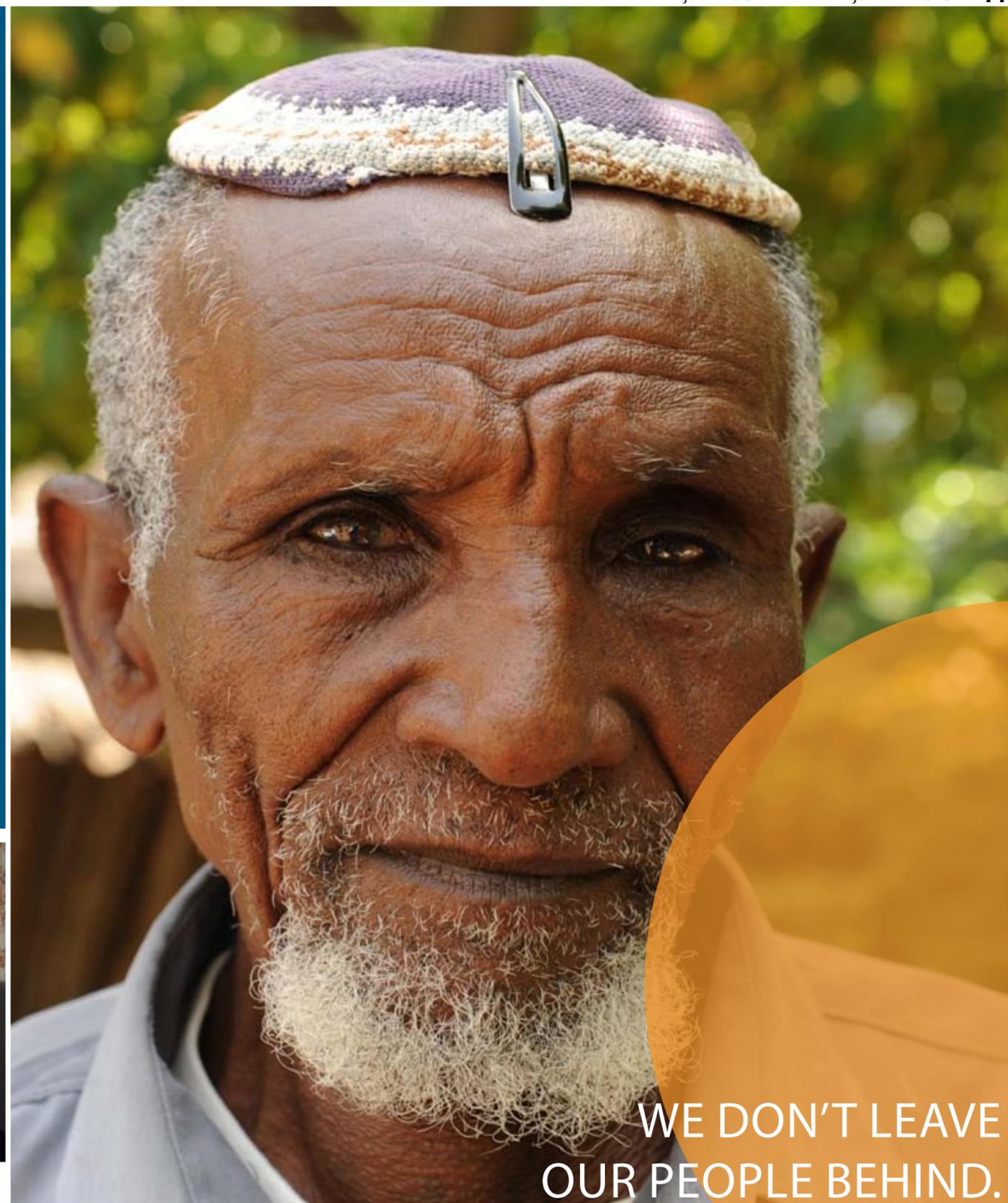


Thanks to your gift, 2,000 Jewish youth attend the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Camp at Szarvas, Hungary every Summer.



Your Federation gift helps provide food, medication, home care and Winter relief for impoverished elderly Jews in the Former Soviet Union.

IF NOT  
FEDERATION,  
THEN WHO?



WE DON'T LEAVE  
OUR PEOPLE BEHIND.



UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION | WWW.UJF.ORG | (203)321-1373

**Women.....** Continued from page 9

The attendees represent half a million dollars in philanthropy that helps the Greater Stamford Jewish community and, in addition, helped raised more than \$8,500 that night thanks to a silent and live auction. To learn more about UJF, visit [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org).



L-r: Myrna Sessa, Brenda Piskin, Marsha Colten, Lori Tobin, Maya Todrin and Alex Bergman.



L-r: Ronni Mandel and Stephanie Goldpin



L-r: Tracey Aaron and Sue Yellen



Robin Madan and Jill Kaplan



L-r: Leah Shemtov and Jackie Herman



L-r: Lorraine Kweskin and Joan Lunden



L-r: Marsha Colten and Michael Horowitz



L-r: Alix Field Eben, Sharon Yudell, Tara Shapiro, Nancy Schulman and Lisa Cohen.



**FREE Jewish Books and Music**

Get a FREE age appropriate Jewish book in the mail each month!  
6 months through 8 years old

For any family with a Jewish connection — affiliated, unaffiliated, interfaith or non-traditional

Sign up at [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org) or call Marcia Lane at 203-653-2668

**Your ad should be here!**

Contact Bonnie Rozen at (800)779-7896, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereporter.org](mailto:bonnie@thereporter.org) to advertise!

**THE NEW JEWISH VOICE**

**Name The Newspaper Contest!**

WHEN MOSES WENT TO MOUNT SINAI HE FOUND THE NEW JEWISH VOICE



WE THINK IT'S TIME FOR A NAME CHANGE! CAN YOU HELP US?

Please email your newspaper title suggestions to [Sandy@ujf.org](mailto:Sandy@ujf.org). The winner will receive a gift certificate towards dinner for two!

*Please Help Them...*



**Because children learn better when they feel good about themselves**

Too many local children return to school each year without basic clothing and school supplies, which can undermine the confidence they need for academic success.

The Back to School Shop will provide elementary school children in need with new clothing and school supplies in a special one day "shopping" event. The inaugural Back to School Shop event is Sunday, August 9, 2015 at Davenport Ridge Elementary School.

For more information or to make a donation, please visit our webpage at [www.ujf.org/backtoschoolshop](http://www.ujf.org/backtoschoolshop)

**Bi-Cultural Celebration Dinner**

May 17 was called an especially festive day for Bi-Cultural Day School. In addition to its being Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), more than 400 parents, faculty and community members gathered together at the Stamford Hilton Hotel to celebrate the school.

Several members of the community were honored including Maria and Glenn Reicin (the guests of honor), Sarah Rich (Young Leadership Award), Robert Abrams (Alumni Award), Yospa Lieberman (Jane Shoztitz Memorial Award) and James Matheny (Community Service Award). The evening, co-chaired by Stella and Isaac Cohen and Jill and Mitchell Kaplan, included music, dining and dancing to celebrate the school's year in achievement.

*Bi-Cultural Day School is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.*



L-r: Founding Principal Walter Shuchatowitz ("Mr. S."), Stamford Mayor David Martin, President of the Board of Trustees Robert Zitter and Principal and Head of School Jackie Herman (Photo by Michelle Gordon)

**Bi-Cultural Races for Education**



On May 7, Bi-Cultural Day School celebrated the holiday of Lag B'Omer with its Race for Education event. In its second year at Bi-Cultural, the Race for Education is a national fund-raising effort open to schools throughout the country. Chairs Jessica Bradley and Jenny Fuchs and the Parents Association organized the event as friends and family were invited to participate and cheer on students, from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. In total, Race for Education raised more than \$25,000 for Bi-Cultural. L-r: Taylor Newman-White, Eytan Israel and Rabbi Shakked Parhi participated in Bi-Cultural's Race for Education fund-raising event.



At right, l-r: Andrew Reicin and Isaac Reicin helped to honor their parents, guests of honor Glenn and Maria Reicin. (Photo by Michelle Gordon)



L-r: Dinner Co-Chairs Mitchell and Jill Kaplan and Stella and Isaac Cohen (Photo by Michelle Gordon)

**FAMILY CENTRAL**  
JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015

<p><b>BIRTH through PRESCHOOL</b></p> <p><b>Got Shabbat! Tiny Treasures Mommy &amp; Me</b> <i>(Birth to 30 months)</i>. Fridays, 10-10:45 am at Chabad. Caregivers welcome. Fee: \$15 per class (first timers FREE).</p> <p><b>Movin' and Groovin' at the JCC</b> <i>12 - 30 months, with parent or caregiver</i>. Tuesdays through June 16 • 10:00-10:45 am. Fee: \$230 for 11 sessions / \$190 JCC members.</p> <p><b>Music Together at the JCC</b> <i>Birth-5 years with parent or caregiver</i>. To register, contact Music Together of Fairfield County at 203-256-1656.</p> <p><b>Tiny Treasures - Nurturing the Seeds</b> <i>4 months to 3 years old</i>. Wednesdays, June 24 and July 1 • 9:15-10:15 am at Gan Yehudim. Fee: \$90 for 10 weeks / \$15 drop in class. Fun, interactive, hands on activities led by Nechama Hordiner. RSVP to <a href="mailto:nhordiner@ganheladim.org">nhordiner@ganheladim.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>GRADES K-8</b></p> <p><b>BBYO</b> <i>For Grades 8-12</i>. See description under Grades 9-12.</p> <p><b>CKC - Chabad Kids Club</b> <i>Grades K-6</i>. Wednesday, June 3 • 4-6 pm at Chabad. Incorporating POGS, Chai 5, Hebrew School and Aleph Bet. For pricing, contact Chabad.</p> <p><b>CKC - Open House</b> <i>Grades K-6</i>. Wednesday, June 3 • 4-6 pm at Chabad. Whether you're in K-2 or going into kindergarten next year, come try out CKC.</p>
<p><b>SHABBAT</b></p> <p>For information about Shabbat services, call the individual synagogues</p>	
<p><b>FOR MORE INFORMATION:</b></p> <p>BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS): 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 329-2186 • <a href="http://www.bcds.org">www.bcds.org</a>                  CHABAD HOUSE: 770 High Ridge Rd, Stamford • 203-3-CHABAD #418 • Leah Shemtov: <a href="mailto:morahleah@chabadstamford.org">morahleah@chabadstamford.org</a> • <a href="http://www.chabadhousestamford.org">www.chabadhousestamford.org</a>                  CHAVURAT AYTZ CHAYIM: <a href="http://www.chavurah.org">www.chavurah.org</a>                  CONGREGATION AGUDATH SHOLOM: 301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford • 203-358-2200 • <a href="http://www.cas-stamford.org">www.cas-stamford.org</a>                  FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE: (203) 329-0015 X414 • <a href="mailto:malya@friendshipct.com">malya@friendshipct.com</a> or <a href="http://www.friendshipct.com">www.friendshipct.com</a>                  JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J): 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • <a href="http://www.stamfordjcc.org">www.stamfordjcc.org</a>                  JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS): 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203) 921-4161 • <a href="http://www.ctjfs.org">www.ctjfs.org</a>                  TEMPLE BETH EL (TBE): 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203) 322-6401 #306 • <a href="mailto:education@tbe.org">education@tbe.org</a> • <a href="http://www.tbe.org">www.tbe.org</a>                  TEMPLE SINAI (TS): 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203) 322-1649 • <a href="http://www.templestamford.org">www.templestamford.org</a>                  UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF): 1035 Newfield Ave., Suite 200, Stamford • (203) 321-1373 • <a href="http://www.ujf.org">www.ujf.org</a>                  YOUNG ISRAEL OF STAMFORD: 69 Oaklawn Ave, Stamford, CT • (203) 348-3955 • <a href="http://www.yistamford.org">www.yistamford.org</a></p>	
<p><b>GRADES 9-12</b></p> <p><b>BBYO</b> <i>For Grades 8-12</i>. Every 2nd Monday • 7:00-9:00 pm at The J. Information: BBYO Regional Office (203) 389-2127 or CVR@bbyo.org <a href="http://www.cvrbbyo.net">www.cvrbbyo.net</a>. Leviticus AZA (Boys) &amp; Tikvah BBG (Girls).</p> <p><b>FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE</b> <i>For volunteers in Grades 9-12 at Chabad</i>. Information: Malya Shmotkin at 203-329-0015 #414, <a href="mailto:malya@friendshipct.com">malya@friendshipct.com</a> or <a href="http://www.friendshipct.com">www.friendshipct.com</a></p> <p><b>JEWISH STUDENT CONNECTION</b> <i>For Grades 9 - 12</i>. Tuesdays • 2:15 pm at Stamford High School or Thursdays • 2:15 pm at Westhill High School. Information: <a href="mailto:rebecca@myjsc.org">rebecca@myjsc.org</a></p>	

Visit [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org), [facebook.com/stamfordFederation](https://facebook.com/stamfordFederation), or tweet UJF at [ujfstamford](https://twitter.com/ujfstamford)

# Friendship Circle Celebrates Year with a BBQ

BY CHANIE KAMMAN

On May 19, the sunny weather seemed to match the mood of the participants in the Friendship Circle's End of Year BBQ and Family Celebration. More than 300 people of all ages and abilities came together at Scalzi Park of Stamford, to celebrate another year of friendships, programs and growth at the Friendship Circle.

Families of individuals with special needs and their teen volunteers flocked to the park where they got to enjoy a barbecue as their kids ran off to participate in the activities. In addition to the sports activities laid out in the large field by sports instructor Filipo Caro, the children and their buddies took part in activities

such as kite making, face painting and more.

Being that the event was just days before Shavuot, the holiday when Jews celebrate the receiving of the Torah, a Torah stand was set up. People were able to see the process of how *tefillin* are made and were able to take ink and quill and write their own Hebrew name on real parchment.

For many, the highlight of the event came in the form of a "Game Show," hosted by Hollyrock Entertainment. Between the hula hooping competition, Simon Says contests and the trivia questions, the contestants and members of the audience laughed and said they enjoyed the suspense.

See "Circle" on page 15



Friendship Circle volunteer Rebecca Rakowitz and her friend, Zoe Rothchild, had a grand time at the end of year barbecue.

# Carmel Students Launch #TikkuNepal Campaign

BY JULIE LAPIN

Carmel Academy has rallied to raise funds for the earthquake-ravaged country of Nepal. Immediately following the first earthquake in late April, Carmel's students launched #TikkuNepal, a fund-raising and awareness initiative that has sparked the involvement of the entire school community.

"There was an immediate call to action when the news broke," said Erica Sokoloff, Carmel's director of Jewish life. "The concept of #TikkuNepal is based on the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, which means to fix or repair the world. Our students took the initiative and ran with the cause."

The school joined forces with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (or JDC) and created a fund-raising link for Carmel Academy. Students created awareness videos, posted signs throughout campus and dedicated their schoolwide Lag B'Omer field day to the campaign. During the field day, students wore matching shirts featuring the flags from Nepal, Israel and United States.

"We not only focused on the fund-raising aspect of the needs of the Nepalese people, but we also tried to find ways to bring it into our overall consciousness at school," said Isaiah Rothstein, Carmel Academy's spiritual educator.

The students constructed a wall of hope on which they wrote words of hope and prayer for the children of Nepal. Each student also made a Nepalese prayer flag that will be given to the Nepalese Consulate.

"We hope the flags make it to some of the victims of the earthquake so they will be able to see there is a Jewish community in Greenwich, CT, at Carmel Academy, that is thinking about those who were lost and people in need," Rothstein said.

"The enthusiasm about the cause was contagious," said Sokoloff. "Classroom teachers began integrating *tzedakah* into their lessons. For example, as part of a second-grade math lesson about money, each student collected one of each coin to realize they added up to 41 cents. The students donated the money to the cause and learned about the value of coins, as well as the impact each small contribution makes to the greater goal."

Students organized their own fund-raisers, and close to 150 parents and students attended the Carmel Academy PA Council Lag B'Omer picnic, which dedicated a fund-raising activity for the campaign.

Fifth-grader Dani Loren organized a lemonade stand in his neighborhood with several of his class-



Carmel first-graders showed their school pride and support for #TikkuNepal at the school's Lag B'Omer Field Day. L-R: Maya Brill, Kayla Erickson and Arielle Seligmann.

mates, raising close to \$550 in one afternoon. "It was something that was easy for us to do and that will hopefully be helpful to Nepal," Loren said.

"I am so proud of our students' desire to live our *middot* (values) and, in turn, to feel the sense of empowerment that they, too, can make a difference," said Head of School Nora Anderson.

Carmel Academy is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

## Circle . . . . . • Continued from page 14

Throughout the program, the feelings of friendship, joy and companionship were tangible. "I thought it was pretty amazing to see how many people are a part of the Friendship Circle," said volunteer Shanon Kessler. "It was heartwarming to see how smoothly all of the participants - with various abilities - blended together. It felt so natural!"

For more information on the Friendship Circle, visit [FriendshipCT.com](http://FriendshipCT.com) or e-mail [Malya@FriendshipCT.com](mailto:Malya@FriendshipCT.com).



Carmel Academy third-grader Emmy Brennan held flags sending good wishes and hope to the people of Nepal.



Carmel eighth-graders during the school's Lag B'Omer #TikkuNepal Field Day, wearing their team shirts highlighting the fund-raising campaign. L-R: Lielle Sirlin, Josh Pollack, Eliza Loewenberg, Stav Chasnoff, Carly Marinstein and Danielle Feit.

## July/August/September 2015

# SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

### COUNSELING, MEDIATION & CRISIS

**JFS For Children/ Adolescents Diagnosed With ADD/ADHD**  
Wednesday afternoons. Finding Your Focus with Dr. Lee Combrinck-Graham MD. Service includes psychiatric evaluation, review of previous evaluations, family assessment, on-going support, and medication management. Qualifies for insurance reimbursement. For more information, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 or [emoskowitz@ctjfs.org](mailto:emoskowitz@ctjfs.org).

**JFS College Counseling**  
Need help navigating the college admission and application process? Qualified, experienced assistance provided by Claire D. Friedlander, JFS College Consultant. Competitive fees. For more information, contact Claire Friedlander at (203) 921-4161 or [clairef@ctjfs.org](mailto:clairef@ctjfs.org).

**JFS Community and Family Mediation Services**  
Use third party mediator to help families/individuals resolve conflict. Nominal fees - available on a sliding scale. Resolve conflicts such as unsatisfactory purchase or repair, landlord dispute, neighbor conflicts, issues with children, marital partners and divorce. For information, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 or [emoskowitz@ctjfs.org](mailto:emoskowitz@ctjfs.org).

**JFS Counseling**  
Qualified, licensed professionals provide counseling and psychotherapy to individuals, children, adolescents, families, couples and groups. For emotional support while unemployed, see Life Transitions below. Affordable fees, based on income; no one is "turned away". Insurance accepted. For more information, contact JFS at 203 921-4161.

**JFS Individuals / Families in Crisis**  
Comprehensive services. Assistance with basic necessities, housing, medical, social, legal and financial matters. Fees based on ability to pay. For more information, contact: Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 #128 or [rkanefsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanefsky@ctjfs.org).

### CARING FOR SENIORS

**JFS Caregiver Support Group**  
Sundays at 5:00 pm with facilitator, Rona Wall, LCSW at JFS Westport, 431 Post Road E. Fee: \$10 per session. An open forum to provide support and help in dealing with the difficulties and stresses of caring for two generations. For more information or to register, contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or [rkanefsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanefsky@ctjfs.org).

**JFS Home Companions & Certified Nursing Assistants**  
Trained aides assist seniors with daily activities, chores, and socialization. Services provided hourly, daily or up to 24/7. For more information, contact JFS Home Companion at 203-921-4161.

**JFS Residential Cleaning**  
Employ professionally trained individuals to clean your home and at the same time help support Jewish Family Service. Rates lower or competitive than other service providers. For more information, contact Jodi Maxner at 203-921-4161 or [residentialcleaning@ctjfs.org](mailto:residentialcleaning@ctjfs.org).

**Jewish Senior Services**  
Jewish Senior Services is one of the premiere providers of senior care in Connecticut serving clients at their two Fairfield locations and in clients' homes throughout Fairfield and New Haven Counties. Their 5-star skilled nursing and short term rehabilitation facility has been serving the community for over 40 years with an unparalleled level of quality and personalized care. Other services provided include home care, hospice, day services, advocacy and education, and long term care protection. To find out more about the many services of Jewish Senior Services, please call 203-365-6400 or visit [www.jseniors.org](http://www.jseniors.org).

### EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

**JFS Computer Training Courses**  
Variety of courses - all levels, individuals or small groups. Nominal fee. For more information, contact Ilene Locker at 203-921-4161 or [iklocker@ctjfs.org](mailto:iklocker@ctjfs.org).

**JFS Life Transitions**  
Wednesdays at 11:30 am. Support group for the unemployed at Stamford JFS office. Discuss concerns and issues related to job loss and alternative solutions for career satisfaction. Supported by both JFS Counseling and Employment & Training Departments. For Information/Register: Rosemarie Delia 203-921-4161 or [rdelia@ctjfs.org](mailto:rdelia@ctjfs.org).

**JFS Seniors2Work**  
Job Bank for age 50+. Lower Fairfield employers can list full/part time jobs for dedicated, skilled mature workers. No fees. For more information, contact Ilene Locker or Jodi Maxner at 203-921-4161 or [www.seniors2work.org](http://www.seniors2work.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE: Malya Shmotkin • [malya@friendshipct.com](mailto:malya@friendshipct.com)

JCC OR THE J: JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER: 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org)

JFS: Jewish Family Service: (203) 921-4161; Stamford office: 733 Summer Street, Suite 602; Westport office: 431 Post Road East, Suite 11. [www.ctjfs.org](http://www.ctjfs.org)

### DIVORCE & BEREAVEMENT

**JFS Bereavement Support Group**  
Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Free of charge. Are you searching for a safe haven to explore your thoughts and feelings about grief? JFS provides an environment of emotional, physical and spiritual support. For more information, contact Rosemarie Delia at 203-921-4161 or [rdelia@ctjfs.org](mailto:rdelia@ctjfs.org).

**Parent Education Program (PEP)**  
State-mandated workshop for divorcing parents with children at JFS Stamford. Fee is \$125 per person. Call for date and to register at 203-324-3167.

**JFS Focus on K.I.D.S.**  
For divorced or separated parents experiencing high conflict around parenting decisions. Teaches both parents strategies for communicating in a non-hostile manner. For more information, contact Erika Garcia at (203) 921-4161 or [erikag@ctjfs.org](mailto:erikag@ctjfs.org).

**JFS Divorce Support Group in Stamford**  
Mondays from 7-8 pm in Stamford. Fee: \$10/session or \$50/entire 6 sessions. For adults who would like to discuss all aspects of separation and divorce, JFS will provide a support group in the JFS Stamford office, 733 Summer St., 6th Floor. You must register to attend by contacting Rebekah Kanefsky at [rkanefsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanefsky@ctjfs.org) or call 203-921-4161.

**JFS Divorce Support Group in Westport**  
Tuesdays from 7-8 pm in Westport. Fee: \$10/session or \$50/entire 6 sessions. For adults who would like to discuss all aspects of separation and divorce, JFS will provide a support group in the JFS Westport office, 431 Post Road E. Suite 11. You must register to attend by contacting Kylie Rothman at [krothman@ctjfs.org](mailto:krothman@ctjfs.org) or call 203-921-4161.

### SUPPORT

**BETSY'S BUDDIES**  
One-on-one friendly visits between volunteers and home-bound members of the local community. For more information, contact Nechama Hordiner at 203-3CHABAD or [morahnechama@chabadstamford.org](mailto:morahnechama@chabadstamford.org)

**"NEW" Brain Fitness Program**  
Trained volunteers will work with clients in early stage dementia or Alzheimer's in the client's home. An aide or family member will be present. The Brain Fitness initiative will last for 10 weeks for each client. If you are interested in being trained as a volunteer, or for more information, contact Caroline Temlock Teichman at [crt3333@aol.com](mailto:crt3333@aol.com).

**JFS Caregiver Support Group**  
Sundays at 5 pm at JFS Westport. An open forum to provide support and help in dealing with the difficulties and stresses of caring for two generations. Fee: \$10/session or \$50 for six sessions. Facilitator: Rona Wall, LCSW. For more information or to register, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-461-9161 or email [rkanefsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanefsky@ctjfs.org).

**JFS Kosher Food Pantry**  
Non-perishable staples for those in need. Donations welcomed. For more information, contact JFS at 203-921-4161.

**Let's Talk**  
Thursdays, 11 am at the Stamford JCC. Free. Meet new people or deepen your friendship with those you already know. Engage in meaningful conversation about a wide variety of topics that are important in our lives. Topics may range from how to live a fulfilling life, creating healthy relationships, savoring our cherished memories, to embracing changing life circumstances. All will be encouraged to express their feelings and experiences related to the themes that emerge in a safe and supportive environment. Led by Kylie Rothman from Jewish Family Service, free of charge. For more information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Senior Adult Services at Stamford JCC at 203-487-0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

## July/August 2015

# Senior Adult Happenings

PLEASE NOTE SPRING/SUMMER VENUE CHANGE:

- The JCC Retired Men's Club moves to Temple Sinai from Monday, June 22 through August 10 and returns to the JCC on Monday, August 17.
- The JCC Senior Adults Program moves to Temple Sinai from Tuesday, June 23 through Friday, August 14 and returns to the JCC on Tuesday, August 18.

## The J (JCC) Social Senior Program

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at The J (JCC). FOR MORE INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS ON ANY SENIOR PROGRAMMING, CONTACT Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org) Tuesday through Friday. Programs vary by day of the week. All welcome. Transportation available for Stamford residents.

**BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS**  
Monthly. Tuesdays, June 30, July 28, August 25 • 12-1 pm. \$3 suggested donation. Reservations required.

**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING**  
Tuesday, July 7, August 4 from 9:45-11:15 am. No appointment necessary. FREE.

**CHAIR EXERCISE FOR SENIORS**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:15-11am. Energetic chair exercise class using weights and balls. FREE to all Seniors.

**Games & Gab**  
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays from 1-3 pm & Fridays from 1-2 pm. Bring your game of choice - bridge, Scrabble, canasta and more. Information: Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org). All are welcome. FREE.

**HOT KOSHER LUNCH for older adults (60+)**  
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 12-1 pm. Suggested donation: \$3 for lunch and \$1 each way for transportation. Reservations are required for both lunch and transportation. Lunch reservations: call Tuesday by noon for Friday lunch. Call Friday by noon for Tuesday & Thursday lunches. Call every Monday to make/confirm reservations for the week. Cancellations: call as soon as possible.

**JCC MORNING MOVIE MATINEE FOR SENIOR ADULTS.**  
Fridays at 10 am. Coffee and a movie on a large screen TV. Free to all seniors.

**JCC RETIRED MEN'S CLUB**  
Mondays, 10-1 pm. 10-11 am (members only); invited speaker at 11 am (open). Every meeting is followed by a soup-and-sandwich lunch and a bridge game after the meal. Reservations required by Tuesday afternoon for the following Monday. Lunch Fee: \$3 suggested donation.

**JULY 4 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**  
Thursday, July 2 • 12-1 pm. \$3 suggested donation. Reservations required.

**LIFE ENHANCEMENT CLASSES**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11-11:45 am. Classes designed to entertain, educate and enrich.

**Aging Gracefully.** Common-age related health issues with practical advice on how to support each other in aging gracefully  
**Current Events and Timely Topics.** Informal conversations and talks with various speakers about what's going on in Stamford, as well as national and international events and timely topics.  
**Our Stories on Thursdays.** Hear one-of-a-kind stories about the lives, experiences, occupations or pastimes of JCC senior program participants. Free to all seniors.

**Seniors in Song.** Sing along with old favorites, Yiddish to Broadway  
**SHABBAT WITH OR BERGER - JCC ISRAELI SHALIACH.**  
Fridays from 11:30 am-12 pm. Discussions on Israel prior to Shabbat lunch

## Mensch on a Bench

On May 4, the UJF Rothschild Society held a business networking event at the SoundWaters Educational Center, a historic house at the Cove Island Park in Stamford. The evening featured a program by Neal Hoffman, inventor of Mensch on a Bench. Hoffman's lecture included the story of how he created his Chanukah toy and book, and about his experience taking his product to shelves across the country after being featured on ABC's television show "Shark Tank."

Guests in the business community also had a chance to enjoy refreshments, network and schmooze. Chairs of the event were Hersh Batkin and Janet Welkovich.

For more information about the Rothschild Society, the business affinity group of United Jewish Federation,



Hersh Batkin and Janet Welkovich, event co-chairs

contact Sharon Franklin at 203-321-1373, ext. 109, or e-mail at sharon@ujf.org.



L-r: Remi Rosenberg (YLD board member), Neil Hoffman, Peter Wolly (YLD board member) and Jeff Manheim



L-r: Adrienne Silberman, Eileen Springer (UJF board member), Neal Hoffman with his Mensch on a Bench and Emily Wirgin (YLD president)

## Is There a Doctor in the House?

United Jewish Federation's new Maimonides medical affinity group held its premier event on May 12 in Stamford at the office of Dr. Marc Silver. Dr. Sigmund Karasch of Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital spoke about his experience working with both Arab and Israeli children in a lecture titled "A Slice of Peace: The Experience of an American Doctor Working at Hadassah

Hospital in Jerusalem." Co-chairs of the event were Silver, Dr. Kayla Mazer and Dr. Leon Hanna. The event was presented in partnership with the Stamford chapter of Hadassah. A thank you was given to Rhonda Greif, Stamford Hadassah president, for her aid in planning the event. For more information, contact Sharon Franklin at 203-321-1373, ext. 109, or sharon@ujf.org.



L-r: Dr. Ora Burstein, Dr. Sigmund Karasch and Dr. Shara Israel



L-r: Roz Fleisher, Madeline Field, Connie Cirillo Freeman, Dr. Sigmund Karasch, Rhonda Greif (Stamford Hadassah president), Joyce Backman, Allison Greenbaum and Elaine Finkelstein.



L-r: Dr. Kayla Mazer, Dr. Leon Hanna, Dr. Sigmund Karasch and Dr. Marc Silver

## Carmel Students Seek to Help Endangered Birds

Carmel Academy's students are hoping to have some feathered friends visit campus. The students erected wren boxes, which were constructed by Carmel families during a Parent Association Council outing at Audubon Greenwich.

As part of a science unit, Carmel's sixth-graders learned that house wrens, which are native to the area, are losing their homes and habitats. After looking at the requirements of food and safety for these birds, the students installed the wren boxes throughout campus in hopes of attracting the birds. They will watch for signs that the wrens have started to build nests. Carmel is now a certified nest watch location.

Carmel Academy is a recipient agency



Carmel Academy sixth-grader Daniel Kesler (right) put up a wren box on the school's campus with the help of Carmel parent Michal Frankel and staff member Alex Hamm Jr.

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



L-r: Carmel Academy sixth-graders Josh Beder, Joshua Geffner, Rebecca Katz and Mimi Chapman scouted out a campus location to place wren boxes in the hopes of attracting birds that are at risk of losing their natural habitats.

## Carmel Runners Shine at Cross Country Race



Carmel Academy's Cross Country Team finished its season, winning several ribbons at the Fairchester Athletic Association's championship race. Carmel Academy's varsity runners came away with several ribbon winners. Sixth-grader Leah Brill finished the season winning second place in her division; fifth-graders Talia Orbach and Liora Safer won third and fifth place ribbons respectively in their division; and sixth-grader Ezra Ament took the fourth place ribbon in his division. L-r: Carmel Academy's Cross Country runners - Brill, Orbach, Safer and Ament - are shown with their winning ribbons at the Fairchester Athletic Association's Championship meet.

## Carmel Students Named Winners in Stock Market Game

Two Carmel Academy seventh-graders were named second-place winners in the Middle School division of the statewide 2015 Stock Market Game. Sammy Shiff (left) and Ben Benson (right) created a team portfolio that yielded a 2.41 percent return above S&P 500 growth. Sponsored by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, the simulated investment game promotes skills in business, economics, math, research and critical thinking. The two students, along with their teacher Jonathan Holub, were invited to attend the Stock Market Game Program Awards Ceremony in May at The Hartford Courant headquarters.



## Adult Volunteer Opportunities

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC)**  
Kosher Lunch Program for Seniors. Help set up and serve HOT Kosher lunch to seniors. **Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays** at the JCC. For more information or reservation: Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS)**  
Drivers needed to deliver food from the Kosher Food Pantry to individuals in the community. For information: Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org

**UJF's READING PARTNERS**  
Read one-on-one with Stamford public school children. One hour a week, mornings or afternoons. 12 elementary schools and 2 community centers. Training, literacy focused workshops and support network provided. **Contact Marlyn Agatstein 203-321-1373 x115 or Readingpartners@ujf.org.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J):** 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS):** 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203) 921-4161 • www.ctjfs.org

**UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF):** 1035 Newfield Avenue, Suite 200, Stamford • (203) 321-1373 • www.ujf.org

### JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY (JHS)

Harry Rosenbaum Judaica Library. At the JCC. Cover 2 hour slot (or more) once a week. You'll be trained on the computer system and the arrangement of books in the library. Call 203-487-0957.

**Help protect the pieces of our Jewish history:** Do you enjoy finding out about our region's early Jewish settlers? Do you want to help Jewish organizations retain their history and documents? Call 203-359-2196.

## What's On for Adults

July, August/September 2015

### OPEN EVENTS - ONGOING

**Beginners' Torah Study with Melissa Cohavi**  
Fridays, 12-1 pm at Temple Sinai. FREE. Learn about the Torah, its law, its stories and the ancient people. Bring lunch.

**Bible Study with Rabbi Eugene Borowitz**  
Saturdays, 9 am at Temple Sinai. Share in Shabbat and study Torah. FREE.

**Games & Gab at the J**  
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 1-3 pm. Bring your game of choice - bridge, Scrabble, canasta and more. For information: Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org. All are welcome. FREE.

**Tefillin Club** For men and kids. Every Sunday • 8-9 am at Chabad. Wrap Tefillin, say Shema, share some words of Torah and inspiration and bond over bagels and lox breakfast.

**Torah and Tea at Chabad**  
For Men and Women. Tuesdays • 11 am-12pm at Chabad Loft Café. Fee: \$5.00 per class. For information: Leah Shemtov at 203-324-2223 or morahleah@chabadstamford.org

### OPEN EVENTS

**HOT KOSHER LUNCH for older adults (60+)**  
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 12-1 pm. Suggested donation: \$3 for lunch and \$1 each way for transportation. Reservations are required for both lunch and transportation. For lunch reservations, call Tuesday by noon for Friday lunch. Call Friday by noon for Tuesday and Thursday lunches. Call every Monday to make/confirm reservations for the week. For cancellations, call as soon as possible.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION/ADDRESSES:

**BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS):** 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 329-2186 • www.bcads.org

**CHABAD:** 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • 203-3-CHABAD #418 • Leah Shemtov: morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE:** (203) 329-0015 X414 • Malya@Friendshipct.com or www.friendshipct.com

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J):** 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS):** 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203) 921-4161 • www.ctjfs.org

**TEMPLE BETH EL (TBE):** 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203) 322-6401 #306 • education@tbe.org • www.tbe.org

**TEMPLE SINAI (TS):** 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203) 322-1649 • www.templeinaistamford.org

**UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF):** 1035 Newfield Avenue, Suite 200, Stamford • (203) 321-1373 • www.ujf.org

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# JWC celebrates Lag B'Omer and Honors Community Women

On May 6, Jewish Women Connected from Chabad Stamford held its annual Lag B'Omer event, this year titled "Jewish Cuisine from Around the World and Around the Corner." Featuring the tastes of kosher chefs, bloggers and foodies, and offering boutique shop-

ping, the main cooking demonstration was presented by Reyna Simnagar, the author of "Persian Food from the Non-Persian Bride." Doris Warmflash, Shira Nerenberg and Ellen Weber were also honored for their work and commitment to the Stamford community.



L-r: Inna Novikova, Violet Tehrani, presenter Reyna Simnagar and Miriam Lehrer Sperber (Photo by Taly Farber)



L-r: Honorees Doris Warmflash and Shira Nerenberg, Chabad Stamford Co-director Leah Shemtov and honoree Ellen Weber (Photo by Liat Feller)



L-r: Rita Chimes, Camille Warmflash and Dallice Lazarus (Photo by Dabrushie Liberov)

## Technology

to design affordable aids for people with disabilities. The goal was to create solutions that increase integration and inclusion. "The event was a direct meeting ground for people with special needs and the people with the ability to help solve [their challenges]," TOM Founding Director Arnon Zamir says of the 72-hour program, which produced 25 technological prototypes.

Zamir explains that for-profit com-

panies are often able only to invest in projects with strong demand that are marketable to the masses. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities often have unique needs. The solutions must be tailored to the individual, which takes time and money. "We are not a technology company and we do not aim to be one. We are connectors," Zamir tells JNS.org.

Eran Tamir, an employee at IBM Israel whose son Guy has cerebral palsy, took part in the recent make-a-thon and describes TOM as "a miracle." When Tamir arrived at TOM: TLV, he was swept away by the powerful teams that stayed and worked until midnight, or even dawn. The next day, which happened to be Israeli Election Day, he brought Guy. The makers took time to get to know Guy and to understand him. One group, led by industrial designer Nurit Greenberg, invented a prototype specifically for Guy. They call it "GidiGuy."

Greenberg says her team was charged with developing a game for children with special needs to be able to play and interact on an equal level with mainstream youths. Guy, for example, cannot use his hands, so the solution centered on his most easily-moved body part: his head.

Greenberg's team, which consisted of a mechanical engineer, economic consultant, architect and others, designed a game similar to "Simon Says," using sensors and colored lights. The system recognizes the direction in

which Player 1 turns his head. If the player moves right, a red light turns on, while a yellow light is activated by a move to the left, and so on. Player 2 must mimic Player 1. As the players engage, the color sequences get longer and more difficult. Now, Greenberg is in touch with one of Israel's major hospitals for youths with disabilities to determine if this is something that could be further developed and brought to market.

Tomer Daniel works in the Wi-Fi division at Intel Israel. At night, "I build stuff," Daniel says.

Daniel got involved in the maker community a few years ago, entering make-a-thon/hack-a-thon contests on weekends and evenings. He says he created several gimmicks, including a PAC-MAN® helmet that players wear to direct the joystick, using their heads. "You nod left, down, up, right, and the PAC-MAN moves," Daniel says. "It is so funny, it only moves when you open and close your mouth, too. But this is something that is smart, but useless." But TOM, says Daniel, is "smart and useful. It is helping people."

Daniel and his team created another helmet during the TOM competition. This one assists a blind person in navigating his home. Using sensors like the ones in a cell phone, it gauges the distance between a person and walls or other objects, keeping the blind person safer from harm. "We tested it on ourselves. That was really neat," Daniel tells JNS.org.



The system developed at a Tikkun Olam Makers "make-a-thon" allows people who are paralyzed from the neck down to turn pages in a book. (Photo courtesy of ZOA Productions)

Daniel says that when it comes to using technology for tikkun olam, expertise is not a barrier to entry. "You don't have to be an engineer, you don't have to build stuff," he says. "Some people are good with their hands, some with their minds. The greatest teams are those composed of people with golden hands, golden minds, and golden eyes."

TOM's Zamir notes that the organization has already held a competition in Brazil, and that he is in contact with 11 other countries about running these programs. TOM: NY is planned for New York in March 2016. Even Kosovo has expressed interest in the initiative. In this way, says Zamir, TOM can help Israel be "a light unto the nations."

Zamir says he sees the TOM model, much like the TEDx Talks, as something that can be replicated elsewhere without the direct involvement of TOM's Israel-based team. TOM is in the process of building a website, which will house information about the organizational concept, but also images and assembly directions for the prototypes the competitions have produced. This way, companies might see solutions they want to explore taking from prototype to market. Alternatively, a visitor to the website might consider replicating one of the innovations for a family member or friend in need.

TOM is considering focusing its next make-a-thon on solutions for the elderly, according to Zamir. "I always say that if each person could give one minute to another person, our world would be a better place," says IBM's Tamir. "I don't think this is something that could have started in any other country, but Israel."

Maayan Jaffe is former editor-in-chief of the Baltimore Jewish Times and a Kansas-based freelance writer. Reach her at jaffemaayan@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter, @MaayanJaffe.

## THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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# JFS Kosher Food Pantry Adds a Freezer



At left: Leah Schechter, assistant director of JCC Greenwich, with JCC Greenwich Teen Action Committee members (names withheld), held a check for Jewish Family Service. The funds will be used to purchase a new freezer for the Kosher Food Pantry at JFS in Stamford.

BY REBEKAH KANEFSKY  
Jewish Family Service is purchasing a freezer, thanks to the generosity of the JCC Greenwich Teen Action Committee. The teens raised \$700 toward the purchase of a freezer for the Kosher Food Pantry.

The food pantry clients currently benefit from shelf-stable, non-perishable food items, as well as a once-monthly Fresh Produce Day event for fresh produce, eggs, breads, meat and dairy. With the addition of a freezer, the pantry can store freezer-safe, perishable food items in order to enhance the existing food offerings for clients.

In addition, the pantry has received food donations from Mike's Center Café and Bakery and Six Thirteen Restaurant as part of an initiative to "rescue food." Rather than throwing away food items that are still completely edible at the end of the day, but can no longer be sold in the store, the restaurants donate them to the JFS Kosher Food Pantry. These donations can now be stored in the freezer on an ongoing basis in the pantry rather than once a month at the Fresh Produce Day event.

In addition, as JFS gears up for its High Holidays food collection drive in September 2015, the freezer will provide the flexibility for donors to offer perishable and non-perishable food donations. JFS will fulfill its mission with less waste, increased nutrition and continued tzedakah within the community.

Those who might be interested in donating food and household items to the JFS Kosher Food Pantry, or are aware of someone in the community who might benefit from these services, should call 203-921-4161 or e-mail [rkanefsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanefsky@ctjfs.org).

Jewish Family Service is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. Rebekah Kanefsky is the JFS case manager.

# Super Sunday Tzedakah Contest Winners Enjoy Pizza!

At right: The third-graders in Beth Fritz's class at Bi-Cultural Day School said they were excited to have their pizza party in early June. The class won the pizza by raising the most money for Super Sunday out of all the classes in the Stamford area schools. United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien's annual Super Sunday raised more than \$300,000, thanks to the help of all the children who participated in the contest.



For information or to book your space, please contact **Bonnie Rozen** at 1-800-778-7896, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergroup.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergroup.org)

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

## ROSH HASHANAH GREETINGS

Deadline: August 7 5776 (September Rosh Hashanah issue)

Once again this year, The New Jewish Voice is inviting its readers and local organizations to extend New Year's greetings to the community by purchasing a New Year's greeting ad, which will appear in our September issue. You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$18 (style B and E), the medium one is \$36 (style A and D) and the largest one (style G, not shown) is \$72. To ensure that your greeting is published or for more information on additional styles, sizes & designs, please contact **Bonnie Rozen** at 1-800-779-7896, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergroup.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergroup.org). Checks can be made payable to The Reporter and sent to: The New Jewish Voice, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Style A - \$36 • Actual Size: 3.2222" x 1.975"

Style B - \$18  
Actual Size: 3.2222" x 1.975"

Style E - \$18  
Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

Style D - \$36 • Actual Size: 3.2222" x 1.975"

# 3 SQUARE

because hunger doesn't take a break on the weekend  
a ujf community cares program

In Connecticut, nearly one child in five is hungry or food insecure and does not get enough food outside of the free meal programs provided by the public schools. Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is joining other programs throughout the country to do something about this situation in our own backyards.

Your support helps 3 SQUARE provide elementary school-age children identified as "in need" with a bag of food each Friday to sustain them through the weekend. Most of these children are chronically hungry and don't have regular access to food.

For further information, please contact Rebekah Raz at [rebekah@ujf.org](mailto:rebekah@ujf.org).

United Jewish Federation OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIE  
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## UJF Chapter Two Upcoming Events



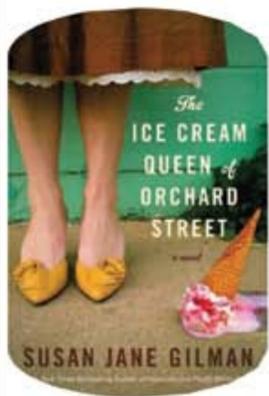
CHAPTER TWO

Are you retired?

An empty nester?

Are you interested in writing the next chapter of your life with a great group of women while learning about the worthy works of UJF?

Join Chairs Sue Frieden and Sari Jaffe as we take day trips, visit exciting exhibits, listen to fascinating authors, go to UJF agencies and learn about how UJF benefits the entire Jewish community.



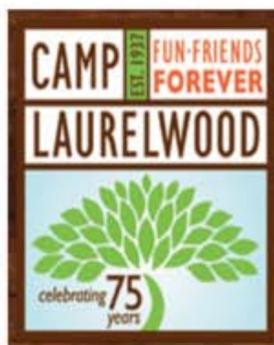
July 9th

Book Group with guest speaker

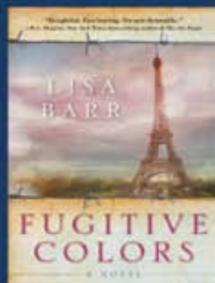
**Susan Jane Gilman,**  
author of  
**The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street**

*In 1913, little Malka Treynovsky flees Russia with her family. Slowly, she transforms herself into Lillian Dunkle, "The Ice Cream Queen" -- leader of an empire of ice cream franchises & a celebrated television personality.*

August 6th



Visit to UJF Agency  
Camp Laurelwood



September

2<sup>nd</sup>

Visit the Woman In Gold Exhibit at the Neue Galerie in NYC, then hear from Lisa Barr author of the award-winning novel Fugitive Colors.

*Hitler's war begins with the ruthless destruction of the avantgarde, but there is one young painter who refuses to let this happen. Twists and turns, loss and hope will keep you up at night.*



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