

- 3** A Community *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* sponsored by UJF and local congregations will be held at Temple Beth El on June 3.
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- 15** BCDS students win literary awards; Carmel Academy's girls' basketball team wins tournament; and more.

# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

JUNE 2014/SIVAN-TAMMUZ 5774  
VOLUME 16, NUMBER 5

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

## Hear Epichorus at Beth El Cantor's Concert

### Stir the Sounds of Judeo-Arabic Retro-folk

Temple Beth El and Cantor George Mordecai invite the community to the annual Cantor's Concert featuring The Epichorus. The concert will take place on Sunday, June 8, at 7 pm, at TBE, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford. Admission is \$36 in advance and \$45 at the door.

The Epichorus is said "to stir the sounds of Judeo-Arabic retro-folk." The group plays original music, interspersed with repertoire of 1930s Egypt, the religious songs of Syrian and Iraqi Jews, Sufi and classical Arabic tunes.

Cantor Mordecai said, "When I came to Beth El, I promised that I would bring to you creative, cutting edge musicians and ritual artists to inspire and teach. The Epichorus is one of the most interesting musical ensembles to burst on the Jewish and world music scene in recent times. It is my honor to present them to the community."

On that evening, Temple Beth El will also honor Harriet and Seymour (Sy) Weinstein for their many years of service to the congregation and the Stamford  
*See "Concert" on page 2*

## Israelis Treating Syria's Wounded Confront Complex Injuries

BY BEN SALES

SAFED, Israel (JTA) – When an Israeli army ambulance brought an injured Syrian man to Ziv Medical Center in this northern Israeli city two months ago, the doctors didn't know where exactly he was from. They saw that his leg had been amputated, and based on his own fragmented account and the physical evidence, the doctors surmised he had been hit by a shell. But they didn't know exactly how he had gotten there. And when he leaves the hospital later this month, they don't know where he's going.

"I'm not scared," said the Syrian, whose name was withheld by the hospital because Israel and Syria are in a state of war. "Nothing worse will happen to me, so who cares if I'm in Israel?"

Despite decades of hostility between Israel and Syria, hundreds of victims of Syria's 3-year-old civil war have received life-saving treatments in Israeli hospitals. Israeli medical personnel say that while they're happy to treat Syrians, the wounded pose a unique set of challenges. For one, their injuries are often complex, owing to the heavy artillery used in the conflict. They sometimes arrive at the hospital as much as days after suffering the injury, complicating treatment. And the wounded often are wary of Israelis they have been taught to despise, making it hard for Israel to address their emotional traumas in addition to their physical ones.

"As nurses, it's unique to deal with  
*See "Wounded" on page 14*

## UJF Plans Mission to Israel and Turkey

Following on the heels of the Young Leadership Division's Mission to Cuba, the United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien has organized a mission to Israel and Turkey, which will take place from October 26 to November 3. Travelers will have the option to participate in the entire mission, visiting both countries, or visiting only one of the destinations.

"We are very excited to be undertaking this amazing journey," noted UJF's CEO James Cohen. "The theme of Israel in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is quite significant. By focusing on the challenges and oppor-

tunities facing Israel, we will explore so many facets of the fascinating country we all love. By visiting Turkey, we will get a first-hand look at the issues facing Israel in its neighborhood, while having the chance to experience the rich Jewish heritage, which is very much a part of Turkey's history."

In addition to visiting projects made possible through Federation funds, participants will have the opportunity to visit sites and organizations that are currently in the news, such as the Soda Stream factory. Mission Chair  
*See "Mission" on page 5*

## The Beilis Blood Libel Murder and Conspiracy in Tsarist Russia

BY CAMILLE A. KRAMER

Edmund Levin, a Writers Guild and Emmy award-winning writer and producer for "Good Morning America," will discuss his book, "A Child of Christian Blood: Murder and Conspiracy in Tsarist Russia: The Beilis Blood Libel," on Sunday, June 1, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's June Featured Program. It will be held at the Darien Library, 1441 Post Rd., Darien, at 5 pm, and be followed by refreshments. The event is free and open to the public. The program is co-sponsored by the Darien Library.

Levin recounts the 1913 Russian trial of a Jewish factory clerk who was falsely accused of killing a Christian child in a ritualistic murder. Driven and fueled by

intense antisemitic sentiments, Mendel Beilis – whose trial became an international cause – was framed, accused and brought to trial despite a solid alibi, lack of evidence and the testimony of a criminal who herself was a suspect. The sham of a trial – supported by Tsar Nicolas II – presented a team of "experts," including pathologists, theologians and a psychological profiler. So great was international outrage that Thomas Mann, H. G. Wells, Anatole France, Arthur Conan Doyle, the archbishop of Canterbury and Jane Addams became supporters in Beilis' case.

The notion of "blood libel," according to the Anti-Defamation League, "refers to a centuries-old false allegation that Jews  
*See "Libel" on page 14*

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## Bi-Cultural's High School Musical a Smash Success

Bi-Cultural Day School students performed Disney's "High School Musical" on April 1, April 3 and April 6 as the spring musical. The fast-paced production is a modern musical adaption of Disney's television movie about two teens from different social worlds who find friendship through music and succeed at changing the status quo at their high school. The young cast of Bi-Cultural performed such hit songs as "Stick to the Status Quo," "Get-cha Head in the Games" and "Boo to the Top," leaving audiences singing, cheering and buzzing with musical energy. Above: The entire cast and crew of "High School Musical" appeared on stage. (Photo by Dan Young)



President’s Message

Following Nachshon’s Lead: Un-selfie and Unafraid

BY SHOSHANA DWECK

On the seventh day of Passover, which this year also was Marathon Monday and Patriot’s Day, I had the honor of presenting a d’var Torah at Young Israel. The following is an excerpt from that d’var Torah:

Patriot’s Day observes the starts, rather than the ends, of the Revolutionary and the Civil wars. It celebrates those moments when people, individually and as a community, turned passion and faith into communal action. Without that action, there is no liberty, and there is no union – not for the United States and not for the Jewish people.

There is a famous *midrash* about Nachshon, the man who jumped into the Reed Sea. It is a story of facing our fears, putting community first and deciding to act. Only with Nachshon already in the water does Moshe lift up his staff and split the sea, allowing the people to pass on dry land.

Nachshon needed more than faith. Nachshon also needed courage and conviction. What if Nachshon had entered the water and... nothing happened?



Shoshana Dweck, UJF president

The people on the shore could have saved him from drowning, but not from the consequences of error. If Nachshon was right, he is a hero. If he was wrong, embarrassment and punishment are his due. He evaluated these risks at the edge of the raging sea, with his community behind him and the horde of Egyptians closing in. Yet, Nachshon acted. He did not allow fear and uncertainty to paralyze him as it had the rest of the community.

How did he decide? Nachshon was not a Narcissus, mesmerized by his own image and stopping to take a selfie that put himself above the community. Looking at the community, fearful and seething behind him, he did not act like a politician and take a poll to find the middle ground. No, Nachshon knew what the Minute Men knew in Lexington and Concord, and the Union soldiers caught in the Baltimore riot knew, and the Boston Marathoners knew as well. The time had come to put faith and community ahead of self and to be determined, to be courageous, to decide and to act.

All across our local, national and international Jewish community, leaders every day act to strengthen our communities and build our future. With faith in God, themselves and their communities, they take risks, make decisions and act. They strive always to build a healthy, strong, diverse and vibrant Jewish community.

One of the greatest joys of my Federation work is the number of “Nachshons” with whom I have had the privilege of working and by whom I have been inspired. People who look in the water and choose to ignore the personal reflection that paralyzed Narcissus, and instead see what inspired Nachshon to act: his community standing behind him, and reflected in the water in front of him.

In that community, there is faith, hope, strength, courage, love and support.

The Boston Marathon had a great advertisement, highlighting an African proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” I think Nachshon would agree with Jim Cohen that every Jewish community truly is “Better Together,” but only if we are like Nachshon and decide to act, to go far together, with faith in each other.

Concert.....

community. They have been called “the main stays of Shabbat morning and morning minyan services.” Sy leads morning minyan on Wednesdays and Fridays. Harriet organizes the congregational participation on Fridays. Sy chairs the High Holy Days Committee, while Harriet serves on the committee helping to organize the seating of the congregational leadership on the *bima* during services.

In addition, Harriet serves as chair of the Finkelstein Mitzvah Garden Committee, helping to organize the planting and sharing of



Cantor George Mordecai

flowers and vegetables. In the community, she has been a judge for the Friends of Ferguson Library’s Annual Literary Competition and volunteers for the UJF Reading Partners program. Professionally, she works as a freelance writer on environmental topics.

Currently the secretary of the Board of Trustees of Temple Beth El, Sy is completing his 12<sup>th</sup> year as a trustee and his seventh year on the Executive Committee. He also serves as parliamentarian. He is a regular *gabbai* during Shabbat morning and festival services. In the

community, he is a member of the Board of Directors of Curtain Call Inc. and the Housing Development Fund Inc. He is also part of Connecticut Volunteers Lawyers for the Arts, a former member of the Stamford Transit District, chairman of Common Cause/CT, and chief attorney for presentments for Connecticut Judicial Department. In addition, he was a manager for Little League Baseball and a coach for Stamford Youth Soccer.

For further information, call Temple Beth El at 203-322-6901.



Harriet and Sy Weinstein



The Epichorus

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Joy Katz Honored with JCC Humanitarian Award

### Hyacinthe and Harold Hoffman Humanitarian Award

At its annual meeting on May 13, the Jewish Community Center presented Stamford resident Joy Katz with the 2014 Hyacinthe and Harold Hoffman Humanitarian Award.

Each year, the Hoffman Award is given to the individual who best expresses the ideals of service to the community that Harold E. Hoffman and his wife, Hyacinthe, longtime JCC leaders and distinguished humanitarians and philanthropists, exemplified during their lifetimes.

"The Hoffman Award selection committee, made up of past Hoffman Award winners, unanimously selected Joy Katz to receive this year's award," said Eric Koehler, JCC CEO. "The committee felt that Joy met all of the criteria of sustained commitment and dedication to nurturing the overall growth and development of the Jewish Community Center; leadership in the support of the Center through the giving of time, energy and financial assistance; a role model in upholding the mission of the Center and helping to sustain the Center's cultural, social and educational programs; a respected representative to the community-at-large; selfless placement of the Center's best interest as a priority on an

ongoing basis; and an inspiration to others, by example."

Katz has been a member of the JCC's Board of Directors since 2009, and currently serves on the Executive Committee as vice president. Her involvement with the JCC began when her children attended the JCC Sarah Walker Nursery School. In 2006, she chaired the Hang Time Committee for the Stamford 2006 JCC Maccabi Games. After that "exhausting but invigorating experience," Katz said, "I was hooked on all things JCC."

Katz has been actively involved in the JCC Tzahal Shalom program since 2007, when she and her family hosted an Israeli officer. She co-chaired the program the following year and has remained on the committee ever since, co-chairing again in 2011.

In 2009, Katz co-chaired the popular "What to Wear with Black Pants" program and the 2010 Kugel Cookoff. In 2011, she traveled to Poland and Israel as part of a JCC Association familiarization trip. Katz co-chaired the Community



Joy Katz was presented with the 2014 Hyacinthe and Harold Hoffman Humanitarian Award at the Jewish Community Center's annual meeting in May.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration in 2013 and, for the past two years, has been serving on the Executive Committee of the Stamford JCC Jewish Arts and Film Festival. Recently, Katz attended the JCC Association Biennial conference in San Diego and received an Esther Leah Ritz Emerging JCC Leader Award.

Outside of her work at the JCC, Katz is a math tutor in the local public schools and is on the PTO board at Westhill High School. A member of Temple Beth El, she organizes volunteers for Project Ezra, a service to deliver pre-shiva meals to congregants who have lost loved ones. Since 2012, when her family went on a service trip to Zimbabwe, Katz has been collecting used bras and shoes to send to Africa.

A trusts and estates attorney, Katz has lived in Stamford with her husband, Larry, for 17 years. They have three children: Aaron, 19; Rachel, 17; and Hannah, 16.

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

## Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot

### An Evening of Music, Meditation, Prayer and More

The community is invited to a Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot: An Evening of Music, Meditation, Prayer, Torah, Conversation and Cheesecake on Tuesday, June 3, starting at 7:10 pm, at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford.

"Who is a Jew? Says who? Changing Definitions of Jewish identity" will be the theme of the evening. Rabbis Joshua Hammerman, Molly Karp, Jay TelRav and Nicole Wilson-Spiro, and Cantors George Mordecai and Micah Morgovsky, will explore and reveal contemporary and ancient ideas of Jewish identity and peoplehood. From the Book of Ruth to modern Israel, they will search for the changing faces of Jewish Identity in our time.

The program will include an update on civil marriage and conversion in Israel, a panel discussion on traditional and new concepts of Jewish identity, and how the definition of "Who is a Jew" might be changing.

There will be a Creative Cheesecake Contest (bring in your own creations – kosher ingredients are requested). The program is co-sponsored by Temple Beth El, Selah, Temple Sinai and United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

## Deadlines for articles

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

Tuesday, May 27 ..... July  
Monday, July 28 ..... September  
Monday, August 25 ..... October

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 acknowledgement; please re-send if you do not receive one.

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—Jewish Learning by Design: The Case of Carmel Academy, Dr. Jack Wertheimer and Rabbi Josh Elkin

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# UJF Held Community Seder to Commemorate Holocaust

Looking to commemorate the events of the Holocaust in a different yet meaningful way, the United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien held a community seder on Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) at the end of April.

Attended by nearly 400 community members who were seated around 40 seder tables, the Yom Hashoah seder used a haggadah created by Rabbi Molly Karp to tell the story of the Holocaust. Seder plates using Yom Hashoah appropriate symbols were made by students at the Bi-Cultural and Carmel day schools, and centerpieces of yellow flowers—symbolic of the yellow Jewish stars that Jews were forced to wear and of Jewish renewal after

the Holocaust—adorned the tables.

The Jewish War Veterans opened the evening with a presentation of the colors followed by the singing of “The Star Spangled Banner” led by Cantor Micah Morgovsky of Temple Sinai. James Cohen, chief executive officer of the United Jewish Federation, gave the opening remarks, noting that the work of Federation honors the six million martyrs every day of the year. Mayor David Martin read the Stamford Proclamation declaring that week “Yom Hashoah” observance week. Survivors then lit six memorial candles for the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust.

Led by Rabbi Jay TelRav of Temple Sinai and Cantor Morgovsky, the seder included presentations by five Holocaust

survivors: Benjamin Zysman, Erna Slen, Inessa Sloodskin, Frances Schaff (her son, Ethan, told his mother’s story) and Al Linder. The survivors were introduced by their second-generation children.

Zysman read his story: “While the meaning of the word Holocaust is clear, it does not describe the suffering to which we were exposed. I prefer to call it barbarism.” He went on to describe the particularly cruel treatment of children at the hands of their Nazi captors. He also spoke about Nazis who played Mozart’s “Eine Kleine Nachtmusik” while unloading a transport of Jews in Auschwitz.

Members of the younger generation were represented by two teens, Melanie Roloff and Jensen Greif, who read “At My Bat Mitzvah and His,” and by the Jewish Twenties and Thirties, whose members read “The Legacy.” In addition, 14 other readers were scattered throughout the room, including Rabbi Joshua Hammerman of Beth El, Rabbi Daniel Cohen of Agudath Sholom and Rabbi Nicole Wilson-Spiro of Selah. They presented recollections of what European Jewry had to endure while the murder of six million took place.

Elanit Kayne Linder, the new UJF director of marketing and communications, was so touched that she wanted to be included in this article. She said, “As a young Jewish woman who’s grown up exposed to survivors and their stories, this was the first experience that left me with hope. Contributing to this feeling was the glowing joy of prideful mother, Frances Schaff. Her son Ethan had spoken eloquently about his mother’s history.

“If these people are able to live through such atrocities and retell the story with grace and strength, I as a Jew am now ready to relive and hold these stories in my heart,” she added. “My soul can now bear witness. The seder created



Mayor David Martin (left) was welcomed by UJF CEO James Cohen.



Lenore Fogel and her daughter, Maya, shared a moment of reflection.

a format where I could breathe between accounts and see the people in the light that they are: warriors, humble survivors and simply human.”

She concluded, “As the voices around the room spoke, it was like stars twinkling in a dark clear sky. The lights make up the larger picture.”

At the seder’s conclusion, the rabbis and cantors who were present led the attendees in “The Kaddish,” followed by the singing of “Hatikvah,” the Israeli national anthem.



L-r: Shoshana Dweck, UJF president; Ricky Arbron, UJF vice president education; Peter and Carol Lilienthal, Yom Hashoah Committee chairs; Rabbi Molly Karp, UJF adult education coordinator; Sharon Franklin, UJF events coordinator; and James Cohen, UJF CEO. (Photos by Aviva Maller)

## A Capitol Commemoration

### UJF Hosted State Holocaust Ceremonies in Hartford

BY ELANIT KAYNE LINDER

Members of the Stamford Jewish community journeyed to Hartford to participate in the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Holocaust Commemoration, hosted this year by the United Jewish Federation of greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. The ceremony—which is hosted by the president of the State Senate on the Senate floor and organized by the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) in cooperation with the host community—was attended by representatives from communities across the state, including numerous elected officials. In addition to his remarks, Governor Dannel Malloy read from his official proclamation declaring the entire week “Holocaust Commemoration Week” throughout the state of Connecticut.

Stamford resident and Holocaust survivor Al Linder served as the keynote speaker. In his remarks, he recalled the tragic death of his toddler sister, Yehudit, and his grandparents in Bershahad concentration camp in Ukraine.

Linder urged those assembled not to remain silent and to “speak out against lies which spread hatred,” regardless of their origin or intended victim. Linder was joined by other survivors from Stamford, who lit candles in memory of the six million Jews who perished as a result of the Nazi terror. The event had moments of inspiration as well. The Bi-Cultural Day School Choir, under the direction of Jonathan Carr, ended their performance with a rendition of the Beatles’ anthem, “Let it Be.”

UJF board member Dana Horowitz traveled with the group to Hartford and noted, “It was incredibly moving to commemorate the Holocaust in such an august setting and in such distinguished company. It is so important that our government play its part in helping us never to forget. UJF and JFACT should be commended for stepping up and producing such a meaningful ceremony.”

The event was chaired by UJF Vice President for Education Ricky Arbron and was made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation.



Teens Melanie Roloff (standing, left) and Jensen Greif (standing, right) read a Holocaust poem, “At My Bat Mitzvah and His.”



During a quiet moment, Holocaust survivors lit the shiva candles with Temple Sinai’s Rabbi Jay TelRav (far right). L-r: Kurt Zimble, Harry and Luba Weinroth, Frances Schaff and Rabbi TelRav.



Members of the Jewish Twenties and Thirties read a portion of the seder at the conclusion of the evening.

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

# Reading Partners Celebrates 15<sup>th</sup> Year

To honor its corps of volunteer Reading Partners, the Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program sponsored by United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, will hold its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Recognition Event on Friday, June 6, at 9:30 am, at the Jewish Community Center in Stamford. Volunteer readers, Stamford public school administrative staff, Stamford Board of Education directors, school liaisons, UJF staff, Gibor trustees and program friends are invited



*Kathy Itterly, professor of education at Westfield State University, Westfield, MA.*

to attend the Recognition Breakfast. The feature event of the breakfast will be a presentation by Kathy Itterly, professor of education at Westfield State University, Westfield, MA. Itterly has been teaching education and literacy for more than 25 years and is co-author of “Literacy Profiles: A Framework to Guide Assessment, Instructional Strategies and Intervention, K-4.” Her presentation, titled “Comprehension Matters,” highlights the fact that

*See “Reading” on page 7*

# Stamford Teens on March of the Living

*L-r: Danielle Alexander, UJF director of Jewish education and engagement, and Stamford’s three 2014 March of the Living participants, Rachel Steinmetz, Keren Rubin and Jenna Plotzky, got ready to march from Auschwitz to Birkenau with 11,000 other teens, adults and survivors from around the world.*



# UJF Launches New Website

BY JEFF GOLDBERG

It is clear that 2014 will be a year of progress for the United Jewish Federation. On the heels of introducing the Better Together Campaign 2014, UJF announces the launch of a fully redesigned website.

The updated Federation site provides a modern look and enhanced features to make browsing, donating and interacting easy and intuitive. The new UJF.org has been redesigned with an improved layout, so that all members of the Greater Stamford community can quickly and efficiently find the information they see on the homepage. On the homepage, users now can read UJF’s most recent tweets, sign up for UJF programs, view upcoming community events and read the most recent community news. Users will also now have the opportunity to read *The New Jewish Voice* on the web, as each monthly edition will be hosted in the community news section.

A key focus in the website redesign was to highlight the entire Greater Stamford Jewish community, and show that the community is Better Together. When a user logs on to UJF.org, they will be greeted with images of Federation’s impact on its partner agencies, both locally and internationally. Showcasing the Better Together philosophy is a new section, “Impact of the Month,” located

on the homepage. Every month, users will have the opportunity to read about a different UJF partner agency and the impact it is making on the community. The first edition of “Impact of the Month” comes from Matt Greenberg, CEO of Jewish Family Services.

With the launch of the new UJF.org, users now have the ability to donate to the Better Together Campaign 2014 online. This new feature will allow all users who contribute more than \$200 via the web the opportunity to specify which “Impact Area(s)” he or she would like the dollars to benefit. Users may divide their contribution among the general campaign and the impact areas.

Nancy Schulman, who helped in the beta testing of the website, expressed enthusiasm about the update, saying, “The new website has a contemporary look and is very user-friendly. Whether you are new to Stamford or are simply looking to get involved or donate, you can easily find the Federation groups and activities that are right for you, and you can also quickly locate the donation form and an explanation of the new Impact areas.”

The new UJF.org will continue to evolve and grow, with the introduction of new content and feature enhancements. To see all of the changes for yourself, visit [www.UJF.org](http://www.UJF.org).

## Mission. . . . . Continued from page 1

Jerry Knopf noted, “In designing this mission, we consciously chose to expose participants to things they might not have seen before. I have been on numerous Federation missions and have loved each one. This one will be a little different and I am very excited

to participate.” Mabat Platinum Ltd. will serve as the tour operator in Israel and Turkey. For information on the trip, interested parties can contact Jerry Knopf at [gknopf@stamfordattorney.com](mailto:gknopf@stamfordattorney.com) or Cohen at [jcohen@UJF.org](mailto:jcohen@UJF.org).



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**For more information or to register, please contact O-la-mi Director Virginia Clark at [vclark@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:vclark@stamfordjcc.org) or 203-487-0973.**




**JCC**  
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Stamford, CT 06905 | 203-322-7900 | [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org)

The JCC is a recipient agency of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan & Darien, and the United Way of Western Connecticut.



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Joanne Karow, Director of Admissions  
203-329-2186 Ext. 1310  
or [jkarow@bcds.org](mailto:jkarow@bcds.org)

Jacqueline Herman, Head of School  
Rabbi David Israel, Rabbinic Dean



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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](mailto:sandy@ujf.org). MAZEL TOV TO NEW FAMILIES:



**Sharona and Boris Abramov** on birth of a son.

**Israela and Or Aviv** on the birth of a son and a daughter; grandparents are **Chanoch and Rina Nof**.

**Romy and Joseph Cohen** on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Phyllis and Gary Gladstein**.

**Allison and Yuri Feldman** on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Irina and Arkady Feldman** and **Jane and Phil Molstre**.

**Melissa Libner and Idan Hen** on the birth of a daughter, Lenny Aviv; grandmother is **Elizabeth Libner**.

**Jennifer and Adam Mileikowsky** on the birth of a daughter, Zoey Alexandre; grandparents are **Barbara and Elon Mileikowsky** and great-grandparents are **Vivian and Irwin Miller**.

MAZEL TOV TO:

**Ellen and Chuck Donen** for being honored by the Norwalk Chapter of Hadassah.

**Richard Finley and Holly Serber** on their engagement; parents are **Vivienne Finley and Anthony Finley**, and **Stephanie and Howard Serber**.

**Jeff Goldblum** on his election as the new JCC president.

**Jake Sherman and Irene Jefferson** on their engagement; parents are **Stephanie and Bob Sherman**, and **Nancy Beren and Larry Jefferson**, of Houston, TX.

**Rachel Schuckman and Jay Camhi** on their engagement; parents are **Ilyse and Dean Schuckman**, and **Elaine and Mike Camhi**.

**Janice Chaikelson Steinberg and Stephen Davidson** on their engagement; her children are **Sydney and Lilah**, and her parents are **June and Morris Chaikelson**; his children are **Zach, Hannah and Maddie**, and his parents are **Sharon and William Davidson**.

**Temple Beth El** for receiving the David Mond Volunteer Award for dedication to

meal service at Pacific House emergency shelter on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for more than 25 years.

**Eric Weinstein and Emily Hoffmann** on their engagement; parents are **Debora and Paul Weinstein**, and **Jayne and Abraham M. Hoffmann**.

**Joan and Fred Weisman** for receiving the Rays of Hope Volunteer Award for more than 30 years of volunteer service at Pacific House emergency shelter.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

**Zachary Blomberg**, son of **Jill and Jeffrey Blomberg**

**Shayna Druckman**, daughter of **Robin and Greg Druckman**

**Alyssa Goldberg**, daughter of **Vivian Rich-Goldberg and Bruce Goldberg**

**Jacob Herz**, son of **Nancy and Jeff Herz**

**Philip Hirsch**, son of **Debbie and Larry Hirsch**

**Ryan Hoak**, son of **Wendi and David Hoak**

**Tyler Liffmann**, daughter of **Karen and Joel Liffman**

**Greg Marantz**, son of **Marne and David Marantz**

**Rachel Plotzky**, daughter of **Susan and Mark Plotzky**

**Zackary Rubin**, son of **Elizabeth Rubin**

**Eitan Taub**, son of **Ora and David Taub**

CONDOLENCES TO:

**Judy Aronin** on the loss of her husband; and **Reuben and Daniel Aronin** on the loss of their father, Meryl Aronin.

**Don Cooper** on the loss of his mother, Judith Cooper.

**Rosalie Hutter** on the loss of her husband, Alfred.

**Abigail Greenberg Kirsch** on the loss of her husband; and **Richard, Jim, Bill and Jo Kirsch** on the loss of their father, Robert Kirsch.

**Boris Miloslavsky** on the loss of his mother, Anna Miloslavsky.

**Mitchell Nadel** on the loss of his wife; and **Anya, Brandon, Eliana and Kyle Nadel** on the loss of their mother, Beth Bennett.

**Henry Rascoff** on the loss of his father, Dr. Joel Rascoff.

**Chani Rosenzweig** on the loss of her father, David Gross.

**Jonah, Howard and Carl Schrag** on the loss of their mother, Bella Schrag.

**Isadore (Izzy) Sobkowski** on the loss of his mother, Sarah Sobkowski.

**Herb Sorooca** on the loss of his mother, Pearl Sorooca.

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## NEW AROUND TOWN

## Elanit Kayne Linder Joins UJF

The United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien announces the appointment of Elanit Kayne Linder as director of marketing and outreach. Linder, who began her new position in April, has nearly 20 years experience in marketing and outreach, having worked for many years in brand development, concepts packaging, merchandising and media advertising.

Linder has fund-raised for private clients, organizations and non-profits through events and grants. She has secured sponsorships and partnerships with the Sarah Lee Corporation and the Joan Mitchell Foundation, among others. She has also taken from conception to production numerous large-scale art productions. Her creative projects and events have been covered nationally and internationally on CNN, FOX5 News and CNRTL4 Dutch Television, NK Nextent Japanese Television, NY1 and others; with articles published in The Huffington Post, the Agence France-Presse, Time Out New York, the *New York Post*, *The Brooklyn Paper* and Italian Glamour Magazine, among many others.

A Fairfield County native, Linder graduated from Weston High School and earned a B.F.A. from TISCH School of the Arts at New York University.

Linder and her daughter reside in Stamford, "a great city with a really wonderful Jewish community," and she extends an invitation to the community to be in touch: "I look forward to connecting with each and every one of you individually – online and in person." She can be reached at [elanit@ujf.org](mailto:elanit@ujf.org), and on LinkedIn (elanit), Twitter (@elanitkayne) and FaceBook (elanit.kayne).



Elanit Kayne Linder  
(Photo by Aviva Maller)

## MAZEL TOV TO AREA PROFESSIONALS

## Rebecca Isenstein Promoted at UConn-Stamford

Rebecca Isenstein was recently promoted to program manager for the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford. Its director, Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, said: "Our Center serves the undergraduate program as well as a vibrant community, and Isenstein's responsibilities reflect the multifaceted functions of the Center, including fund-raising, event planning, outreach programming, research, student support and advising, and community relations."

Nina Lotstein, chair of the board, said: "We are delighted to work with a professional of such talent and personality."

For more information about the Center or its programs, call 203-251-9525 or e-mail [stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu](mailto:stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu).



Rebecca Isenstein

## JCC Kids Triathlon Returns on Father's Day

The Stamford Jewish Community Center will hold its fifth annual Kids Triathlon, for children ages 4-14, on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15, at the JCC on Newfield Avenue. Katchko and Sons is a presenting sponsor of this year's event.

"The mission of the JCC Kids Triathlon is to establish and nurture children's ability to live an active and healthy lifestyle, to build strong friendships and to reach their potential," said JCC CEO Eric Koehler. "Although the triathlon is a competitive event, the focus is on fun, fitness and personal challenge."

The triathlon will consist of races in swimming, cycling and running. The event will begin in the JCC pool, then move to the bicycle course on nearby roads that will be closed to vehicular traffic.

Children will be divided into three age groups: 4-6 years, 7-10 years and 11-14 years. Children who do not want to compete in all three events are welcome to form relay teams. The youngest group will stay on the JCC property at all times.

For information or to register, visit [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org) or call Mo Concepcion at 203-487-0971.

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

## ALS Experts Speak at JFS Training Program

Jewish Family Service invited two experts from the Connecticut Chapter of ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) Association to speak during a session of the Elayne and James Schoke Training Program, which trains home companion aides. Andy Byrne and Stacey Rahl, M.S.W., described the symptoms and effects of the disease. Sometimes JFS provides home companion care to clients who are coping with a loved one suffering from ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.







ALS destroys nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord, causing a progressive loss of mobility, speech, swallowing and breathing. The trainees learned about the care of a patient with ALS and the progression of the disease.

Other sessions in the training program cover topics such as kosher food preparation and nutrition, fall prevention, socialization, hearing and visual impairments, and care of a client with other medical conditions requiring specialized care.

Successful completion of the Elayne and James Schoke Training Program will result in being qualified and placed on the JFS registry, and eligible for placement in a home companion situation. If you or a family member might be interested in or need the services of a Home companion, call Isrella Knopf at 203-921-4161 or e-mail [isrellak@ctjfs.org](mailto:isrellak@ctjfs.org).

*Jewish Family Service is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.*

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
|  | May 23..... 7:54 pm       |
|  | May 30..... 8 pm          |
|  | June 3..... 8:03 pm       |
|  | June 4..... after 9:04 pm |
|  | June 6..... 8:05 pm       |
|  | June 13..... 8:09 pm      |
|  | June 20..... 8:11 pm      |
|  | June 27..... 8:25 pm      |
|  | July 4..... 8:25 pm       |
|  | July 11..... 8:22 pm      |
|  | July 18..... 8:18 pm      |

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).

The Young Leadership Division and Jewish Twenties and Thirties present

# Dodgeball tournament

Wednesday, July 16th at the JCC  
7:00pm - Dark

For more information, please email [elanit@ujf.org](mailto:elanit@ujf.org)



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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

# JCC's Golf and Tennis Outing

## Support for Special-needs Early Childhood Education

More than 100 golfers and tennis players are expected to participate in the Jewish Community Center's 21<sup>st</sup> annual Julius B. and Edward Kuriansky Memorial Golf and Tennis Outing on Monday, June 2, at Rockrimmon Country Club in North Stamford.

Dubbed, "Fore the Kids," the outing is held each year in memory of Julius B. Kuriansky and his son, Edward Kuriansky, who were dedicated supporters of the JCC. The event includes morning and afternoon tennis, buffet luncheon, shotgun start for golf at 12:45 pm and an awards banquet to end the day.

Proceeds will go to the JCC's JumpStart program, a progressive early childhood education program for 2- and 3-year-olds with special needs. The JumpStart program is the only one of its kind in Fairfield County. Tuition is based on a sliding scale, and the JCC is committed to the philosophy that no child should be denied admission due to financial hardship. The program is funded through voluntary contributions and through general operating support provided by the JCC.

Garry Feldman and Craig L. Price are serving as event co-chairs. Risa Raich and Kim Schweber are this year's tennis co-chairs.

For reservations or information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Shannon Jacobs at 203-487-0965 or sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org.

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

# Seinfeld and Aging

## Lessons about Caring for Older Adults

Jewish Senior Services will present the fourth annual Joel and Lois Coleman Lecture, titled "Seinfeld and Aging: What Popular Culture Can Teach Us About Caring for Older Adults." The program will be presented on Wednesday, May 28, at 7:30 pm, at the Jewish Home, 175 Jefferson St., Fairfield. The lecture is open to the public and free of charge.

Dr. Mark Lachs, a physician, teacher, scholar and researcher in the field of geriatrics and gerontology, will be this year's guest speaker.

Kim Gintoli of Jewish Senior Services

noted, "Dr. Lachs is a prominent speaker on the topics of the frail and disenfranchised elderly, elder abuse, medical ethics and health care financing."

Lachs has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine and has authored "Treat Me Not My Age," which has been called one of the best consumer health books of the year. He has appeared on NBC's "Today Show" and NPR's "Morning Edition." Lachs also writes for *The Wall Street Journal* and *Huffington Post*.

To make reservations, call Gintoli at 203-365-6463 or kgintoli@jseniors.org.

### ► BWC Spring Luncheon on May 28

The Brandeis Women Committee will hold its annual Spring Luncheon at the Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton on Wednesday, May 28, at 11:30 am. Lois Kolodny will be honored at this time. Elliotte and Doris Weiss will be the entertainment.

# Reading . . . . . Continued from page 5

multiple meanings of words can present a challenge for readers when they interact with a text, but there are many other factors that must be considered as well. The way in which the Reading Partners program focuses on the motivational aspects of reading through one-on-one relationships fosters the goal of creating life-long readers.

In addition, Itterly will explore what the Common Core Standards say about comprehension and how this has impacted comprehension instruction in schools. This is relevant for volunteers who partner with the teachers on a weekly basis. Finally, she will investigate why meaning making should be paramount when reading to or with children.

"Our volunteers bring an extraordinary breadth of experience and sense of commitment to the program. We have scores of readers who have been with us for more than 10 years and they consistently say that their Reading Partner day is the best day of their week," said Marlyn Agatstein, director of Reading Partners. "This year's breakfast will not only honor the corps of volunteers, but also several volunteers who have greatly impacted the quality of the program over time."

For more information on becoming a Reading Partner, visit [UJF.org](http://UJF.org) or call 203-321-1373, ext. 115.

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# Schechter Westchester



## Congratulates The Class of 2014

|                              |                            |                         |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aviva Ronit Abusch           | Benjamin Moses Fine        | Isabel Joy Malmazada    |
| Samuel Ian Baden             | Ilana Forchheimer          | Aaron J. Miller         |
| Mariel Amanda Bader          | Micah Orion Garber         | Sarah Nechamkin         |
| Yael Aviva Berger            | Lauren Ellie Gelb          | Sydney Ryann Ostrofsky  |
| Talia Borodowski             | Samara Jaclyn Geller       | Benjamin Scott Picket   |
| Ilan Philip Brennglass       | Bradley Louis Goldman      | Benjamin Max Polinsky   |
| Deborah Chusit               | Scott Graf                 | Mason Raboy             |
| Arielle Cohen                | Aaron Grand                | Beth Hannah Reisman     |
| Liran Cohen                  | Sydney Grant               | Jenna Roth              |
| Jared David Cohn             | Elizabeth Leigh Greenblatt | Seri Roth               |
| Arin Renne-Kate Cotel-Altman | Samuel Joseph Joffe        | Oren Schechter          |
| Ethan G. Cove                | Arielle Joselson           | Gabriella Schiller      |
| Erez Davids                  | Michal Peninah Kellner     | Julia Kim Schlager      |
| Natan Davids                 | Jonah Harrison Kelly       | Rina Susannah Schulberg |
| Jacob Samuel Diamond         | Shira King-Berkman         | Jared Evan Schwartz     |
| Talia Dinkoff                | Dara Elyse Kotek           | Ean Seinfeld            |
| Rafael-Eduardo K. Dodo       | Rebecca Kruglyakov         | Ilan Selinger           |
| Noy Dragushansky             | Jared Ross Kulak           | Sarene Eyla Shaked      |
| Sarah Sophie Dunn            | Jordana Reid Kulak         | Sarah Naomi Singer      |
| Samuel Ellbaum               | Benjamin Kuszel            | Maia Kohava Sirkin      |
| Noam Eitan                   | Gabriella Kuszel           | Samantha Anne Spitalny  |
| Jonathan Elmalem             | Sara Lev                   | Daniel David Stern      |
| Jessie Sara Espinet          | Ethan Gabriel Levy         | Rebecca Walker          |
| Danielle Meredith Evans      | Jesse Lewis                | Danielle Ivy Weisfeld   |
| Samantha Feig                | Rebecca Lea Malits         | Danielle Weiss          |

### Our students have been accepted by the following colleges, universities, and programs in Israel:

|                                 |                                     |  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| American University             | Montclair State University          | Tulane University                      |
| Barnard College                 | Muhlenberg College                  | University at Buffalo The State        |
| Becker College                  | New York University                 | University of New York                 |
| Binghamton University           | Newbury College                     | University of California at Santa Cruz |
| Boston University               | Nichols College                     | University of Chicago                  |
| Brandeis University             | Northeastern University             | University of Colorado at Boulder      |
| Buffalo State College of SUNY   | Northwestern University             | University of Connecticut              |
| Carnegie Mellon University      | Pennsylvania State University,      | University of Delaware                 |
| Case Western Reserve University | University Park                     | University of Denver                   |
| Champlain College               | Purchase College State University   | University of Hartford                 |
| Clark University                | of New York                         | University of Maryland, College Park   |
| College of Charleston           | Queen's University, Ontario, Canada | University of Massachusetts,           |
| Columbia University             | Quinnipiac University               | Aurham                                 |
| Cornell University              | Rider University                    | University of Miami                    |
| Dartmouth College               | Rochester Institute of Technology   | University of Michigan                 |
| Dean College                    | Rutgers, The State University of    | University of New Haven                |
| Drexel University               | New Jersey at Camden                | University of Pennsylvania             |
| Eckerd College                  | Rutgers, The State University of    | University of Pittsburgh               |
| Emory University                | New Jersey at New Brunswick         | University of Rhode Island             |
| Fairleigh Dickinson University, | Skidmore College                    | University of Rochester                |
| Madison                         | Springfield College                 | University of Southern California      |
| Florida Gulf Coast University   | State University of New York -      | University of Toronto, St. George      |
| Fordham University              | Plattsburgh                         | University of Vermont                  |
| Hampshire College               | State University of New York        | University of Virginia                 |
| Hartwick College                | at Albany                           | University of Wisconsin, Madison       |
| Harvard College                 | State University of New York at     | Vanderbilt University                  |
| Hofstra University              | New Paltz                           | Washington University in St. Louis     |
| Hunter College of the CUNY      | Sony Brook University               | Wesleyan University                    |
| Indiana University at           | SUNY College at Brockport           | Western New England University         |
| Bloomington                     | SUNY College at Cortland            | Widener University                     |
| Ithaca College                  | SUNY College at Genesee             | Yale University                        |
| Jewish Theological Seminary     | SUNY College at Oneonta             |  |
| of America                      | SUNY College at Potsdam             | <b>Programs in Israel</b>              |
| Johns Hopkins University        | SUNY Fredonia                       | Aardark Israel                         |
| Johnson & Wales University      | SUNY Oswego                         | Ba-Ilan University                     |
| (Providence)                    | Syracuse University                 | Kivunim (New Directions)               |
| Lafayette College               | Temple University                   | Lehava                                 |
| Lehigh University               | The George Washington               | Mechinat Ein Prat                      |
| Lesley University               | University                          | Mechinat Lachish                       |
| Lynn University                 | The University of Arizona           | Mechinat Nachshon                      |
| McGill University               | Towson University                   | Natzi                                  |
| Mitchell College                | Tufts University                    |  |

*Bold indicates schools our students will be attending.*



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# JFS Adds Centerpieces for Mitzvah Basket Program

BY LYNN SALTZ

Jewish Family Service announces a centerpiece addition to its Mitzvah Basket Program, a fund-raising effort to support the Kosher Food Pantry. Unlike the traditional floral arrangements utilized to add decoration to an event, each centerpiece and *bima* decor is styled to resemble a tower of empty packages that when filled can be typically found in the JFS Kosher Food Pantry. The centerpieces can be ordered in advance and color-coordinated for table settings at weddings, baby showers, bar/bat mitzvahs, anniversary or fund-raising events, memorial services or even a special Shabbat. Each centerpiece rental of \$54 provides eight meal servings for families in the Greater Stamford and Westport area.

Members of the Greater Stamford community have already participated in

this fund-raising event. Parent Michelle Gordon said, “We felt that it was important for Josh (her bar mitzvah age son) to remember others less fortunate on his bar mitzvah. Becoming a man and a member of the community means that you learn to take responsibility for yourself and to reach out to help others as well. The experience was such a positive one and it couldn’t have been easier. The baskets were delivered to the *shul* and they looked beautiful on the *bima*.”

Janice Steinberg and Alice Janush, of Vision Parties and Celebrations, contribute their time and effort to create the baskets. Steinberg noted, “When JFS asked us if we would design and build their mitzvah baskets, it was an immediate yes! It is extremely gratifying to know that the baskets are being used so often  
*See “Basket” on page 11*



Joshua Gordon stood on the bima next to the JFS Mitzvah Basket on the day of his bar mitzvah.



Jewish Family Service mitzvah baskets can now be table centerpieces, such as these at An Evening with JFS.

## FAMILY CENTRAL

### For June & July 2014

Members and non members are warmly invited to all events listed.

#### FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

|   |
|---|
| JCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>KIDS TRIATHLON.</b> Sunday, June 15, 8:00 am. Ages 4 to 14. Children given the opportunity to be fit and active, build friendships, reach their potential and have fun. For more info, visit <a href="http://stamfordjcc.org">stamfordjcc.org</a> or contact Mo Concepcion: (203) 487-0971 or <a href="mailto:mconcepcion@stamfordjcc.org">mconcepcion@stamfordjcc.org</a></li></ul>   |
| CHABAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>SHAVUOT DAIRY BUFFET &amp; ICE CREAM PARTY.</b> Wednesday June 4, 11 am &amp; 6 pm. Celebrate Shavuot as we read the 10 commandments, followed by ice cream party &amp; dairy buffet. Free.</li><li>• <b>LOAVES OF LOVE FAMILY CHALLAH BAKE.</b> Thursday, June 19, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Kids welcome. From kneading dough to peeling vegetables, cooking baking and packing it up, this is your time to give to those who need it most by baking Challah and making chicken soup for the “Shabbat 2 Go” packages.</li></ul> |
| TEMPLE BETH EL <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>BBQ.</b> Friday, June 13, 5:30 pm. No Charge</li></ul>  |

#### KIDS GRADES Pre-K - 8

|  |
|--|
| CHABAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>BAT MITZVAH CLUBS &amp; BMC BEYOND.</b> for girls in grades 6 – 8 whether your Bat Mitzvah is coming up or you have already celebrated. \$20 p/session.</li><li>• <b>Sunday June 8, 6 - 7:30 pm. Mother-Daughter Tea and Challah Bake Class.</b> Final class</li></ul> |
| TEMPLE BETH EL <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>JUNIOR CONGREGATION.</b> Saturday, June 14. 10:30 am. Grades 3 – 6.</li><li>• <b>HONORING OUR 8th and 12TH GRADE GRADUATES.</b> Friday, June 20. 7:30 pm</li></ul>   |

#### TEENS GRADES 8+

|   |
|---|
| SPEAK UP FOR ISRAEL <p>Grades 11 – 12. For info, contact JCC Israeli Shaliach (203) 487-0961. JCC and UJF program. Meets monthly <b>Sundays, 5 - 7 pm.</b> At the JCC.</p>  |
| FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE. For volunteers in Grades 9 – 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>At Home:</b> Every week, pairs of teen volunteers visit special needs children in their homes offering friendship and unconditional support.</li><li>• <b>Children’s / Teen Circle:</b> 15 Sundays through the year. Work with special needs children on activities like art, music, cooking and sports. At Chabad. For info, contact Malya Shmotkin (203) 329-0015 x 414, <a href="mailto:Malya@friendshipct.com">Malya@friendshipct.com</a></li></ul> |

#### YOUNG KIDS WITH PARENT/CAREGIVER

|   |
|---|
| TEMPLE BETH EL <p>Tot Kabbalat Shabbat – Spring Planting and Renewal. Age 5 &amp; under. Older siblings welcome. Music, stories and song led by Cantor George Mordecai and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman. Light Shabbat dinner for kids. <b>Friday, June 13, 5:30 pm.</b> Free.</p>  |
| CHABAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Tiny Treasures.</b> Birth to 30 months. Warm Jewish atmosphere. Connect with other moms. Fee: \$15 per class. First class free. <b>Wednesdays, 9:15 - 10:15 am.</b> And celebrate Shabbat on <b>Fridays, 10 - 10:45 am</b> with “Got Shabbat?”</li></ul>  |
| TEMPLE SINAI <p>Tot Shabbat. <b>Friday June 13, 5 pm.</b> Birth to age 7. Dancing, singing, crafts, praying and playing. With Rabbi TelRav and Cantor Morgovsky. Learn about Shabbat and holidays. Free.</p>  |
| BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL <p>Mommy, Daddy, Music and Me. For toddlers. With Jonathan Cahr and Rachel Bahar. <b>Wednesday, June 11. 1:30pm - 2:10 pm.</b> Music, movement, nursery rhymes, Jewish songs and story telling. Free.</p>  |
| JCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>MOVIN’ AND GROOVIN’</b> Tuesdays, through June 17, 10:30 - 11:15 am. 12 – 30 months. Children swing, spin, jump, stretch, leap, roll and climb with rhythm, music and song. \$184 for 8 sessions/\$152 JCC members.</li><li>• <b>MUSIC TOGETHER.</b> Birth – 5 years. Nurtures children’s natural enthusiasm for music and movement. Call Music Together (203) 256-1656.</li><li>• <b>SWIM LESSONS</b> 6 – 36 months. Sunday or Tuesday or Thursday mornings through 6/19. Times based on age. Children learn correct swimming movements, increase muscle strength and coordination. Swim diaper with bathing suit required. For more info, Daniel Servelli: (203) 487-0990 or <a href="mailto:dservelli@stamfordjcc.org">dservelli@stamfordjcc.org</a>. Fees based on # sessions.</li></ul> |

#### CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

|   |
|---|
| Friendship Circle: Teen friends and social and Judaic programs for children with special needs. Contact Malya Shmotkin (203) 329-0015 #414 or <a href="mailto:Malya@FriendshipCT.com">Malya@FriendshipCT.com</a>  |
| JCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jump Start:</b> Therapeutic classes for ages 2 – 4. Language, social and motor skills encouraged. Safe, fun, accepting environment. Contact Sue McGraw (203) 487-0966.</li><li>• <b>R&amp;R (Relax &amp; Recreate)</b> Social group for grades 6 – 8. Fun, structured, safe environment. Build social skills and relationships. Contact Dinushka De Silva at (203) 487-0946 or <a href="mailto:ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org">ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org</a>.</li></ul> |

To RSVP or for more information on these events and groups, contact...

Agudath Sholom: 301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford • (203) 358-2200 • [www.agudathsholom.org](http://www.agudathsholom.org)  
BBYO: BBYO Regional Office (203) 389-2127 • [CVR@bbyo.org](mailto:CVR@bbyo.org) • [www.cvrbbyo.net](http://www.cvrbbyo.net)  
Chabad: 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 3-CHABAD #418 • [morahleah@chabadstamford.org](mailto:morahleah@chabadstamford.org) • [www.chabadhousestamford.org](http://www.chabadhousestamford.org)  
Friendship Circle: 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • Malya Shmotkin • (203) 329-0015 #414 • [Malya@friendshipct.com](mailto:Malya@friendshipct.com) • [www.friendshipct.com](http://www.friendshipct.com)  
JCC: Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • (203) 322-7900 • [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org)  
JFS: Jewish Family Service, (203) 921-4161 • 733 Summer Street, Suite 602, Stamford • [www.ctjfs.org](http://www.ctjfs.org) • Claire Friendlander (203) 921-4161#109 • [cdfriedlan@aol.com](mailto:cdfriedlan@aol.com)  
Jewish Student Connection – Rebecca Shapiro • [rebecca@myjsc.org](mailto:rebecca@myjsc.org) • (914) 481-5505.  
Kulanu: Danielle Alexander (203) 321-1373 #104 • [Danielle@ujf.org](mailto:Danielle@ujf.org) • [www.KulanuStamford.org](http://www.KulanuStamford.org)  
Temple Beth El: 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203) 322-6901 • [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)  
Temple Sinai: 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203) 322-1649 • [www.templesinaistamford.org](http://www.templesinaistamford.org) • Melissa Cohavi • [educator@templesinaistamford.org](mailto:educator@templesinaistamford.org)





# BETTER TOGETHER ANNUAL CAMPAIGN!

*New  
for 2014!*

Pledge \$200 or more and you may divide your money among the General Campaign and areas that interest you (Impact Areas).

***The Impact Areas Are:***

1. **Sustaining the programs and work of UJF of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.** (e.g. The New Jewish Voice, Tapestry and Yom HaShoah)
2. **Partnering with Local Agencies**
3. **Global Jewry**, which supports Jews Worldwide. You have an opportunity to further divide this area into Israel, Worldwide and Afula/Gilboa (projects in our sister city).

## ***This Month's Spotlight on:*** **Partnering with Local Agencies**

UJF provides financial support to 12 local agencies that encompass education, social services and engagement. Giving to this impact area allows you to give to ***all*** of these agencies:

- BBYO
- Bi-Cultural Day School
- Camp Laurelwood
- Carmel Academy
- Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies
- UConn Hillel
- JCC Stamford
- Jewish Family Service
- Jewish Senior Services (formerly Jewish Home)
- Jewish Student Connection
- The Friendship Circle
- The Jewish Historical Society

*If you would like to make a contribution  
or have any questions, please contact  
Rebekah Raz 203-321-1373 x102  
[www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org)*



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

BETTER TOGETHER

# Jewish Family Service Distributes Kosher Passover Food

BY LYNN SALTZ

Jewish Family Service of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and Westport, Weston, Wilton and Norwalk continued its tradition of organizing and coordinating the distribution of kosher for Passover food staples to those individuals and families who are in need of assistance. JFS received help this year

from members of Jewish Twenties and Thirties, the singles outreach program run by Jewish Family Service with a grant from the Helen Marksamer Young Jewish Singles Group, who assisted by packing the donated items and delivering the kosher for Passover baskets to almost 250 individuals or families primarily in Stamford, Norwalk and Westport.

Community volunteers from many Fairfield County synagogues and schools helped to promote the program, contributed food for the pantry or helped with the delivery of the baskets, which took place on April 6. In addition, Al’s Angels, a charitable organization from Westport, contributed 15 bags that were specifically geared for families with chil-

dren and handmade/delivered to the pantry as part of a bat mitzvah project. Other thanks for assistance is credited to Shoprite Partners in Caring’s grant for the food purchases; the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County for ordering, supplying and delivering the items; and the Stamford JCC for hosting the event.

*See “Food” on page 14*

## What’s On for Adults

*June & July/August 2014*

*Members and Non-members are all warmly invited to all events listed. See contact info below for more info, to confirm programs and to register.*

### OPEN EVENTS

|  |
|--|
| <b>JCC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>EXPLORE WOODLANDS CEMETERY.</b> <b>Monday, June 9,</b> 11:15 am. Renee Kahn, nationally known preservation consultant and author, leads a cemetery tour and shares stories of its past. Meet at the entrance, 66 Woodland Place at 11:15 am. Lunch on your own. Free. Reservations required by June 2. Contact Connie Freeman at (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.</li><li>• <b>MAH JONGG LESSONS.</b> All levels. <b>Thursdays,</b> 1 - 3 pm. Contact Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org to schedule lessons. Fee: \$35/\$25 JCC member for 5 sessions.</li></ul>  |
| <b>CHABAD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>EVENING OF APPRECIATION.</b> <b>Honoring 300 volunteers! June 1,</b> Dessert reception at 7:00 pm; program at 8:00 pm at the Stamford Hilton. For information, visit FriendshipCT.com/Evening.</li><li>• <b>LOAVES OF LOVE FAMILY CHALLAH BAKE.</b> <b>Thursday, June 19,</b> 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. At Chabad. A time to give to those who need it most by baking challah and making chicken soup for the “Shabbat 2 Go” packages. <b>Kids are welcome.</b></li></ul>   |
| <b>TEMPLE BETH EL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>SPECIAL SHABBAT PROGRAMS.</b><p>With Marni Amsellem. This American Jewish Life: “Our Experiences Shape Us but Do Not Define Us: Reflections on Resilience and Taking Action.” <b>Friday, May 30,</b> 7:30 pm</p><p>With Joelle Peikes. Ramadan in Morocco: A Jewish Student Living in the Arab World. <b>Friday, June 6, 7:30 pm</b></p><li>• <b>ANNUAL CANTOR’S CONCERT.</b> With Cantor Mordecai and visiting musicians. <b>Sunday, June 8,</b> 7:00 pm.</li><li>• <b>SISTERHOOD MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT.</b> <b>Tuesday, June 10,</b> 8:30 am.</li><li>• <b>SHAL-OHM YOGA.</b> <b>Thursdays,</b> 5:30 - 6:45 pm Gentle sequence led by Pamela Tinkham with chanting by Cantor Mordecai. All levels welcome/ chair yoga optional. Fee: \$12 p/session / \$10 Members</li><li>• <b>ISRAELI FOLK DANCING:</b> <b>Thursdays.</b> Beginners: 6:45 - 7:30 pm. <b>Open Session:</b> 7:30 - 10:00 pm. Fee: \$12/\$10 TBE Member. For info, contact Leng at (203) 912-4086 or leng@ctisraelidance.com</li></li></ul> |
| <b>TEMPLE SINAI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>THE SHABBAT EXPERIENCE.</b> <b>Friday, June 27.</b> Open to the multi faith community. Welcome Shabbat with profound prayer and music. New World Chorus, Cantor Morgovsky, the Kolot Sinai and other special guests. Music produced by Beth Styles.</li><li>• <b>MAH JONGG GAMES.</b> <b>Mondays,</b> 6:30 - 9 pm. No Fee. Bring your own cards. Call the synagogue to make sure that a game is taking place.</li></ul>   |

### ADULT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

|  |
|--|
| <b>UJF’S READING PARTNERS.</b> <p>Read one-on-one with Stamford public school children. One hour a week, mornings or afternoons. 11 elementary schools and 2 community centers. Training, literacy focused workshops and support network provided. Contact Marlyn Agatstein (203) 321-1373 x 115 or Readingpartners@ujf.org.</p>   |
| <b>JCC KOSHER LUNCH PROGRAM FOR SENIORS.</b> <p>Help set up and serve lunch on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Contact Connie: (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.</p>  |
| <b>JFS (JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>JFS Divers Needed.</b> Deliver food from Kosher Food Pantry to individuals. Contact Rebekah Kanefsky: (203) 921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org</li><li>• <b>JFS Computer instructor.</b> Individual with good familiarity with the Microsoft Office Suite as well as navigating the internet and social networking (preferred) needed to help adults become computer literate and/or improve their skills. Learning is individualized, tutorial style. Materials on site. Must be patient and compassionate. 4-15 hrs/wk (flexible) between 9 - 5, M - F. For more info, call or email llene K. Locker (203) 921-4161, iklocker@ctjfs.org.</li></ul> |
| <b>JHS (JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Harry Rosenbaum Judaica Library.</b> At the JCC. Cover 2 hour slot (or more) once a week. Training provided. Call (203) 487-0957.</li><li>• <b>Help protect the pieces of our Jewish history:</b> Help Jewish organizations retain their history and documents/info about early settlers. Call (203) 359-2196.</li></ul>   |
| <b>HADASSAH TEA@2.</b> <p>Every other <b>Tuesday,</b> 2 - 3 pm. Volunteers bake desserts, ‘schlep’ and set up and/or serve tea to patients, family and staff. Family lounge, Oncology floor, Stamford Hospital. For info, contact Connie: cccirilofreeman@gmail.com</p>  |

### FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

**UJF Jewish Education & Engagement Program:** (203)321-1373 • www.ujf.org  
**Agudath Sholom:** 301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford (203)358-2200 • www.agudathsholom.org  
**Chabad:** 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203)3-CHABAD #418 • morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org  
**JCC: Jewish Community Center,** 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • (203)322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org  
**JFS: Jewish Family Service:** (203)921-4161 • Stamford office: 733 Summer St., Suite 602 • Westport office: 431 Post Road East, Suite 11 • www.ctjfs.org  
**Jewish Historical Society:** (203)321-1373 #150 • jhslfc@yahoo.com • www.stamfordhistory.org/jhslfc.htm  
**Temple Beth El:** 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203)322-6901 • www.tbe.org  
**Temple Sinai:** 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203)322-1649 • www.templesinaistamford.org

### UJF

**TOWN HALL MEETING** Wednesday, June 18, 7 pm. Kulanu. Includes graduation; Helen S. and Isadore Mark Teen Leadership Award; “Match Game” in support of PJ Library and Beit Singer and announcement of our back-to-school program and more. The speaker will be Dr. Yarden Fanta-Vagenshtein, post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Department of Human Development and Psychology.

### FOR MEN

**CHABAD**

- **Men’s End of the Year BBQ.** Schmooze, relax and hang with the guys! **Thursday, June 19,** 8 pm. At the Shemtov’s Deck, 10 Brandt Road. Fee: \$36/\$25 early bird.

**SENIORS** *NOTE: To accommodate summer programs for children at the JCC, ALL SENIOR PROGRAMS (except Retired Men’s Club) will be held at Temple Sinai beginning the week of June 23rd and will return to the JCC on Tuesday, August 19th.*

|   |
|---|
| <b>JCC FATHER’S DAY LUNCHEON.</b> <b>Thursday, June 12.</b> \$3 suggested donation. Reserve by 6/6. 11:30 am - 1 pm. At the JCC. Live entertainment. Contact Connie Freeman at (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.  |
| <b>JCC SOCIAL SENIOR PROGRAMS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays:</b> Chair Exercise. 10:15 - 11 am. Senior Life Enhancement Classes: 11 - 11:45 am. Current Events, speakers, etc.</li><li>• <b>Fridays:</b> Morning Movie: 10 am. Enjoy a cup of coffee and a movie on a large screen TV in the Senior Adult Lounge. Free to all seniors.</li><li>• <b>Kosher Lunch</b> each day, 12 - 1 pm. Call Tuesday by 12 pm for Thursdays and Friday lunches; call Friday by 12 pm for Monday lunches. Transportation \$1 each way. Lunch \$3 suggested donation. <b>Birthday luncheon: June 24; July 29; August 26.</b> \$3 suggested donation.</li><li>• <b>Thursdays:</b> Fun and Games, 1 - 3 pm. Mah Jongg, Scrabble, Bridge, Pokeno etc. All welcome but 2 day advance reservation required for lunch and transportation. Free except suggested donation for lunch (\$3) and transportation (\$1 each way). For info: Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org</li></ul> |
| <b>JCC RETIRED MEN’S CLUB</b> <p>Meets <b>Mondays,</b> 10 - 11 am. <b>(MOVES TO TEMPLE BETH EL week of June 23 and returns to the JCC on August 18).</b> Fellowship, humor, and vibrant discussions (members only) 11 am - 1 pm: speaker and kosher lunch (community welcome). Bridge game after lunch. Reserve lunch (soup &amp; sandwich) 2 days before, \$3 suggested donation. Fee: \$50 p/ year (members free). For info: Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org</p>  |

### GOLF & TENNIS

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| <b>JCC GOLF &amp; TENNIS OUTING.</b> At Rockrimmon Country Club. <b>Monday, June 2.</b> To benefit the JCC JumpStart program for children with special needs. Includes a day of golf and tennis, lunch, cocktail hour and awards party. For player / sponsorship info, contact Shannon Jacobs at (203) 487-0965 or sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org. |
| <b>JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES WOMEN’S AUXILIARY LADIES DAY (JEWISH HOME).</b> <b>Golf &amp; Tennis Invitational. Monday, June 23.</b> To benefit the residents of The Jewish Home. At Birchwood Country Club, 25 Kings Highway South, Westport. For more info, call Dayna (203) 365-6409 or dhayden@seniors.org.                                |
| <b>JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES MEN’S CLUB GEORGE LIPTON GOLF &amp; TENNIS INVITATIONAL.</b> <b>Monday, June 23.</b> To benefit the residents of The Jewish Home. At Rockrimmon Country Club. For more info, call Dayna (203) 365-6409 or dhayden@seniors.org.  |

### SINGLES & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

**CHABAD - 20s AND 30s**

- **BBQ.** Usher in the summer and warm weather with a BBQ! **Sunday, June 15,** 5 pm. At Chabad. Fee: \$12 per person.

### FOR WOMEN

**CHABAD**

- **JWC GARDEN PARTY.** **Monday, Jun 9,** 7:45 pm. An evening to hang out with friends, sip a drink and discover what the summer can hold in store for you in personal growth and commitment. At a private home. Fee: \$15 /JWC members free.
- **PARENTING CLUB FOR MOMS.** Join other moms to discuss, debate and gain insight. Based on the book “Raising Your Kids Without Raising Your Voice” by Sarah Chana Radcliffe. **Thursday June 26,** 9:30 am in the Chabad Conference Room OR 8 pm at rotating homes. Fee: \$10 per class or \$50 for the session



# Eighteenth Annual Mitzvah Day at Temple Sinai

Temple Sinai participates in many social action projects throughout the calendar year, with the majority of projects focused on feeding the hungry. In addition, community service has been the focal point of a new monthly Saturday religious school class that includes students and their families who complement their

Judaic studies with various social action projects. Mitzvah Day at Temple Sinai is another example of community service outreach. Teens ventured as far as Fairfield to visit and do crafts with the elderly at the Jewish Home. Collections aimed even farther – at the continent of Africa in the Bicycles For Africa

drive. Temple volunteers went to Kids in Crisis, the Food Bank, Person to Person, New Covenant House, the Stamford Men’s Shelter, Abilis, the Boys and Girls Club of Stamford, Sunrise Assisted Living, Neighbors Link Stamford, the Stamford YMCA and the Yerwood Center.

# Temple Beth El Named a Cool Congregation

Temple Beth El in Stamford has been named a winner in the Cool Congregation Challenge, an annual contest held nationally by Interfaith Power and Light to recognize and inspire congregational leadership in the energy and climate arena. IPL is a faith-based organization that works with congregations across the U.S. to reduce the causes of global climate change through education, advocacy and action. The award was given to TBE in the category of “Renewable Role Model” for its solar panel installation last year. As the largest installation of its kind on a house of worship in the United States, the 210 kW photovoltaic solar panel system utilizes 845 (250 watt) panels on the synagogue’s 30,000 square foot, white “Energy Smart Solar Ready Roof” (with three inches of insulation). The estimated power production is 237,479 kWh per year, which will supply 70 percent of the synagogue’s annual electrical needs.

Challenge winners were chosen by a panel of experts from Interfaith Power and Light, EPA’s Energy Star, the National Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Green Building Council. “We are truly honored to receive this award,” said Sylvan Pomerantz, president of the Board of Trustees of TBE. “By helping reduce pollution and improve air quality in Connecticut, we practice *tikkun olam*, repair of the world, which urges us to fix what is broken in society.” The solar panel, roof replacement and capital energy upgrade program was accomplished through the generosity of the Mann family with their gift in memory of Norma Mann. Congregations interested in finding out more about TBE’s solar panel installation should contact Steve Lander, executive director, at 203-322-6901, ext. 304, or e-mail [execdir@tbe.org](mailto:execdir@tbe.org).



An aerial view of the solar installation (845 panels) on the roof of Temple Beth El.

# Historic Holocaust Remembrance Program

## Carmel Honors Former Japanese Diplomat

BY JULIE LAPIN Carmel Academy commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day with a program that brought together two schools and two cultures to honor an unsung hero of the Holocaust – former Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, whose actions saved the lives of 6,000 Jews. In the fall of 1939, as Jews across Eastern Europe faced extermination, Sugihara, the Japanese consul general in Lithuania, defied his government by writing thousands of transit visas that enabled hundreds of Jewish families to flee Europe to safe havens abroad. Sugihara sacrificed his career to help these Jews escape the Nazis. Carmel Academy, which leases part of its campus to the Greenwich Japanese School, brought the students from both schools together to honor this Japanese hero, a Righteous Among Nations, to learn together and create a memorial in his honor. Prior to the program, the fifth-eighth grade students in both schools learned about Sugihara in an age-appropriate curriculum designed specifically for the event. Rabbi Yossi Deren of Greenwich Chabad and his wife, Maryashie, spoke to the students about their own families’ experiences – both had grandfathers who escaped Lithuania through transit visas issued to them by Sugihara.



Avi Hurwitz, from Carmel Academy, and Ryotaro Oka, from the Greenwich Japanese School, worked with their peers to create a memorial in honor of Holocaust hero Chiune Sugihara.



Carmel alumni parent and former board member Beth Boyer unveiled a plaque honoring Japanese Holocaust hero Chiune Sugihara, who was honored by both Carmel Academy and the Greenwich Japanese School during a Holocaust Remembrance Day program.

“The story of Sugihara is one of incredible sacrifice,” Rabbi Deren told the 125 students gathered at the event. “There is a lot to say about the greatness of his sacrifice.” His brother married a woman whose grandfather was saved by Sugihara, as did his wife’s brother and sister-in-law. “There is no question today that if you could count the people alive in the world because of Sugihara, you will find the numbers in the tens of thousands who owe their lives to him,” Rabbi Deren said. It is estimated that at least 40,000 people owe their existence due to Sugihara’s heroism. “We are here today to say thank you. It is the biggest thank you we can give. It is a thank you for being alive,” said Rabbi Deren.

from both schools. The students also wrote thank-you letters to Sugihara that will be buried in a *genizah* (holy burial) with other holy objects to acknowledge the holy actions of Sugihara. In a formal dedication, the students and faculty unveiled a plaque donated by Carmel alumni parent and former board member Beth Boyer. The students ended the program by singing a song of peace, “Oseh Shalom.” “When I heard about Sugihara, I thought, ‘Wow – he is such an unsung hero.’ I thought, ‘Wow – 40,000 people are alive because of him.’ I feel great honor for him and I am honored to pay tribute to him today,” said sixth-grader Matthew Loren. Carmel Academy is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

# Bi-Cultural Students Race for Education

The program, which was in English and simultaneously translated into Japanese, began with students learning together about one’s identity. Students worked jointly to create a memorial in a school courtyard, decorating rocks with chrysanthemums – the imperial seal of Japan. The rocks were embedded into a cement memorial, surrounding the handprints of students

BY DORA SALM On April 2, the students of Bi-Cultural Day School put their best foot forward to support their school in the first-ever Race for Education. Bi-Cultural’s Parents Association worked for several months to organize and publicize the event. Each grade ran, jogged or walked as parents, teachers, friends and

family cheered them on with each new lap. The Race for Education raised more than \$29,000 for three specific programs at the school: the after-school sports program, the annual health week and the Banot (Israeli girls) program. Bi-Cultural Day School is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

## Basket. . . . . Continued from page 8

thereby raising significant funds for JFS.” The mitzvah baskets can be ordered by contacting Rebekah Kanefsky at [rkanefsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanefsky@ctjfs.org) or by calling 203-921-4161. JFS offers free pick-up and delivery of the centerpieces; the rental fee is 100 percent tax-deductible. The centerpieces are also environmentally-friendly, as they can be reused. To learn more about the JFS Kosher Food Pantry or to make a donation, visit [www.ctjfs.org](http://www.ctjfs.org) or call 203-921-4161.

Lynn Saltz is the Jewish Family Service marketing and communications associate. Jewish Family Services is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.



Fifth-graders Benjamin Meyers and Zevi Mehl high-fived other runners. (Photo by Kathryn Danner)



Fourth-grader Aaron Liebskind (in front) ran with third-graders (l-r) Rebecka Grunberg, Taylor Newman-White and Celia Baer. (Photo by Kathryn Danner)

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

# Carmel Academy Students Make the Right Moves

## Second-Grader Wins Chess Trophy in First Competition

Second-grader Evan Roth was so inspired by his weekly chess class at Carmel Academy, the young Stamford resident urged his parents to let him try his hand at a regional chess tournament.

On a recent Sunday, Roth and classmate Andrew Goldstein ventured to White Plains, where they represented Carmel Academy at a National Scholastic Chess Foundation tournament.

The two friends were both placed in the tournament's unrated primary category. The pair won several matches between the two of them during the daylong competition, and Roth walked away with a trophy.

"The experience was a such a confidence builder for them, competing as they had never done before and winning some matches," said Roth's mother, Dana.

The two boys started taking weekly chess classes at Carmel in first grade as part of the school's integrated curriculum. Once a week Carmel's first- and second-graders exchange pencils and books for chessboards and chessmen, as some of Carmel's youngest students learn how to play this centuries-old game. The classes are taught by professional instructors from the NSCF.

"I love chess," said Roth, who practices his chess



*L-r: Ari Ben-Zvi, Jacob Lebwohl and Micah Taffet, members of the Carmel Academy Chess Team, posed with a trophy at a recent competition. In April, Carmel Academy hosted a regional chess competition at the school.*

skills at home with his father and also participates in Carmel's afterschool chess program. "You use your brain a lot and you have to think in the future to plan your moves."

"At Carmel, our goal across the board is to enable critical thinking skills, which then enable our students to solve problems in life – in all aspects of life," said Cindy Mann, Carmel's director of general studies curriculum and professional development.

According to the NSCF, research shows that it's advantageous to start learning how to play chess at a young age, as chess improves critical thinking, analytical logic and problem solving skills.

"Chess helps to foster these skills," Mann said. "The game teaches how to creatively find new solutions, identify paths that may not be obvious at first, to think, plan, and then act."

According to the NSCF, chess also encourages children to overcome the fear of risk-taking – something that both Goldstein and Roth said they experienced first-hand when they decided to compete in the tournament.

"I was very nervous at first," said Goldstein about the tournament. "But then I had so much fun."

"We can't wait to do it again," said Roth.

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



# ADULT EDUCATION

June & July / August 2014

Members and non members are warmly invited to all events listed.  
See contact info below for more info, to confirm programs and to register.

### UJF

#### COMMUNITY TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Evening of Torah, Conversation, Music, Meditation, Prayer and Cheesecake.  
Tuesday, June 7. 7-10 pm.

### HADASSAH

#### BOOK CLUB

**Wednesdays**, 7 pm. For location and more info, contact rhonda.greif@gmail.com or (203) 829-9341.

- June 11, "A Guide for the Perplexed" by Dara Horn
- July 23, "Jacobs Folly" by Rebecca Miller

### TEMPLE BETH EL

#### SACRED ENCOUNTERS

**Tuesdays**, 7:30 pm. Kabbalistic study using "The Lost Princess" by Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. With Cantor George Mordecai. Free. For info, (203) 322-6901 x 303 or cantormordecai@tbe.org

### AGUDATH SHOLOM

#### DVAR YOM B'YOMO

With Rabbi Walk. **Mondays**, 12:20 pm at Bicultural Day School. An in-depth look at one topical issue each week, either from the weekly portion or upcoming Jewish holiday.

#### PARSHA PERSPECTIVES AND PARADIGMS

**Tuesdays**, 12:20 - 1 pm at Bi-Cultural Day School with Rabbi Daniel Cohen. Glean relevant life messages from the weekly torah portion. Free.

#### TASTE OF TORAH

**Fridays**, 8:15 - 8:45 am with Rabbi Daniel Cohen. Unlock a fresh perspective and fascinating idea from the Torah. Understand the Torah as a guide for life through the prism of classic commentators.

### JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**A CHILD OF CHRISTIAN BLOOD:** Murder And Conspiracy In Tsarist Russia: The Beilis Blood Libel. **Sunday, June 1**, 5 pm. Note Location: At Darien Library, 1441 Post Rd. Speaker & Author: Edmund Levin. For more info: elissa@de-kaplan.com Free.

### JCC

#### SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL

Lunch And Learn with Matan Samovsky, Israeli Shaliach. **Thursdays**, 12 - 1 pm at the JCC. **May 22:** Politics in Israel: The Right, The Left, Political Parties & the Last Election. With short videos and time for Q&A. Bring your lunch – dairy desert provided. Free. To register or for info: (203) 487-0961 or msamovsky@stamfordjcc.org

### JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES

**SEINFELD AND AGING: What Popular Culture Can Teach Us About Caring for Older Adults. Wednesday, May 28**, 7:30 pm at The Jewish Home 175 Jefferson Street, Fairfield. With Mark Lachs, MD, MPH • Clinical Director, Cornell Center for Aging Research and Clinical Care • Professor of Medicine & Co-Chief, Geriatrics and Gerontology, Weill Cornell Medical College • Director of Geriatrics, New York-Presbyterian Healthcare System. For more info/ RSVP, contact Kim Gintoli (203) 365-6463 or kgintoli@jseniors.org

### CHABAD

#### LUNCH & LEARN

Kabbalistic insights on different topics that pertain to our lives today. Every **Wednesday, June 11, 18, 25**. 11:30 am - 12:45 pm. \$5 per class includes lunch.

#### EVENING OF TRIBUTE TO THE REBBE

**Monday, June 30**. 7:45 pm

### TEMPLE SINAI

#### BEGINNERS' TORAH STUDY

With Melissa Cohavi. **Every Friday**, noon - 1 pm. Basic discussions about the Torah, its laws, its stories, and the ancient people. Bring your lunch. Free.

#### BIBLE STUDY

With Rabbi Eugene Borowitz. **Every Saturday**, 9 am. Share in Shabbat and study Torah. No Fee.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER PROGRAMS AND TO REGISTER CONTACT:

#### UJF Jewish Education & Engagement Program

(203) 321-1373  
www.ujf.org  
rabbimollykarp@gmail.com

#### Temple Beth El

350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford  
(203) 322-6901, ext. 306  
education@tbe.org  
www.tbe.org

#### Chabad

770 High Ridge Road, Stamford  
(203) 3-CHABAD, ext. 418  
morahleah@chabadstamford.org

#### Congregation Agudath Sholom

301 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford  
(203) 358-2200  
www.agudathsholom.org

#### UConn Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies

1 University Place, Stamford  
(203) 251-9525  
www.stamford.uconn.edu/cjmes  
stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu

#### Temple Sinai

458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford  
(203) 322-1649  
www.templesinaistamford.org

#### JCC - Jewish Community Center

1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford  
(203) 322-7900  
www.stamfordjcc.org

#### Jewish Historical Society

(203) 321-1373, ext. 150  
jhs1fc@yahoo.com or  
www.jhsfc-ct.org

#### Young Israel of Stamford

69 Oaklawn Ave., Stamford  
(203) 348-3955  
www.yistamford.org





Join the UJF on this exciting mission:

# Israel <sup>in the</sup> Century 21<sup>st</sup>.

Visit Israel in 2014

with an extension to Turkey:

Tuesday Oct. 21st to Monday Nov. 3rd



SodaStream Factory



Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu



Meet With  
Gil Hoffman  
Senior Editor

**Turkey: Tuesday Oct. 21st to Sunday Oct. 26th**

**Israel: Sunday Oct. 26th to Monday Nov. 3rd**

Participants on "Israel in the Twenty First Century" will gain an insider's perspective on the challenges currently faced by the "start-up nation." The Israel portion of the trip will expose travelers to contemporary issues such as how politics interacts with industry and community development, the effects of the new gas fields discovered off the coast of Israel and the latest issues on Israel's security.

For those interested, we will start the trip in Istanbul, Turkey to explore first hand some of the challenges Israel faces from the outside as well as Turkey's incredible Jewish heritage. And throughout the Mission, we will be able to see UJF's dollars at work.

Tour Conducted by Mabat Platinum Ltd.

Includes five dinners in Israel and three in Turkey. Airfare not included.

• Hotels: The Mamara Pera Hotel in Istanbul; Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv; Kibbutz Lavi Hotel, Galilee; and the David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem.

• Costs:

\$2,907 for Israel only (based on 20 participants single supplement \$1,176)

\$1,330 for Turkey only (based on 6 participants)

\$4,237 for the entire trip

• For information, please contact Mission Chair Jerry Knopf - [gknopf@stamfordctattorney.com](mailto:gknopf@stamfordctattorney.com)  
or Jim Cohen - [jcohen@ujf.org](mailto:jcohen@ujf.org)



Jewish Museum of Turkey



Istanbul Fish Market



Neve Shalom Synagogue

BY ALBERT MAKAVOZ

I emigrated from the U.S.S.R. in 1980 and settled permanently in Stamford. I am 65 now, so my life is split almost evenly between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. In my senior year at Belorussian University, I was expelled for calling Israel my ideological motherland. But that was not enough: They also fired my brother, who happened to be a professor at the same university. Needless to say, I never felt good about the Soviets, but I did feel good about the Russians, Ukrainians, or Belorussians, not that I could tell the difference. Some of them were antisemites, some were not. My best friend at high school was Alex Panchenko, a Ukrainian whose father was the chief doctor at the city hospital, who probably saved my life.

# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

"The New Jewish Voice" (USPS #428) is published monthly by the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Inc., 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT 06905-2521.

**www.ujf.org for updates and donations**

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

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 Sandy Golove at sandy@ujf.org  
 marked "Stamford Voice" in the subject line.  
 Expect an acknowledgement;  
 please re-send if you do not receive one.

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*L-r: Mark Frank and Joanne Lowin, participants in the JFS Jewish Twenties and Thirties program, were proud to deliver a Passover bag donation to local needy families.*



## Student Writers Shine in Stamford Literary Competition

BY DORA SALM

If the pen is mightier than the sword, then students at Bi-Cultural Day School proved that they have powers judging by the awards at this year's annual Ferguson Library Stamford Literary Competition. Students in grades three-12 who live or attend school in Stamford were invited to submit original works of fiction, non-fiction or poetry, and BCDS writers won in numerous categories.

The winners included Emily Seligson (grade 4), third prize for fiction; Daniel Janush (grade 4), honorable mention for fiction; Brandon Shapiro (grade 4), second prize for poetry; Jordana Raich (grade 6), second prize in fiction; Avi Shein (grade 6), first prize for non-fiction;

Rina Marlowe (grade 6), first prize in poetry; Sarah Hanna (grade 6), third prize in poetry; Gabriel Sweck (grade 6), honorable mention on poetry; Helene Leichter (grade 7), second prize in non-fiction; and Liam Bodurtha (grade 8), first prize in non-fiction.

In addition to current students, two alumni won in the high school division: Richard Greenbaum (grade 10 at Westhill High School) won first prize in non-fiction and Valerie Bodurtha (Horace Mann High School) won second prize in fiction and second prize in non-fiction.

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



*The Bi-Cultural Day School winners of the Ferguson Library Stamford Literary Competition are (l-r): Daniel Janush (front), Helene Leichter, Sarah Hanna, Rina Marlowe, Liam Bodurtha, Emily Seligson and Jordana Raich. (Not pictured are Gabriel Dweck, Brandon Shapiro and Avi Shein.) (Photo by Dora Salm)*

## Bat Mitzvah Club Packs Shalach Manot



*The Bat Mitzvah Club meets at Chabad Stamford eight times during the year to help the girls discover the specialness of becoming a bat mitzvah. They met and helped pack shalach manot over Purim. L-r: Shira Cohen, Gaby Hirschfield, Yael Roll, Rivky Kesselman, Leah Shemtov, Shternie Shemtov, Mussie Shemtov, Rena Marlowe and Ally Manevich*



*L-r: Abby Wexler, Hadas Niv, Shira Parhi, Rena Marlowe, Maya Jubas, Ashley Shapiro, Sydney Eben, Kayla Rosovsky, Shira Cohen, Yael Roll, Ally Manevich and Leah Jacobson.*

## JHSC Students Meet Ralph Nader

Students from the Jewish High School of Connecticut's "Power and Society" class attended a panel event called "Shake Up Yale Law" at Yale University, and met with consumer advocate Ralph Nader and whistle-blower attorney Jeselyn Radack.

The discussion focused on lawyering ethics, whistle-blowing and the state of national security. In an additional hour-long session, students spoke directly with Nader, one of the most influential consumer advocates in American history, and Radack, who is currently serving as attorney to Edward Snowden. Topics ranged from corporate control of democracy, Snowden's case, constitutional

law and how students can impact their communities. "Our students received compliments for their pointed questions and enthusiasm to engage in complex issues," said Andrew Kordik, JHSC history teacher.

The elective class, "Power and Society," provides students with multiple frameworks through which to view and better understand how power operates. Kordik said the panel was particularly useful after the teaching of Michel Foucault's idea of "panopticism."

The Jewish High School of Connecticut is located at 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge. For more information, visit to [www.jhsct.org](http://www.jhsct.org).



*L-r: Junior Adina Heiser, of Norwalk; seniors Emma Stein, of Weston, and Alex Schiff, of Milford; Ralph Nader; juniors Batsheva Labowe-Stoll, of New Haven, and Talia Weseley, of Weston; freshman Jacques Ben-Avie, of New Haven; and Andrew Kordik, JHSC history teacher.*

## Carmel Girls' Varsity Wins First Place in Basketball

For its third year, Carmel Academy hosted four Connecticut day schools for the day-long Seder Plate Basketball Tournament. More than 80 athletes competed, including the varsity boys' and girls' teams from Bi-Cultural Day School, Ezra Academy of Woodbridge and Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford.

"There was a wonderful sense of community, with athletes throughout Connecticut congregating on our campus," said Carmel Academy's Head of School Nora Anderson. "Our students were filled with such pride to be the tournament host. Our young athletes worked hard throughout the season and played with tremendous heart, compassion, pride and spirit. They showed exemplary sportsmanship and respect for one another and their guests."

The Carmel girls' varsity team took the first-place trophy, winning all three of the girls' tournament games. Solomon Schechter Day School took the first-place trophy in the boys' tournament.

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



*Members of the Carmel Academy girls' varsity basketball team at the Seder Plate Basketball Tournament, which was hosted by the school.*

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



## “Creating a Jewish Future”

Wednesday June 18, 2014 7:00 pm

Temple Sinai

458 Lakeside Dr. Stamford, CT 06903

### Featuring



Yarden Fanta-Vagenshtein

Dr. Yarden Fanta-Vagenshtein is a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University. In 1985, when she emigrated from Ethiopia to Israel, she did not know how to read or write. In 2005, she completed her Ph.D. in education at Tel Aviv University, becoming the first Ethiopian woman to earn a doctorate in Israel. Dr. Fanta-Vagenshtein was a teaching fellow at Tel Aviv University (1998-2005). She presented key Israeli immigrant, educational and political issues to world leaders as Emissary for the State of Israel, the Jewish Agency for Israel (1997-2005); and served on the board of directors overseeing Israel's Community Centers for the Ministry of Education (1994-1997). Dr. Fanta-Vagenshtein is investigating immigrants in the United States, particularly the factors that impact cognitive skills, employability, social integration, and language acquisition in diverse immigrant groups, as well as developing curricula to assist with immigrant population assimilation.

The evening will also include:

- Kulanu Graduation 2014
- Helen S. and Isadore Mark Teen Leadership Award
- “Match Game” in support of P.J. Library and Beit Singer
- Announcement of our Back to School Program and more!

For information, contact Elanit - [elanit@ujf.org](mailto:elanit@ujf.org)

