

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020/KISLEV-TEVET-SHEVAT 5780
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 8

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

European Jewry at a Crossroads

Chief Rabbi of Moscow to Speak at CAS

The community is invited to hear Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, chief rabbi of Moscow, speak about “European Jewry at a Crossroads” on Monday, December 16, at 7:30 pm, at Congregation Agudath Sholom, 301 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford. The event is being hosted by Congregation Agudath Sholom’s Adult Education Committee.

“It is an honor for Agudath Sholom to host Chief Rabbi Goldschmidt of Moscow,” said Rabbi Daniel Cohen. “He is a leader for European



Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, chief rabbi of Moscow

Jewry. He will address the challenges our brothers and sister confront in Europe. We are united as one people and it is important for us to strengthen our bonds as a nation. The evening is also an opportunity for our community to gain a deeper appreciation for the Russian Jewish community in our midst.”

Rabbi Goldschmidt has been the chief rabbi of Moscow, Russia, since 1993, serving at the Moscow Choral Synagogue. He also

See “European” on page 6

Father/Daughter Team Highlight Annual Jewish Education Panel

Rabbi Michael Taubes, *rosh yeshiva* at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University, and his daughter Shuli Taubes, Judaic studies instructor at SAR High School in Riverdale, NY, will highlight the annual Challenges in



Shuli Taubes



Rabbi Michael Taubes

Jewish Education Panel, to be held at Young Israel of Stamford, 69 Oaklawn Ave., on Saturday, January 11. The panel will begin at 11 am, immediately after morning services, and run for about an hour.

See “Panel” on page 6

UJF Launches Math Mates

New Tutoring Program in Stamford Public Schools

United Jewish Federation announced the launch of Math Mates, a math tutoring program for students in the Stamford elementary schools system. Math Mates is based on the idea of Joy Katz, who volunteered tutoring math for several years in the elementary schools. Katz, who is currently the president of the Jewish Community Center, brought her idea to develop a larger volunteer program to the Federation, where a similar program for reading tutoring has been in place since 1999.

“As a past volunteer in the public school system, I have seen kids who weren’t getting the attention at home

to help them with basic math skills and so they relied on their phones to do simple math,” said Katz. “I felt that a program similar to Reading Partners, where kids could receive math help early in their education, would be a real boost to their math ability moving forward. I’m very excited that UJF will now be launching Math Mates into the elementary schools and assisting those kids who have been struggling with math.”

“Math Mates will pilot in January of 2020 in three schools, with tutors aiding students in the kindergarten and

See “Math” on page 2

Heart Songs

Temple Sinai Annual Cantor’s Concert

On Sunday, December 15, at Temple Sinai, 458 Lakeside Dr., Stamford, Cantor Micah Morgovsky will present a solo concert titled “Heart Songs.” The music will center on expressions of the heart and soul. Cantor Morgovsky’s selections will reflect the need to safely share innermost thoughts and aspirations.

Cantor Morgovsky reflected, “Music gives voice to that which we so often keep hidden – our hopes, our dreams, our longing. My hope is that in sharing these songs, songs that are deeply emotional and personal, those lis-



Cantor Micah Morgovsky

tening might feel inspired to lean into their own vulnerability. When we open our hearts, we invite others to draw closer.”

There will be a pre-concert reception beginning at 4:30 pm and the concert will begin promptly at 5:30 pm. Seating is limited for the annual event, and tickets can be purchased in advance either online at www.templestain Stamford.org or by calling Shelly Welfeld at Temple Sinai at 203-322-1649.

Concert proceeds will support spiritual music and arts programming at Temple Sinai.

Candle Lighting	2	Bits & Pieces	6	UJF Annual Meeting	9	Chanukah	13	PJ Library	17	Voices & Views	18
-----------------	---	---------------	---	--------------------	---	----------	----	------------	----	----------------	----



Federation Donors Meet with Isaac Herzog

United Jewish Federation joined Isaac Herzog (seated in the center), chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, for a leadership briefing. Herzog was in Stamford as part of a conference for shlichim (emissaries), a Jewish Agency initiative that trains and sends hundreds of young Israeli emissaries throughout the world to strengthen Jewish identity and connection to Israel. The Jewish Agency is a partner and beneficiary of United Jewish Federation. See page 19 for further coverage. (Photo by Aviva Maller, Aviva Maller Photography and Events)

From the UJF President

BY RICKY ARBRON

As I write my last article as president of United Jewish Federation, I think back to the beginning of my involvement with Federation. It was through the then UJF education department that I was drawn to the organization, where I was given the opportunity to learn and evolve Jewishly. I have always looked at life as an evolution: a circle that continues to go round and round as we learn, grow and evolve.

Very soon after I became president of UJF, our then CEO announced his departure. I felt alone, but knew that I had a community behind me as well as past presidents and Federation leadership to help. I was influenced by an article I read and it gave me great direction in my new role. It was by Elle Allison titled “The Resilient Leader.” As stated by Ms. Allison, “In the face of change and crisis, the resource we need most is our resilience.” She outlined various resilience risks and, although all resonated with me, there was one that guided me forward and through my presidency. The message was that top leaders must not stop learning. In fact, one cannot evolve without learning. So I continued to learn together with our community, took best practices from other Federations and worked through a strategic process to make our community a better place.

It’s hard to believe that it has been three years since I became president. My partnership with all of you has been wonderful. I love our Jewish community more than ever. I welcomed understanding our challenges, speaking with you and hearing your comments and dreams about our community. While it is a gift to continue to learn, dreaming big with all of you has been wonderful as well.



Ricky Arbron,
UJF president

Over the last year and a half, we have worked hard to develop a new campaign model titled “Campaign for Communal Needs.” This new model was the result of working with representatives from the various organizations across the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish communities to re-invent Federation’s mission, vision and purpose. I look forward to seeing how the results of our efforts will strengthen and impact us all.

I thank Ellen Weber, past president, for mentoring me and have confidence that David Gordon, our new president, will be excellent as we move forward. Our Federation staff, led by our CEO Diane Sloyer, has been amazing!

I have had the privilege over the last three years to meet with so many of you, attend high level security briefings, travel to St. Petersburg and Israel to see the incredible work of our partners overseas, including our sister region of Afula/Gilboa, and meet so many other community Federation lay and staff members. This has been my personal blessing and privilege. I have read books to children as part of our PJ Library program, have visited some of the elderly and have

made many new friends. I have been made to feel comfortable and welcomed throughout and for that I say, “Thank You!”

Unfortunately, antisemitism and the need for greater security have become a greater issue than I think any of us would have expected even five years ago. We have had to spend countless hours focusing on the new normal of hate. I hope as we go forward, we can continue as a community to be respectful of our differences and realize how much more we have in common than we are different.

One of the things I’ve learned is that we never finish learning Torah... and I believe most importantly, God wants us to learn it so that we can live better, each trying to move towards being a *tzadik*, a righteous person (although I realize that most of us will never get there – hey, it’s the journey, not the destination!). I remember, when my kids were in religious school, learning from Rabbi Sharon Sobel that Torah is the never ending story. We go around year after year in circles, but each year with more insight. When we end a section of the Torah, we say “*chazak, chazak, v’nitchazek*,” which means “be strong, be strong and we will be strengthened.” This is my hope and prayer for the future of our community and the Jewish people.

Embracing Community

BY GREG WALDSTREICHER

I was born in Stamford, CT. I attended Sara Walker Nursery School, participated in sports at the Jewish Community Center, belonged to Congregation Agudath Sholom, attended Bi-Cultural and spent my summers at Camp Laurelwood and the Newfield Swim Club. When my wife, Rachel, and I thought about where we wanted to live and raise our family, there was no doubt Stamford was the community for us.

Rachel and I moved here in 2017 with our son, Jackson. We have since added twins Warren and Lincoln to our crew and are incredibly happy to call Stamford home.

Upon our arrival, we received a Shalom Welcome Visit from United Jewish Federation. We were involved with the Federation in Boston and appreciated the warm welcome. I was asked to join the UJF board as part of their effort to engage new “younger” board members and decided to join because the communal aspect of UJF spoke to me. While many different aspects of the community shaped me, I felt UJF would provide me the opportunity to make an immediate impact.

Before I knew it, I was on a strategic planning committee to re-envision the important role UJF plays in the community. A year and a half later, I am incredibly proud to have been part of the creation of UJF’s new fundraising model, “a campaign for communal needs.”

A major part of UJF’s new fundraising model is the ability for you, the donor, to direct your donation. There are 24 fundraising menu items, including Israel and Overseas, that will grow and strengthen our community. The menu is diverse and supports



Greg and Rachel Waldstreicher with their three sons. (Children’s names withheld on request.)

new programs and projects throughout the community as proposed by UJF, JCC, Bi-Cultural, Jewish Family Services, Agudath Sholom, Temple Beth El and many others.

It is important to note that fundraising for the 24 menu items is the sole responsibility of UJF and the participating community organizations have agreed not to independently fundraise for their specific menu items.

It is your community, your donation and your choice. It is about donor intent and transparency and I am grateful for being part of this new fundraising model development. Rachel and I are excited to see where it takes us as a community!

Greg Waldstreicher is a member of United Jewish Federation’s Board of Directors.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

November 29.....	4:09 pm
December 6.....	4:08 pm
December 13.....	4:08 pm
December 20.....	4:10 pm
December 27.....	4:14 pm
January 3.....	4:20 pm
January 10.....	4:27 pm
January 17.....	4:34 pm
January 24.....	4:43 pm
January 31.....	4:51 pm
February 7.....	5 pm

Happy Chanukah!

Dry Cleaning, Laundry, Flat work
Pick up / Delivery
All Work Done On Premises

Frank Policastro/Owner (203) 323-0507
48 Crescent Street cleanerman@aol.com
Stamford, CT 06905 www.crescentcleaners.com

שיר עמי
Congregation Shir Ami
and our new
Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Jill Abramson,

Welcome you to join us this year for

Chanukah Live!

- Shabbat/Chanukah Live! Dinner and Celebration
12/20 6:30 – 9:30 PM Singing, music, candles,
& a delicious Pot Luck Feast! Get tickets online now!
- Participate in our Chanukah Pop- Up Choir
3 Rehearsals: 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 7:00 – 8:30 PM
All Singers Welcome - no charge but register online.
Choir will sing at Chanukah Live!
- Support our Abilis Holiday Gift Drive

Register at www.congregationshirami.org

Shir Ami is a small, warm and inclusive Reform Jewish community that worships, learns, cares, gives, sings and celebrates together

shirami.info@gmail.com or call 203-900-7976

Math.

first grade who need a boost in math skills,” shared Director Lenore Fogel. “We have over 100 Reading Partner volunteers and have been in existence for 20 years. We are excited to expand to include math.”

Continued from page 1

Please support our advertisers and tell them
you saw their ad here in

DR. WENDY WOLFSON
PSYCHIATRIST

917.499.8250

drwendy@drwendywolfson.com

www.drwendywolfson.com

Specializing in the medical management of mood and anxiety disorders and ADD in teens and adults •

Happy Chanukah!

2 West 46th Street
Suite #907
New York, NY 10036

21 Locust Avenue
Suite 1D
New Canaan, CT 06840

246 Post Road East
2nd Floor
Westport, CT 06840

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bi-Cultural to Honor Community Leaders at Annual Dinner

BY JUDIE JACOBSON

Several leaders of the local Jewish community will be honored for their commitment to Jewish education and their dedication to community service at the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Celebration Dinner, to be held on Sunday, January 12, at 5:30 pm, at the Hilton Stamford Hotel. The theme of this year's dinner is "Imagine. Design. Create."

The evening's honorees include Guests of Honor Elise and Steven Cohen of Stamford, who will be recognized for their contributions to the school and to the community as a whole. Other Celebration Dinner award recipients include Alice and Jason Janush, Community Service Award; Tina and Yossi Notik, Young Leadership Award; and Laura Kassen, Alumni Award. The Jane Shoztic Memorial Award, presented annually to an outstanding member of the Bi-Cultural staff, will be given to David Giver, head of the upper school Humanities Department.

According to the Cohens, they settled in Stamford in 1990 and immediately set out to become an integral part of the city's Jewish community. They



Elise and Steven Cohen

said they were committed to providing their children with a superior Jewish day school education and found what they were looking for at Bi-Cultural Day School (now Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy). The Cohens are the parents of three Bi-Cultural alumni: Ariella (2007), who is married to Dr. Eitan Fleischman; Tamar (2009) and Jacob (2012).

The Cohens are active in Stamford's Jewish communal life.

Elise is a board member at Congregation Agudath Sholom and serves on the Stamford Chevra Kadisha. She previously served on the board of Schoke Jewish Family Service and, over the years, has also served on numerous volunteer committees. Together with Steven, she is a past chair of the Bi-Cultural Celebration Dinner. Professionally, Elise is a guidance counselor at a Westchester County middle school.

Steven served for 12 years as a member of the Bi-Cultural board and Executive Committee. He also served as a longtime member of the school's Marketing Committee and has provided pro bono legal services to the school. As a member of the

school's Transition Committee, he helped facilitate its 2018 merger. In addition, Steven also served on the Board of Directors of Congregation Agudath Sholom and Schoke Jewish Family Service, and as a member of the Diabetes Advisory Board of the Berrie Center at Columbia Presbyterian. Professionally, Steven is managing director and general counsel with InTandem Capital Partners, a private equity firm in New York City.

For information on the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Celebration Dinner, contact Rachel Cohen at rcohen@bcha-ct.org or 203-329-2186.

Deadline for articles

The deadline for the next issue of *The New Jewish Voice* is:

Monday, January 6 February

Send *New Jewish Voice* article submissions to Sandy Golove at sandy@ujf.org marked "Stamford Voice" in the subject line. Expect an acknowledgment; please re-send if you do not receive one.

Chabad of Stamford Hosts Annual Gala Dinner Celebration

Chabad of Stamford will host its annual Gala Dinner Celebration on Saturday, January 25, at the Stamford Hilton Hotel starting at 7 pm. The evening will start with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and the auction, followed by dinner, awards and entertainment, with a dessert buffet to follow.

This year's Gala Dinner will be a night celebrating community, kindness and caring for others. "The evening will highlight a combination of enchantment and humor by renowned illusionist Ilan Smith coming from South Africa and making it a magical and mystifying experience," according to Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad.

The Gan auction will feature a new addition this year focusing on "experiences," as well as Judaic artwork by artist Michel Schwartz and creations by the Gan Yeladim children.

Every year, Chabad picks honorees who exemplify kindness and caring for others in a way that make a difference in the community. This year the following are honored.



Deena and Howard Graber

Deena and Howard Graber will receive the Lamplighter Award. Howard is a lawyer in Stamford and Deena has a psychotherapy practice. Deena grew up in Stamford and the couple has been involved with Chabad for almost 25 years. Their daughters are Gan alumnae and Howard has hosted weekly Torah classes in his downtown office. Together, they have hosted Chabad's annual "High For the High Holidays"

community *Tashlich* event each year between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for the past nine years.

The Young Leadership Award will go to Wendy and Lance Beder. Wendy and Lance moved to Stamford in December 2005 from South Africa. Lance is a partner at Grant Thornton, where he has worked since 2010 in transactional services. Wendy has been director of admissions at Gan Yeladim for 13 years. They have two children, Joshua and Jenna, who are both Gan alumni.

See "Gala" on page 6



Wendy and Lance Beder and family (children's names held on request)



Shoshana and Seth Lubin and family (children's names held on request)

➡ Visit www.ujf.org or facebook.com/stamfordFederation

Ethics and Professionalism

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

On October 30, United Jewish Federation held a networking and educational program titled “Ethics and Professionalism” at Serendipity Labs, a shared workspace in Harbor Point in Stamford. Community members were invited to mingle and make new connections, followed by a panel discussion. This program marked the first time professionals from the three UJF affinity groups were brought together, and it offered an educational experience and a chance for guests to make business-to-business connections. UJF’s professional affinity groups include Cardozo Society (law), Maimonides Society (medicine) and Rothschild Society (business).

During the educational part of the evening, guests heard case studies on three ethical issues involving the fields of law, medicine and business. The panel was moderated by Andrew



L-r: Panelists Dr. Joe Feuerstein, Shushannah Walshe, Andrew Bein and Jennie Woltz.

Bein, head of business at Loeb NYC. Panelists included Dr. Joseph Feuerstein, director of integrative medicine at Stamford Hospital and assistant professor at Columbia University; Jennie Woltz, senior counsel at Greenwald Doherty LLP, who works in the field of labor and employment law; and Shushannah Walshe, editor at large at IJR (Independent Journal Review)



L-r: Myrna Sessa, Julie Abraham Sacks and Bruce Sacks chatted with event sponsor Mark Schwartz of Schwartz and Associates.



L-r: Attendees included Claudia Rimerman, Julie Daniel, Keith Friedman, Adam Furmansky, Shushannah Walshe, Stephanie Becker and Aviva Maller.

and former deputy political director at ABC News. The interactive program gave guests a chance to weigh-in and comment on what they would do in each ethical case study.

UJF thanks the program sponsors, Serendipity Labs and Mark Schwartz

of Schwartz and Associates. Besides aiding thousands in need, UJF provides engaging educational programs in the greater Stamford community. To learn more about UJF and upcoming programs, visit www.ujf.org or contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



L-r: Panelist Jennie Woltz and attendees Howland Gordon, Rob Hoff, Elliot Sloyer, Greg Waldstreicher and Howie Goldstein networked before the panel program.

Anachnu Participants Meditate and Breathe at Chair Yoga

A Chair Yoga session was facilitated by Raema Salmon for the Holocaust survivors who regularly attend the Anachnu program of Schoke Jewish Family Service. About 13 seniors joined in the event at the Schoke JFS office in Stamford and were instructed on how to breathe, stretch and meditate to lower their stress and exercise their bodies.

Anachnu is a program supported by a grant from Jewish Federation of North America’s Center for Holocaust Survivor Care and is made possible by Schoke JFS. The grant helps advance person-centered, trauma-informed supportive services for Holocaust survivors in Fairfield County. The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany has donated a grant to support the welfare of the aging population of Holocaust survivors.



L-r: Genya Saldan, Galina Kats and Svetlana Schwartzman enjoyed Chair Yoga.

For more information about upcoming Anachnu events, contact Marina Sapir at 203-921-4161 or e-mail msapir@ctjfs.org.

UJF’s Cardozo Law Society Invites You to an Educational Program Entitled:

“Staying on the Ethical Path: Legal Ethics & Malpractice”

Learn about the ethical and professional challenges facing lawyers and law firms today that seek to operate a profitable enterprise while maintaining the highest standards of conduct.

Featuring:
Jeffrey Cunningham & Mike Trippico
Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan LLP Morrison Mahoney LLP

Moderator: Rob Hoff of Wiggin & Dana

Wednesday, December 4, 2019
6:30pm Dinner - 7:15pm Program

Wiggin & Dana LLP,
Two Stamford Plaza, 281 Tresser Blvd., 7th Fl., Stamford

\$36 in advance / \$45 at the door / \$180 sponsorship opportunity

1 Ethics CLE credit provided by our sponsor Wiggin & Dana

Sign up at www.ujf.org/malpractice

Committee: Mel Bloomenthal, Jeffrey Cunningham, Julie Daniel, Stephen Davidson, Adam Furmansky, Rob Hoff, Howland Gordon, Sandra Gottlin, Jerry Knopf, Jason Lewis, Sam Raymond, Cathy Satz, Maya Sparks, Steve Steinmetz and Howard Wolfe

For more information contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org

UJF’S JCRC & JFACT invite the community to a legislative briefing to hear from State-elected officials.

December 11, 6 PM

Congregation Agudath Sholom,
301 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford
Light refreshments
RSVP required at www.ujf.org/briefing19

For information call Diane Sloyer
(203) 321-1373/105 or Dianesloyer@ujf.org

Schoke Jewish Family Service Thanks its Volunteers!

Schoke Jewish Family Service showed its appreciation for its volunteers at a recent breakfast in its Stamford office. Almost 20 volunteers attended to eat a light meal and learn how to maintain the privacy of the clients they assist, how to handle the sensitivities of the Schoke JFS client and mandatory reporting of an issue with a client. In addition, the background of the Holocaust survivor population (served by the Anachnu program) was described by Marina Sapir, coordinator of the program.

Each volunteer was awarded a certificate and a longstem rose, along with words of gratitude and thanks for the

time and service the volunteers provide.

Schoke JFS is searching for volunteers to stock the Freedberg Kosher Food Pantry, deliver meals to clients who are homebound through its Hirsch Kosher Home Delivered Meal Program, transport Holocaust survivors to events and assist with the meal preparation, or distribute Rosh Hashanah and Passover gift bags to clients who need traditional foods. Those interested in volunteering should contact Jill Knopoff, volunteer coordinator, at 203-998-7847 or e-mail jknopoff@ctjfs.org. For more information, visit <https://ctjfs.salsalabs.org/volunteersignupform/index.html>.



Seated (l-r): Rebekah Kanefsky, director of case management; Jill Knopoff, volunteer coordinator; and Lois Meyer, case manager. Standing, front row (l-r): Liz Kitay, board member; Marina Sapir, Anachnu program coordinator; Dana Portna; Shana Yakubovich; Andrea Hadzimichalis; Eva Ginsberg; Beverly Stein, president of the board of Schoke JFS; Caroline Temlock Teichman, board member; Susan Greenwald, board member; Lisa Rich, donor relations; and Jonathan Fass, Schoke JFS COO. Back row (l-r): Risa Goldblum; Meryl Japha, board member; Arden Zimmerman; Carl Rosen, board member; Jason Goldstein; Alan Rich; Matt Greenberg, Schoke JFS CEO; and Paul Gordon, president-elect of the Schoke JFS Board of Directors.

Back to School with Reading Partners

This fall, United Jewish Federation's Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program began its 21st year. Tutors in the program read in 12 of the Stamford public elementary schools and the Creative Learning after-school

program at the First Presbyterian Church. Each Reading Partner reads with two children, one half hour each, once a week.

Prior to the beginning of school, See "Reading" on page 6



Reading Partners team leaders (l-r): Lesley Sandison, Ena Sarkar, Barbara Rosenberg, Reading Partners Program Director Lenore Fogel, Lois Dreyer, Anita Katz, Meg Mooar, Cathy Ernst, Pam Hirschfeld, Leah Baker, Susan Kolbrenner and Caron Zampino. (Not pictured: Ronny Kaplan, Marge Pavlov, Judy Stone and Lisa Wise.)

Reading Partners Training Workshop



On October 10, current and new volunteers in United Jewish Federation's Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program participated in a workshop given by Kelly Lane, the reading specialist at Westover Elementary School. While the main focus of the morning was sharing ideas to improve reading comprehension, Lane covered a multitude of reading essentials. Volunteers left the workshop with a packet of activities to use with their readers and a wealth of new knowledge. This was the first of several training workshops that are open to volunteers throughout the year. It is not too late to join the program. For more information, contact Lenore Fogel at readingpartners@ujf.org or 203-321-1373, ext. 115.

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Celebration Dinner

Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 5:30 pm
Hilton Stamford Hotel

Honoring
Guests of Honor
Elise and Steven Cohen

Community Service Award
Alice and Jason Janush

Young Leadership Award
Tina and Yossi Notik

Alumni Award
Laura Kassen

Jane Shoztic Memorial Award
David Giver

Dinner Co-Chairs
Taly and Trevor Farber
Amanda and Jasper Lewitton

Journal Co-Chairs
Jodi Hadge
Shari and Aryeh Levine
Talia and Jonathan Siscovick

For information on placing ad in the Celebration Dinner Journal, please contact Rachel Cohen at rcohen@bcha-ct.org or 203-329-2186

**Bi-Cultural
Hebrew Academy**
of Connecticut

David Pitkoff, President
Jacqueline Herman, Head of School
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903 • bcha-ct.org

BITS AND PIECES

BY SANDY GOLOVE

To submit information to Bits and Pieces, call 203-912-9945, or e-mail me at sandy@ujf.org.

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Chana Rivka and David Chavkin on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Joyce and Barry Chavkin**.

Avram and Rhoda Freedberg on the birth of a granddaughter.

Liz and Michael Golove on the birth of a son, **Nathan Edward Golove**; grandparents are **Nick Giancola and Sandy and Fred Golove**.

Amanda and Robert Haggerty on the birth of a daughter, **Liv Violet Haggerty**; grandparents are **Barbara and Bob Haggerty** and **Susan and Marc Peyser**.

MAZEL TOV ON ENGAGEMENTS/ WEDDINGS:

Mary Lee and Jeff Benson on the engagement of their daughter, **Rebecca Benson**, to **Aryeh Kobrinsky**.

Elaine Finkelstein and Jeffrey Ozeri on their engagement.

Elissa and James Hyman on the marriage of their daughter, **Kate Hyman**, to **Brandon Lomuto**.

Sally and Jim Rothkopf on the marriage of their daughter, **Sara Rothkopf**, to **Andrew Ellington**.

MAZEL TOV TO:

Ariela Schear, daughter of **Donna Spiegelman** and granddaughter of **Rhoda Spiegelman**, on her graduation from Yale University (Phi Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude*). She also recently completed a 4,500 mile bike trip across the U.S.

Lynn Villency Cohen on the publishing of her first book, "To the Editor: A Curated Collection of Letters and Opinion Pieces."



Judith Altmann and Agnes Vertes on being honored at the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's 2019 Heritage Award Celebration.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Marley Jaye Kurzer, daughter of **Shari Pavony Kurzer and Greg Kurzer**; grandparents are **Arleen and Hank Pavony**.

Sammi Chase Kurzer, daughter of **Shari Pavony Kurzer and Greg Kurzer**; grandparents are **Arleen and Hank Pavony**.

Maya Levi, daughter of **Rachel and David Levi**.

Abby Malkin, daughter of **Karen and Jon Malkin**; grandparents are **Ann and Ali Goldblum**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Robert Alswanger: brother of **Herm Alswanger**.

Allen Beckman: husband of **Harlene Beckman**; father of **Evan Beckman, Marci Marcus and Beth Zieselman**; and brother of **Miriam Berezin**.

Lilli Oppenheimer Cirillo: mother of **Connie Cirillo Freeman**.

Arye Jankelovits: father of **Eric Jankelovits**.

Saul Kalish: father of **Andrea Aaron**.

Jill Segal: sister of **Alison Cowan**.

Marc Silverstein: brother of **Stuart Silverstein**.

Yackov Ben Pinchas Trappler: father of **Mervyn Trappler**.

Betty Weber: mother of **Harvey Weber**.

CORRECTION

The following was listed incorrectly in last month's "We Mourn the Loss of" listing. *The New Jewish Voice* apologizes for the error.

Jason Bernstein: son of **Lauren and Brian Bernstein**.

involved in the CTeen program since its inception. He has volunteered at CKC, Chabad's Hebrew school. In his spare time, Israel teaches guitar and karate at his local dojo. His family has been involved with Chabad since moving to Stamford. Israel is a Gan alumnus and had his bar mitzvah at Chabad.

The evening promises to be a celebration of "joy and Judaism in Stamford," according to Rabbi Moshe Shemtov. Chabad of Stamford extends an invitation for all to attend. For more details, visit www.Stamfordchabad.org or e-mail programs@stamfordchabad.org.

Gala.Continued from page 3

The Gan Yeladim Family Award will go to Shoshana and Seth Lubin. Shoshana is a Stamford native. Together, they have spent many Shabbat and holidays at Chabad, with Shoshana even celebrating her Shabbat *Kallah* (a celebration for the bride the Shabbat prior to the wedding) at a Chabad women's event. They were called instrumental in starting the infant Bereshit room at the Gan, where their daughter, Kohelet, was in the opening class. They currently have two children in the Gan.

The CTeen Award will go to Gabriel Israel. Israel was born in Stamford and is a senior at Stamford High. He has been

MAZEL TOV TO AREA PROFESSIONALS

Bi-Cultural's Angela Cerra Selected for Science Coaches Program

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy middle school teacher Angela Cerra has been selected for participation in the 2019-2020 Science Coaches program.

A joint program of the American Chemical Society and the American Association of Chemistry Teachers, Science Coaches is an educational outreach initiative dedicated to enhancing science skills in students across the United States. The program pairs chemists (coaches) with AACT teacher members in elementary, middle and high schools. The coach and AACT teacher partner together over the course of one school year, working together on projects of their choosing—such as the design of new labs, or helping with or judging science fair projects, coaching chemistry Olympiad teams, and mentoring student research projects.

"Angela Cerra is an outstanding educator who gets children excited about learning science," said Bi-Cultural Associate Principal Rachel Haron, who oversees the lower and middle schools. "The science coach program will immerse her in hands-on science experiences and offer our students unique opportunities to learn from real scientists in the field."

Along with Cerra's participation in Science Coaches, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy will receive a \$550 gift certificate from Flinn Scientific or a \$500 donation from ACS to enhance science education at the school.



Angela Cerra

Reading.Continued from page 5

the volunteer team leaders met to share ideas and to plan for the new school year ahead. Afterward, each team of volunteers met with their team leader and school reading liaison to be matched with this year's children. Close to 20 new volun-

teers joined the program, bringing the total number to more than 110 volunteers spread throughout the program's locations.

To become a Reading Partner or to learn more about the program, contact Lenore Fogel at lenore@UJF.org.

European.Continued from page 1

founded and heads the Moscow Rabbinical court of the Commonwealth of Independent States since 1989, and, since 2011, serves as president of the Conference of European Rabbis, which unites more than 700 communal rabbis from Dublin to Khabarovsk.

He is a senior figure in the Congress of the Jewish Religious Organizations and Associations in Russia, a major umbrella organization of Jewish communities in Russia. In 1990, he created the guidelines in conjunction with the Israeli Ministry of Interior to reconfirm Jews who hid their Jewish identity during Soviet times.

Rabbi Goldschmidt arrived in Russia in 1989 and began playing a role in re-establishing Jewish life and the communal structures of the community, including schools, kindergartens, a rabbinical court, a burial society, kosher restaurants, soup kitchens, rabbinical schools and political umbrella structures, such as the Russian Jewish Congress and the Congress of the Jewish Religious Organizations and Associations in Russia.

For more information, contact Congregation Agudath Sholom at 203-358-2200 or visit www.congregationagudathsholom.org.

Panel.Continued from page 1

This year's topic will focus on the subject "L'dor Va'dor: Hot-Button Issues in Jewish Education from the Perspective of Two Generations." The panelists will be presented with various questions that might elicit different responses from a generational perspective.

"I'm excited that we will once again bring two top-notch Jewish educators to our community to discuss important issues relating to Jewish education," said Michael Feldstein, who is organizing the event. "Last year, we had more than 200 people come out on a Shabbat morning to hear our speakers. It demonstrates that our community members are interested and concerned about the topic of Jewish education, and want to hear what other professionals from other schools have to say on the subject."

The program is being sponsored by David and Cindy Pitkoff. After the panel, there will be a *kiddush*, which is being sponsored by Carmel Academy and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy.

Rabbi Taubes has served as head of school at the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy of Yeshiva University High School for Boys. He is also the spiritual leader of Congregation Zichron Mordechai in Teaneck, NJ. He has a master's degree in Jewish education from Yeshiva University's Ferkauf Graduate School, and he

helped found The Jewish Learning Experience of Bergen County, an adult outreach institution. Rabbi Taubes is the co-editor of the High Holiday *machzorim* (prayer books) featuring the insights of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik.

Shuli Taubes received her master of divinity from Harvard Divinity School and her B.A. in history from Barnard College. She currently serves as a faculty member at SAR High School in Riverdale, NY, where she teaches Tanach (Hebrew Bible) and "Jewish Identity," and chairs the Jewish Philosophy Department. She has also developed a curriculum for educating Modern Orthodox high school students in comparative religion.

The panelists will each make a solo presentation as well as participate in the panel. Rabbi Taubes will speak on Friday night, January 10, at 8 pm, at the home of Sharon and Michael Feldstein, on the subject of "Torah u'Maddah (secular knowledge) in 2020: Looking Back, Looking Forward." At 4:30 pm on January 11, following afternoon services, there will be a *seuda shlishit* (third meal) at Young Israel, where Shuli Taubes will speak on the subject of "This Too is Torah: A Discussion of Modern Orthodox Sexual Ethics."

All parts of the weekend program are open to the entire community.

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.



Jewish Senior Services
excellence in our home and yours

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus on Park Avenue



Skilled Nursing (The Jewish Home)	Rosnick Fitness Center (The J)
Goldstein Assisted Living Residences <i>Kuriansky Family Residence - 1-bedroom apartments</i>	Friedman Home Care / Chaifetz Family Hospice
Goldstein Rehabilitation Center	Grasmere on Park Adult Day Program

For questions and information on current or future services:
www.jseniors.org • 203-365-6400 • info@jseniors.org

UConn Jacobson Lecture on “Hitler’s Jewish Refugees”

The UConn Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life announced the annual Ishier and Maria Jacobson Lecture, which will be held on Tuesday, January 28, at 6 pm, in the Main Auditorium (A1) on the Stamford campus. This year’s speaker is Marion Kaplan and her topic is “Hitler’s Jewish Refugees: Hope and Anxiety in Portugal.”

Kaplan is the Skirball professor of modern Jewish history at New York University and holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Kaplan is a three-time winner of the National Jewish Book Award for her books “The Making of the Jewish Middle Class: Women, Family and Identity in Imperial Germany” (Oxford University Press, 1991); “Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany” (Oxford University Press, 1998); and “Gender and Jewish History,” co-edited with Deborah Dash Moore (Indiana University Press,

2011). Additionally, Kaplan has written many other books regarding women in Nazi Germany. The talk marks the publication of her newest book, “Hitler’s

Jewish Refugees: Hope and Anxiety in Portugal” (Yale, 2019).

For more information or to request accommodations to attend, contact

Professor Frederick Roden, UConn Stamford campus coordinator for Judaic studies, at frederick.roden@uconn.edu or 203-251-8559.

JCC Membership, Fitness and Wellness Open House

On Sunday, January 5, from 9 am-1 pm, community members are invited to come to The J and see what’s new.

The gymnasium and pools have been renovated, the fitness center has new cardio equipment and is staffed with certified personal trainers. A new group of fitness classes have been added to the weekly schedule of more than 60 classes.

KinderPlace, The J’s childcare program for children ages 12 months to 5 years, is thriving, say staff. The J’s Sara Walker Nursery School offers extended

day programs and after school clubs. Children’s enrichment classes – like acting classes, Simply Jewish, studio dance classes, J Rock Music Class, Hebrew for beginners – and an array of JBaby classes for ages birth-2 and their caregivers have been added. KidsPlace, The J’s after school program, continues to grow. Parents are reminded not to forget about summer and register early for DayCamps@TheJ.

Adults and teens can take advantage of the J’s personal training promo and

get fit in the month of January. Those interested can save 20 percent on each purchase of 10-pack 60-minute training sessions. “This is a great time to rev up your fitness results. By participating in two to three group fitness classes per week and adding a personal training session, you’ll see how great you’ll start to feel,” said Lori Price, JCC managing director health and wellness.

There will be incentives and discounts for new members who join

See “JCC” on page 18

Friendship Circle’s Volunteer Program Attracts Community Teens

BY LEAH BATKIN

The Friendship Circle’s Mitzvah Volunteer Program seeks to inspire and transform the lives of young bar and bat mitzvah aged children from all over Fairfield County. The MVP offers young teens the opportunity to learn about various disabilities, appropriate conduct while volunteering and the importance of giving back to the community in the course of a four-session training program in the fall. Through interactive activities, discussions with specialists and parents, and group reflections, more than 30 sixth- and seventh-graders from Greenwich, Stamford, Westport and Fairfield said they came away informed and inspired by their ability to reach out to others.

The first session focused on the soul (*neshama*), which Judaism calls the universal spark of Godliness uniting each and every person. In highlighting what unites them, the boys and girls in the program were asked to recognize that outward physical differences belie their common Divine source. They also heard from a mom of an adult with special needs.

The second session emphasized the importance of good deeds, as one good deed often leads to another.

The third session involved several interactive activities aimed at helping the young volunteers understand the daily challenges people with disabilities endure. In one activity, volunteers had to follow the path of a maze taped to the



L-r: Maya Shapiro, Sammy Neer and Ilana Gilbert enjoyed the training session.

floor only by looking through a mirror held over their heads. The task was an attempt to teach the lesson that life can be challenging for those who cannot see the greater picture. The task also taught that it can take patience and understanding to help others navigate an often-confusing journey.

The final session sought to dispel the often limiting and hurtful reality of labels. In a game, volunteers put headbands on with labels such as “treat me like a troublemaker” or “treat me like a baby.” Without seeing their headbands, they were told to guess what was written based on everyone else’s reaction. Afterward, the volunteers sat down to discuss how it felt to be treated and judged based on the label they wore.

The program concluded with the candle activity, where volunteers were asked to describe the shape, color,

height and smell of several different candles placed in front of everyone. As the candles were lit, the volunteers were then asked to describe the flame. The purpose of the lesson was to help them see the flame as their souls; Judaism considers their souls special and unique, and says those souls are created from the same source – God.

“It’s a special organization with special people,” said Lisa Daniel, mom of one of the participants. “It’s

just a magical place for both the volunteers and the kids that they are volunteering with, and my daughter has gained tremendously from being a part of it. I am so happy that my son Gavin is now joining through the bar mitzvah program as well, because it does so much for them.”

For more information, or to join The Friendship Circle, e-mail Malya@FriendshipCT.com or visit www.FriendshipCT.com.



Every child is unique. Shouldn't each educational journey also be unique?

Come learn how Carmel Academy’s individualized, whole-child approach nurtures and challenges our students to achieve their fullest potential.

A private school for children of all Jewish affiliations serving students through 8th grade. For more information and to schedule a tour, contact Danielle Cohen:

admissions@carmelacademy.com | 203-983-3503

270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich, CT • www.carmelacademy.com

Happy Chanukah!

Most insurance accepted with no out-of-pocket expense for check-ups*
*As long as you are eligible, have met all deductibles, have benefits remaining and your plan is UCR or equivalent.

Dental Care Kids

Open 7 Days A Week!

Board Certified Dentists and Orthodontists for Children and Adolescents!

IV sedation for high fear & special needs children

www.DentalCareKids.com www.DentalCareOrthodontics.com

203.883.4457 *Call Today for New Patient Special Offers!*

1500 Summer St., Stamford, CT

Transforming the Archives at JHSFC Through Information Technologies

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

Transformation – that is what the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County’s latest project is all about. What comes to mind when you picture an archive? Is it dusty books, delicate artifacts and crumbling correspondence? Perhaps instead, you might picture the creation of digital records, the preservation of these digital records, and the use of blogs, wikis and designs yet to come. If an archive goes digital, do the ephemera (books, documents, objects, etc.) disappear? Actually, in conjunction with “the genuine article,” the digitized records give personal and professional researchers a new kind of access, one that is often immediate, user friendly and data rich.

A few months ago, JHSFC was approached by the Connecticut League of History Organizations to participate in its new digitization project. JHSFC applied to participate and was accepted into the second cohort of the project. JHSFC is working with the Connecticut State Library and the Connecticut Digital Archive to provide an up-to-date way to manage its collection. In addition, JHSFC can share items with the public through a statewide portal, which will preserve its digital collections and associated metadata in the Connecticut

Digital Archive, where they will be safe for generations to come.

This multi-year project will result in archival quality data with 21st century access. Based on the growing number of books, documents and artifacts housed in the JHSFC Archives (more than 100,000 and still collecting), JHSFC is starting with a digital catalogue of three local Stamford synagogues: Congregation Agudath Sholom, Temple Beth El and Temple Sinai. JHSFC hopes this digital catalogue of local Jewish history will trigger memories and questions about the growth and development of the synagogues, the people, the culture and all the rest to tell an “ever-expanding” story of these three synagogues.

“This digitization project is critically important,” said Leah Tillman, first vice president and director of archives.. “Creating an online catalogue of materials found in The Vivian and Irwin Miller Archives at JHSFC will begin to transform the JHSFC Archives from ‘Bubbie and Zayde’s attic’ to the Internet universe. In addition, there will be many benefits for the organization, the Jewish world and the greater community. We will be able to tell the story of Jews and Jewish history, heritage and culture in Fairfield County, and increase awareness of Fairfield County’s Jewish history. We

hope that the digitization project, along with new policies and operations, will increase support on all levels (financial, artifact donations and word of mouth) for the organization and the archives. JHSFC wants to have a ‘good vibe’ on the street and on the Internet.”

Those interested in helping JHSFC “go

digital,” or who have any questions, should contact the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County by phone at 203-321-1373, ext. 150; by e-mail, info@jhsfc-ct.org; or online at <http://jhsfc-ct.org/>.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a recipient of United Jewish Federation.

Jewish Gangsters

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County invites the community to find out and/or to share information about Jewish gangsters on Sunday, January 26, at the Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford. The program will begin at 1:30 pm, with refreshments at 1 pm. The program is open to the community – free for members and \$5 for non-members.

Dr. Anne Peskin, who usually lectures on pirates, constellations and myths, lighthouses, or navigation, will speak about gangsters who happen to be Jewish. When asked how she came up with this topic, Peskin explained, “It all started when I read ‘Button Man’ by Andrew Gross. The story is about the garment district and its takeover by Louis ‘Lepke’ Buchalter and his ‘protection men.’ I followed my reading by doing research on the times, the 1930s, and people like Meyer Lansky and Louis ‘Lepke’ Buchalter. There were part of a fascinating group of people doing unusual things.” Peskin added, “Did I mention my husband was in the garment business? This story brought back memories. There

is so much to share: the ‘Button Man’ book, the fictionalized story of a Jewish immigrant family, the women’s garment business, the threat of organized crime, and the fascinating reality of all these things.” She says she has much to share, including behind the scenes look at gangsters such as Lepke, Dutch Schultz and Albert Anastasia.

Peskin is professor emerita of City College of New York, where she specialized in mathematics education. In Stamford, Peskin was a member of the Stamford Board of Education and vice president of Congregation Agudath Sholom. An avid sailor, “Captain Anne” was commander of Stamford Sail and active in the Power Squadron.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to bring their stories about Jewish gangsters, and any pictures, documents or artifacts they would like to share.

For questions about the program, contact the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield by phone at 203-321-1373, ext. 150, e-mail info@jhsfc-ct.org or visit <http://jhsfc-ct.org/>.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a recipient of United Jewish Federation.

Children’s Shabbat Morning Programs at TBE

A new Kids in the Round Family Shabbat Service has been launched at Temple Beth El. Led by children’s musical entertainer Bobby Doowah, the kid-friendly Shabbat service for young families is filled with music and movement. The program, open to the community, is for families with children ages 5-8 and their siblings.

“Bobby Doowah’s manic style has helped him develop a devoted following of pint-size fans,” stated Lisa Gittelman Udi, TBE’s director of congregational learning. “If you are under 8 years old, Bobby Doowah has one of the most recognizable faces in the Tri-state area. With guitar in hand and an exciting assortment of original and standard music, he has been captivating and entertaining young children for the past 25 years.”

The New York Daily News wrote, “Bobby presents a zany medley of movement... Dancing and musical entertainment. He charms kids and parents alike.”

The New York Times calls Bobby Doowah “the Sgt. Pepper of children’s music.”

Kids in the Round will be held on Saturdays, December 7, January 4, February 8 and 22, March 7 and 21, April 4 and June 6, from 11 am-noon.

TBE also offers a program for families with children 0-5 years old, with siblings welcome. ShaBaBimBam, a Shabbat themed music and movement program, is led by Natasha Fenster and Steve Epstein. It offers the opportunity for young families to celebrate Shabbat with other young families in the TBE Clubhouse. ShaBaBimBam will meet on Saturdays, December 7 and 21 and January 4 and 25, from 11 am-noon. The program is open to the community.

Both programs will be followed each time with a sit-down *kiddush* lunch.

For further information, contact Jami Fener, TBE’s young families coordinator, at youngfamilies@tbe.org or 917-680-9413.

Preschool Open House at Gan Yeladim

Gan Yeladim invites families to its preschool open house on Sunday, December 8, from 9:30-11:30 am, to learn about its Reggio Emilia-inspired program. This educational philosophy views each child as an individual who is curious about the world and can learn from all that surrounds them. The program is based on the principles of respect, responsibility and community through exploration and discovery.

The open house will include touring the school and meeting the teachers. There will also be children’s activities, including an interactive drum circle, “A

Drum Tale Lion King,” led by Musical IQ; a ceramics class with local artist Brett Slavin; an interactive animal experience with the Greenwich Audubon; Tiny Treasures with Gan Director *Morah* Leah Shemtov; and a “Loaves of Love” Cooking Marathon for the whole family. In addition, adults will have an opportunity to take a CPR/First Aid class and earn the certification through the American Heart Association for a cost of \$60 per person.

The open house is a free event and is open to current, past and prospective families. RSVP to wendy@stamfordchabad.org.

JDC Holds Active Jewish Teens Conference in Kiev

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – More than 400 Jewish teens from around the world gathered for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s sixth annual Active Jewish Teens Conference in Kiev recently to

celebrate their growing role in fostering local Jewish identity and community.

A bar and bat mitzvah ceremony for five teens (a conference first) was to serve as a model of commitment to Judaism, leadership and taking action

in regional communities.

“My hope is that when I stand up there in front of my peers for my bar mitzvah, I serve as an inspiration for what is possible when you embrace Jewish values and commit to community,” said Ilia Buzunov, one of the *b’nai* mitzvah participants from Kiev who works with Jewish youth at the Halom JCC, one of JDC’s flagship community centers in the former Soviet Union. “I was a teenager when I first found out I was Jewish. From that moment, my life was completely changed, and today, six years later, I am a proud Jew, doing what I love – working to make my community better every day.”

The gathering from November 7-10, which is created and run by AJT teens, draws participants from across



Song sessions, dancing and art workshops were part of the three-day American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s sixth annual Active Jewish Teens Conference in Kiev from November 7-10, as they were last year (pictured). (Photo by JDC)

the former Soviet Union, including Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. *See “JDC” on page 14*

Chanukah Greetings from
Judith Roll, Chef/Owner

TABOULI
MEDITERRANEAN GRILL

• 203.504.8888 •
BULL’S HEAD PLAZA - 59 HIGH RIDGE RD.,
STAMFORD, CT 06905

tabouligrill.com
“...the best Israeli food outside of Israel.”

Judy’s
BAR+KITCHEN

• 203.890.9999 •
927 HIGH RIDGE RD.,
STAMFORD, CT 06905

judysbarandkitchen.com
“pure Americana!”

Carmel Combines Love and Mitzvot at Book Fair

At this year's Carmel Academy book fair, the community had a chance to combine a love of reading with an opportunity to do a mitzvah. The annual event, anticipated by students, faculty and parents, was held on November 10 and organized by the Carmel Academy Parents' Association Council.

During the week, students had an opportunity to preview selections with the guidance of faculty to select books they were eager to read and that would also help improve their reading and comprehension skills. Event Chairs Farell Diamond and Natalie Salem point out that individual faculty members made "wish lists" for their classroom libraries and the school's newly expanded lending library. By the time the Sunday event for families and the community arrived, there were hundreds of pre-selected books to help foster a love of reading.

Head of School Nora Anderson noted that "the book fair and our library are touch points that foster the educational philosophy of teaching students to be life-long learners."

Carmel parent Robye Margolius says that she's been giving her family gifts of books from the book fair for years, noting that "the kids love to pick out books for their cousins and themselves."

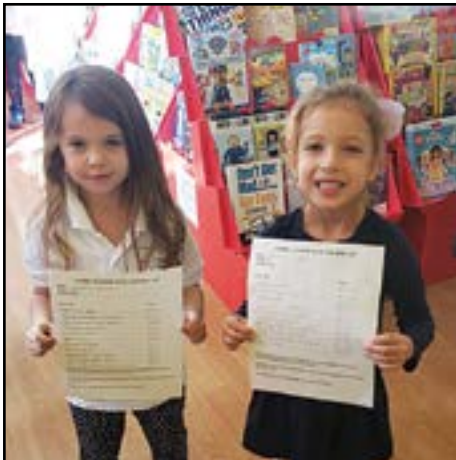
This year's book fair offered shoppers the opportunity to give an even greater gift than books. The PAC sponsored a bone marrow registry drive in memory of former Carmel Academy student Emmet Manheim. Attendees could swab the insides of



Parents Association Council leader Lee Bednarsh with her son, Ryan, enjoyed setting up and selling books at the annual book fair.

their cheeks to provide a sample and then register to be a donor with Be The Match: National Bone Marrow Program (www.bethematch.org), and to potentially save the life of someone with blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma. Carmel board member Pam Feldstein said, "Thousands of people are diagnosed every year with life-threatening blood cancers. Bone marrow transplants are a critical treatment – you just need to find the right match. The more people who register, the more matches that can be found and lives saved." She added "One of Carmel Academy's core values is *chesed*, the concept of bettering the world and giving back to others. That is the essence of our school community."

To learn more about the Carmel Academy experience, contact Danielle Cohen at 203-983-3503.



Sophie Sanders and Annabelle Ziegler, with guidance from faculty and parent volunteers, made book wish lists.



Carmel Academy students Libby Hilton and Lucy Peterson just "love picking out books to read."



**May the Light Shine Bright for you
and your Family this Chanukah Season**

**Happy Chanukah from the Board and Staff of
United Jewish Federation**

Ricky Arbron, President

Diane Sloyer, CEO

➡ Visit www.ujf.org or facebook.com/stamfordFederation

United Jewish Federation Year-End Celebration and Annual Meeting

Join Us In Honoring Our Past
Celebrating Our Present and
Building Our Future!

DECEMBER 8, 2019
FERGUSON LIBRARY
1 PUBLIC LIBRARY PLAZA, STAMFORD

Guest Speaker,
Eric Fingerhut, President and CEO
Jewish Federations of North America

6:30 p.m. Cocktails & Reception with Honorees
\$40 per person through December 1 / \$50 after

7:30 p.m. Annual Meeting and Dessert Reception
Free of charge

Guest of Honor
RICKY ARBRON

Distinguished Leadership Award
DAVID FOGEL

Harvey A. Peltz Award
ALLISON & JONATHAN OSTROFF

Volunteers of the Year Award
TOBY LAZARUS, PETER LILIENTHAL,
SHARI RAYMOND AND CATHY SATZ

Event Chairs
DINAH MILLER-MARLOWE AND SETH MARLOWE

CELEBRATION JOURNAL AND EVENT REGISTRATION
CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.UJF.ORG/ANNUAL2019

QUESTIONS, CONTACT DIANE SLOYER
203-321-1373 EXT. 105/DIANESLOYER@UJF.ORG





UJF SUPER S



Thank You To Our Sponsors!

Edith Samers & Ed Smith
 Hillary & Bob Zitter
 in honor of Jackie Herman of BCHA
 Krista's Hair Salon
 Long Ridge Camp
 Milton & Goose
 Peter & Carol Lilienthal
 Russell Abrahms, CPA
 Taly & Trevor Farber & Family
 Ellen & Richard Weber & Family
 Sun Hill, LLC – Nancy Mimoun

Union Street Carpets
 Shari & Sam Raymond & Family
 Ricky Arbron
 613
 Acme Market
 Karp's Ace Hardware
 Navaratna
 SOOSH
 Stop & Shop
 Trader Joe's

SUNDAY SUCCESS

Super Sunday Brings Community Together as One

On Sunday, November 10th, United Jewish Federation held "Super Sunday Extravaganza"- a community building day of giving. The community came together to raise money and make a difference in the lives of 1000's in need locally, in Israel and around the world. Participants made calls, volunteered for kid's activities, counted tzedakah coins and more.

Participants learned more about UJF's new direct giving model, which empowers donors to pick from over 20 special community programs they can support only through UJF. The new campaign model allows donors to decide for themselves where they want their gift to go, putting them in the driver's seat.

"Super Sunday co-chairs Shari Raymond and Jen Rosenberg worked hard to create fun, family friendly activities while focusing on the end goal - helping those less fortunate", shared Sharon Franklin, Managing Director of Campaign and Community Outreach. Shari Raymond stated, "Super Sunday is one of my favorite community-wide events, so I was thrilled to co-chair it again this year. It's always a fun day for kids and grown-ups alike. This year was extra special as we came together to raise funds for and awareness of UJF's new donor-driven giving model." Co-chair Jen Rosenfeld added, "I felt it was important to co-chair because it is important to give back to the community to keep it strong in the changing world around us. I feel it is important to give back not only with financial support, but also with my time. It takes all of us to ensure our community stays vibrant for today and always."

2019 Campaign gifts can be made through December 31, 2019. Visit www.ujf.org to donate or for more information on the new direct giving model, call UJF CEO Diane Sloyer 203-321-1373 (ext. 105).



2019 Campaign for Communal Needs Designations

Community Designations

- Where it is Needed Most
- The Infrastructure of UJF
- Israel and Overseas
- Affinity Groups
- Communal Security Alert System
- Digital Archiving Project
- Jewish Community Relations Council
- Jewish Free Loan Society
- JFEST
- New Jewish Voice Newspaper
- Shabbat Across Stamford, New Canaan & Darien
- Shalom/Welcome Programs
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Yom HaShoah Annual Commemoration

Social Services and Senior Designations

- Friendly Visiting and Emergency Funds
- Passover Seder
- Senior Services at Home

Youth and Young Adult Designations

- B'Yachad/Together
- Celebrate the Holidays
- Community Chesed
- Koleinu Community Choir
- Mechina/Preparatory Program
- PJ Library Programming
- Shabbat Together
- Teen Mitzvah Corp

**Direct Your Gift By 12/31/19
at www.ujf.org**

David vs. Goliath in Bi-Cultural Robot Battle



At left: The Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy upper school held a Battle Bot contest between teams of engineering students. Organized by Dr. Paul Castle and William Berson, who teach the high school's two-year Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education engineering program, the contest challenged students to build robots with attacking and defensive capabilities that they could control via an app on their phones. Eight sophomores and juniors worked in pairs to construct four robots that were then placed in an octagon. When a robot was pushed out of the octagon, it was eliminated from the contest.

At right: Battle Bot Contest winners were juniors Zane Roshe and Etan Dof.



Bi-Cultural Students Welcome a Torah Scroll

BY JUDIE JACOBSON

A parade of students and faculty of the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy upper school celebrated in song and dance the arrival of a Torah scroll to the Stamford school on October 3.

The scroll was brought over to the upper school's new home on Bi-Cultural's main campus on High Ridge Road in Stamford from the upper school's previous location on West Main Street.

"We want our connection to Torah to be joyful and, at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, we are committed to building our students' positive connections to

our heritage, history and Torah," said Rabbi Shimmy Trencher, principal of Bi-Cultural's upper school.

The Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy upper school relocated to the High Ridge Road campus in September following the fall 2018 merger of the pre-kindergarten through eighth grade Bi-Cultural Day School with the grades nine through 12 Jewish High School of Connecticut. The first of its kind in Connecticut, the newly formed pre-kindergarten through grade 12 Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy offers students a continuum of education that aims to impact their future success.



Bi-Cultural Principal Rabbi Shimmy Trencher (wearing tallit) and Judaic studies teacher Rabbi Avi Block (carrying Torah) led a parade of upper school students.

Lunch in the Sukkah



More than 40 women joined Chabad of Stamford's Jewish Women Connected to eat in the sukkah, celebrate the holiday of Sukkot and study Torah with new friends and old. In front, l-r: Daisy Schaeffer, Shelley Senker, Leah Shemtov, Debby Berger, Rachel Terk and Gail Loonin.



Bi-Cultural middle school students joined in celebrating the arrival of the new Torah.



United Jewish Federation



Join Chapter Two on December 9th
10:30-11:30am, 1035 Newfield Ave.

- *Latke Tasting
- *Make Holiday Bags for those in need
- *Learn about Chanukah with Jonathan Fass

\$10 per person

Please register at www.ujf.org/holiday



SAVE THE DATE



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is a Time to Give!

Thanks to an anonymous donor, all new or increased gifts made on Giving Tuesday will be matched up to \$25,000.

This year your donation to United Jewish Federation can go further and you can choose what you want to support. Visit www.ujf.org

Zucchini Latkes

BY RONNIE FEIN

It wouldn't be Chanukah without latkes. So, every year I make loads of them, and every year different ones to see if there is ever anything better than the classic potato latke. Here's what I discovered.

There isn't.

Over the years, I've prepared sweet potato latkes, cheese latkes, veggie latkes and others. Most people like potato latkes best, fried rather than baked.

Of course, there's the usual argument about what to serve them with: applesauce or sour cream. I just serve both and let the chips fall where they may.

Last year, in my efforts to find a latke that could compare to potato, I made some with zucchini. Bingo! People are still talking about them. In fact, because they use matzo meal, I made them again at Passover.

I am *not* saying zucchini latkes are as wonderful as potato latkes. I am simply saying they are fabulously delicious.

Try these this Chanukah.

ZUCCHINI LATKES

2 medium zucchini (10-12 ounces each)

½ tsp. salt

4 scallions, chopped

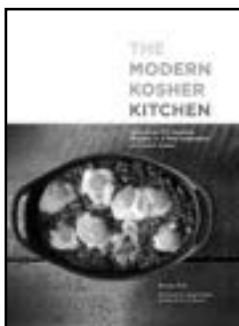
2 large eggs

⅔ cup matzo meal

Vegetable oil for frying

For a dairy meal, you can add ½ cup crumbled feta cheese

Shred the zucchini in a food processor (or grate by hand). Place the shreds



The cover of Ronnie Fein's newest cookbook, "The Modern Kosher Kitchen"



Zucchini Latkes

in a bowl, sprinkle with salt, toss the shreds and let rest for 10-12 minutes. Squeeze the shreds to extract as much liquid as possible. Return the shreds to the bowl.

Add the scallions and eggs and mix the ingredients. Add the matzo meal and mix thoroughly.

Heat about ⅛-inch vegetable oil in a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Spoon portions of the mixture into the pan to make pancakes about 2 inches in diameter. Leave some space between each pancake. Cook for about 3 minutes per side or until crispy and golden brown. Remove to paper towels to drain. Repeat with the remaining zucchini mixture.

Serve with mashed avocado, dairy sour cream or plain yogurt (mixed with some lemon juice).

Makes about 12 pancakes.

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

► JCC Dreidel World Series and Community Chanukah Party

Families with children of all ages are invited to attend the Jewish Community Center's annual Family World Series of Dreidel and Community Chanukah Party on Tuesday, December 17, from 6-7:30 pm.

The evening will include dreidel playing and a tournament with prizes; candle making; a music and dance party with David Citrin, coordinator of Jewish engagement and innovation; pin the flame on the menorah; J•Cares project; and community candle lighting. Pizza will be served, along with potato latkes.

Tickets are \$21 per person with a family max of \$63, or \$18 for JCC members with a family max of \$45. Register online at stamfordjcc.org or call the JCC welcome desk at 203-322-7900.

For more information, contact Jason Samuel at jsamuel@stamfordjcc.org.

► Chabad Family Day Brunch

Chabad of Stamford invites the community to attend for a family brunch and Loaves of Love "cookathon" the morning of Wednesday, December 25, from 10:30 am-12:30 pm.

Pancakes, waffles, eggs and all the trimmings will be served, and there will be activities for all. Children's musical entertainer Bobby Doowah will perform a concert for the children. There will also be a chance to give to those in need by baking challah and making chicken soup for Chabad's "Shabbat 2 Go" packages. The event will be held at Chabad of Stamford, 770 High Ridge Rd.

► Holiday Luncheon for Seniors at the JCC

All senior adults in the community are invited to light the menorah and share in a festive Chanukah/New Year's lunch on Friday, December 27, from 11 am-1 pm, at the Jewish Community Center. There is a suggested donation \$6 per person, with reservations required by Friday, December 20. Those planning to attend should make reservations by calling Connie Freeman at 203-487-0983.

The Jewish Community Center is located on Newfield Avenue at the intersection of Vine Road in Stamford.

A Week Filled with Chanukah events at Chabad

Chabad of Stamford will once again celebrate Chanukah with an array of activities for the entire community.

The celebrations will kick off with a menorah building workshop for kids in grades pre-kindergarten to seven on Wednesday, December 11, from 4-6 pm, at The Home Depot on Main Street in Stamford.

On Sunday, December 15, from 4-5:30 pm, Chabad will hold its annual community concert celebration featuring the Jewish *a cappella* group "The Maccabeats" and the children of Stamford's schools. Every year children from local Jewish schools, including Gan Yeladim, BCHA, Carmel and Sara Walker, perform Chanukah songs in front of hundreds of people. The concert will take place at Chabad of Stamford, 770 High Ridge Rd., and is open to all. Advance ticket purchase pricing will be \$10 per person (ages 2 and up), \$36 max per family. The day of the event, at the door pricing will be \$15 per person, \$54 max per family. For advanced tickets, go to chabadstamford.org or e-mail programs@stamfordchabad.org.

Rabbi Moshe Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford, says, "Highlighting the children of our community in song and in joy is the perfect way to spread the Chanukah message – that of Jewish continuity, perseverance and the spreading of light."

On Sunday, December 22, the first night of Chanukah, the annual giant menorah lighting will be held in Latham Park, starting at 4:30 pm. The event is for families, local dignitaries and community leaders alike. New this year will be a giant "Gelt Drop," as well as an olive press where kids will be able to experience hands-on olive oil making from fresh olives. The evening will also include latkes and donuts, as well as hot apple cider.

Another Chanukah event will be the Jewish Women Connected Package Party. Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford, says, "This event is an annual favorite where we look to bring the 'fun' into fundraising, where gifts are brought to the party and auctioned off to the highest bidder for a

See "Events" on page 18





latkes.lights.laughter

Saturday Night, December 14th
8:00pm – 10:30pm

The Beacon at Harbor Point
1 Harbor Point Road, Stamford

Litchfield Distillery Spirit Tasting & Specialty Cocktails

Latkes, Donut Bar & Other Holiday Fare
\$18 in advance, \$25 at the door

Sign up at www.ujf.org/lights

Committee:
Mihal & David Ariyeh, Michelle Bloom & Ron Kutus, Josh Esses,
Taly & Trevor Farber, Elise Feldman & Deppa Nayini,
Mouchka & Dov Heller, Hannah & Ilan Lastoff,
Rachel & Josh Licht, Rachel & Sam Maryles,
Allison & Jonathan Ostroff, Stacey & Todd Palker,
Heather & Ben Sussman, Rachel & Greg Waldstrelcher

For more information contact
 Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org
 203-321-1373 ext 109



Warm Chanukah Wishes from





May your Chanukah be filled with the miracles of the holiday

Bonnie Rozen,
Advertising Representative

➔ Visit www.ujf.org or facebook.com/stamfordFederation

The Power of a Dream: Israel’s New Solar Plant Lights the Way to a Bright Future

BY DEBORAH FINEBLUM

(JNS) – Driving along the long stretch of Highway 6, deep in Israel’s Negev Desert, you could easily think you are seeing a mirage: thousands of giant mirrors all facing the sun. But what you are witnessing is Israeli ingenuity – the future of Israeli energy and the fulfillment of many dreams. These half-a-million concave mirrors catch the heat of the sun – something the Negev has in abundance – to power the new 121-megawatt Ashalim Solar Thermal Power Station.

Just four months into operation, the 4,000-acre solar-energy plant, with a price tag of roughly NIS 4 billion (more than \$1.13 billion), is the largest renewable-energy project in Israel and among the largest in the world. The joint venture of the Shikun and Binui Group, Noy Fund and Spanish engineering provider TSK already serves the energy needs of some 70,000 Israeli households.

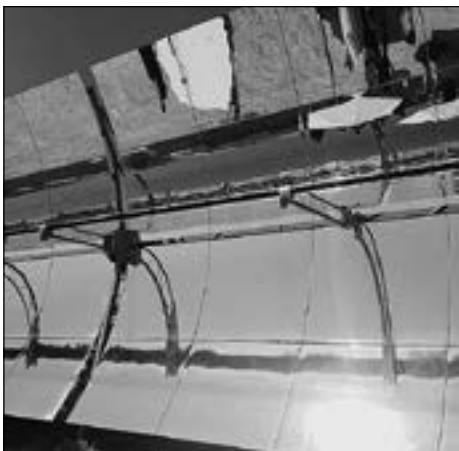
With nearly 1 percent of Israel’s energy expected to be generated here, the plant represents a step toward realizing Israel’s goal of a future powered by renewable energy. It is composed of some 16,000 parabolic troughs and about 500,000 concave mirrors that convert solar energy into steam used



A view of the Ashalim solar-power station in the Negev Desert on June 19, 2018. (Photo by Miriam Alster/Flash90)

to generate electricity. However, one of the most singular features of the plant is its ability to produce power at night, when the sun isn’t shining. The power station uses a thermal-energy storage system, based on molten salt, which allows the plant to operate for approximately an extra 4.5 hours daily at full power after sunset.

“It was exactly six years ago, in September of 2013, that I stood on this hill and had a vision,” said Didi



A close-up of one of the parabolic mirrors used at the Ashalim Solar Thermal Power Station. (Photo courtesy of the Ashalim Solar Thermal Power Station)

Paz, CEO of Negev Energy, which, as a subsidiary of Shikun and Binui, runs the plant. “I thought of [former Israeli prime minister] David Ben-Gurion, Israel’s founding father, and his dreams for the Negev, and how he would be extremely proud.”

Also on hand to welcome a cadre of international journalists for a tour of the new facility was Israel’s Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz. “We know that public health is as important an issue

as providing energy for Israel’s homes and industries,” he told the group.

The country is already making the shift from such polluting energy sources as coal and diesel, he noted, with coal already down from 65 percent to less than 30 percent, and with planned closures of the nation’s coal-burning turbines.

Steinitz said the ministry “used every possible means to increase the scope of renewable-energy production, and by doing so, expects to meet the government goal of 10 percent by the end of 2020.”

He added that “alongside natural gas, renewable energy is of paramount importance in reducing air pollution for the benefit of public health.” It’s a policy, he said, reflected in “Plan 2030,” designed to stop the country’s dependence on polluting fuels. As part of this initiative, Israelis can look for more solar plants of various sizes to be built in coming years.

Such progress relies on such factors as financial backing, of course, but also on the support of the locals. “It’s really been a community effort,” said Eran Doron, mayor of the Ramat HaNegev Regional Council. Though the project met with some early resistance, he

See “Solar” on page 18

Uzbekistan signs agreement with Israeli high-tech firm to help fight water shortage

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – The government of Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding with the Israel-based company Watergen in an effort aimed at harnessing and using the company’s patented technology to make clean drinking water out of ambient air.

The agreement was signed on October 29 by Uzbekistan’s Minister of Innovation Ibrohim Abdurakhmonov and Michael Rutman, Watergen’s vice president of marketing and sales. Thousands of GEN-M atmospheric water generators (or AWGs) produced by Watergen will be dispatched to different towns and cities in the country facing major water shortages, including in Bukhara and Samarkand.

“We are giving the people of Uzbekistan a safe and simple alternative for dealing with a very difficult problem they are facing,” said Rutman. “Our technology offers the people of Uzbekistan a method to acquire fresh water on a daily basis.”

With a weight of just 780 kilograms, the GEN-M is easily transportable and can make as much as 800 liters of water

per day. Each unit contains an internal water-treatment system and needs no infrastructure except a source of electricity in order to operate.

The Central Asian nation has been in need of a secure water supply, as it’s one of only two countries in the world that is “double landlocked” from the oceanic seas. As a result, it has relied on the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers for a fresh-water supply. In recent years, however, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have established hydro-power dams at the headwaters of both rivers, undermining Uzbekistan’s ability to use them as sources.

The patented, heat-exchange GENius technology in each of Watergen AWGs creates water by cooling collected air at its dew point. Subsequently, the water goes through physical, chemical and biological treatments, followed by a mineralization process to maintain its cleanliness, tastiness and healthy quality.

The technology made a splash during Uzbekistan’s Innweek 2019 exhibition in late October at the Uzexpocentre National Exhibition Complex

in the capital of Tashkent. The annual exhibition, which is attended by representatives from the United Nations and dozens of countries, features new forms of technology to improve the living standards and economic conditions in the country.

On that note, Uzbekistan’s Deputy Prime Minister Aziz Abdukhakimov said, “In light of Uzbekistan’s water shortage, Uzbekistan desperately needs technology such as that provided by Watergen in order to improve its water sector.”

The GEN-M saw success as part of a pilot project in May at an orphanage in Bukhara that houses 120 children.

Uzbek Jews derive from both the more religious and traditional Bukharan Jewish community, and the more progressive, Europe-extracted Ashkenazi community. In 1989, as many as 94,900 Jews lived in Uzbekistan, though fewer than 5,000 remained in 2007, mostly in Tashkent. About a dozen synagogues remain in the country. Most Uzbek Jews are now Ashkenazi due to the immigration of Bukharan Jews to Israel and the United States.



L-r: Watergen Vice President of Marketing and Sales Michael Rutman and Uzbekistan’s Minister of Innovation Ibrohim Abdurakhmonov signed a memorandum of understanding to improve the availability of clean drinking water using the company’s technology. (Photo courtesy of Watergen)

MAKE A CHARITABLE GIFT FROM YOUR IRA TAX FREE!

ARE YOU OLDER THAN 70 AND 1/2?

IRA owners must be age 70 1/2 or older to make a tax-free charitable contribution. Those who meet the age requirement can transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from an IRA to an eligible charity without paying income tax on the transaction.

JDC.....Continued from page 8

The theme – the Jewish experience in communities around the world – will be examined in 150 different workshops.

“In much of the rest of the world, a *b’nai* mitzvah marks the entrance of young people into adulthood and the obligations of Jewish community life. But for AJT teens, this sense of responsibility and identity are already on the fast track,” said Michal Frank, director for JDC’s former Soviet Union operation. “They are the emerging leaders of the post-Soviet Jewish space, engaging their friends, parents, grandparents and wider communities in peer-to-peer Jewish learning, volunteerism and the need for shared responsibility. Their enthusiasm is key to building not just the future of Jewish life in this part of the world, but globally as they build bridges to other Jews the world over.”

The conference was to include song sessions, dancing and art workshops, and Shabbat and *Havdalah* ceremonies, as well as classes on *tikkun olam* (“repairing the world”). Jewish mutual responsibility, volunteerism best practices and contemporary interpretations of classic Jewish texts.

Participants were to hear from AJT teachers and “inspiring” speakers, including a Jewish para-Olympic champion from Ukraine, in addition to directors of youth clubs and well-known local educators, to deepen their Jewish knowledge. The conference also featured a project fair where teens presented their grassroots initiatives.

AJT, which partners with Genesis Philanthropy Group, BBYO and private philanthropists, connects some 3,200 Jewish teens through local chapters in 60 cities across the former Soviet Union.

United Jewish Federation and JDC: An Impactful Partnership

In early November, members of the community gathered to learn more about Federation's work around the world and hosted Asher Ostrin who will, in January 2020, begin his tenure as interim CEO of JDC, the American Joint Distribution Committee.

With more than three decades of senior leadership at JDC, considered the leading global Jewish humanitarian organization, Ostrin has been a central figure in numerous JDC strategies and programs worldwide. A key advisor to JDC operations in Europe, Asia and North Africa, he helped design and led JDC's work reviving Jewish life and aiding needy Jews in the former Soviet Union (or FSU) for more than 20 years. He currently serves as the organization's senior executive for international affairs.

Ostrin has represented JDC on a global stage with a wide range of funders, partner organizations, governments and stakeholders. This includes conducting negotiations for the restitution of Jewish communal property; leading a joint process for the Jewish Federations of North America to map JDC and Jewish Agency synergies in Israel and the FSU; and liaising with key operational partners,

including the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

Among other notable accomplishments during his tenure, Ostrin supervised the rescue of Jews facing war and conflict in Georgia and Ukraine; assisted tens of thousands of Jewish refugees in Austria as they fled Iran, the Soviet Union and other eastern bloc countries in the late 1980s; and currently manages JDC's global communal loan fund, which empowers Jewish communities to innovate through no-interest financing for strategic initiatives and property renovation.

Ostrin shared the history of JDC from its beginning in 1914, where it initially aided Jews living in Palestine under Turkish rule, with a photo book handout that enabled the audience to follow along with visuals. He noted JDC has always and continues to provide for Jews in need, and it currently serves 60 countries and Israel. JDC responds to crises, not just Jewish, and works behind the scenes in many Jewish communities to provide for the safety of Jews before crisis hits.

To learn more about the humanitarian work of JDC, contact Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org.



L-r: Elissa Klapper, Cheryl Bader, Allison Greenbaum, and Lisa and Seth Linzer. (Photos by Aviva Maller, Aviva Maller Photography and Events)



Linda Spilka introduced Asher Ostrin to the group and shared some of her personal JDC experiences.

Israeli Students Win Award for Making Honey Without Bees

BY BRIAN BLUM

(Israel21c via JNS) – With the global population of bees in decline, honey could become a rare commodity on supermarket shelves.

That's why a team of 12 students from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology has been working for the past year on the development of a bee-free honey. It's produced by the bacterium *Bacillus subtilis*, which "learns" to make honey following reprogramming in a lab.

Their efforts have met with success: The team won a gold medal at the recent iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine) competition held in Boston. Some 300 teams from universities around the world took part. This is the sixth gold medal Technion students have won at iGEM since it was established in 2004 by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to give students the opportunity to experiment in synthetic biology.

In addition to developing the science, an equally important component of iGEM involves creating a real business enterprise. The Technion team created its own website and a catchy company name: BeeFree.

"Our vision is to create a sustainable BeeFree honey using engineered bacteria, which will process a nectar-like solution using secreted enzymes that mimic the honey stomach environment," the website <https://2019.igem.org/Team:Technion-Israel> states. (The honey stomach, or crop, is used by bees to store liquids for



Honey sold by Israeli Druze at a roadside stand in the Carmel area of northern Israel on July 29, 2017. (Photo by Anat Hermony/Flash90)

later regurgitation.)

The team collaborated with two Israeli technology firms: Bio-castle, which makes a product that biodegrades contaminants in water (the team used it to collect the proteins needed to make synthetic honey), and Tsuf Globus, which produces herbal "medical honey."

Students from six different disciplines – biomedical engineering, medicine, biotechnology and food engineering, industrial management and engineering, chemical engineering and aerospace engineering – came together to create BeeFree.

"The [win is] definitely exciting, but equally important is the intellectual property created around the project," said Prof. Roei Amit, who heads the Technion's Synthetic Biology Laboratory for the Decipherment of Genomic Codes.

For honey-lovers, continued availability of the sweet stuff will be its own reward.

ZAKA to Expand Operations in North and South America, Caribbean

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – ZAKA Search and Rescue Inc., one of the world's premiere international mass-disaster response agencies, has announced plans to expand operations in strategic cities in North and South America, as well as in the Caribbean.

"ZAKA's primary mission is to save lives. Its effectiveness can be enhanced only through establishing autonomous 'operations hubs' in strategic locations in the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean and elsewhere," says Edward Mermelstein, president of ZAKA in the United States. "Upgrading in this way will vastly improve its ability to respond as fast as possible when tragedy strikes."

The faster it deploys its highly trained volunteer specialists – outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment and other mission-critical resources – "the more lives can be saved," he adds. "We see ZAKA as a long overdue, but now proven, solution to a substantive public-health problem, especially for developing nations in the throes of a

natural or human-made disaster."

Only recently, the agency was recognized with the Ambassador of Peace Award by the government of Guatemala for its humanitarian service to that country in a time of dire need, proving its utility in rapid-deployment disaster response.

Achieving its goals will require raising sufficient funds through private and institutional donations, building a logistical network for rapid deployment of personnel and equipment, and recruiting a corps of volunteers willing to undergo "rigorous training" and to put themselves in harm's way at a moment's notice. Most volunteers are emergency medical technicians (or EMTs); first responders, such as police and firemen; ex-military; and individuals with specialized skills, like doctors and nurses. "Excellent physical fitness" is essential for all candidates.

ZAKA trains and coordinates, with the U.S. National Guard, FEMA and oftentimes deploys with the Israeli Defense Forces on humanitarian missions in response to disasters across the globe.



At right: ZAKA emergency-rescue team and medical personnel at work at a disaster site. (Courtesy photo)

Please support our advertisers and tell them you saw their ad here in

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

➡ Visit www.ujf.org or facebook.com/stamfordFederation

The Lion King Roars at Bi-Cultural

The Pride Lands are headed to Stamford in December, when Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy will present three performances of the musical “The Lion King Jr.”

Performances of this shortened version of the Broadway show will be held on Thursday, December 12, at 7 pm, and Sunday, December 15, at 11

am and 3 pm. With a cast and crew of close to 50 students, this year the annual Bi-Cultural musical will feature a cast of fourth-sixth-graders and a crew of students in grades four-12.

Tickets will cost \$10 and are available at BCHA-CT.org or at the door. Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy is located at 2186 High Ridge Rd. Stamford.



The Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy cast of “The Lion King Jr.”

Bat Mitzvah and Beyond Club



On November 3, Chabad of Stamford’s Bat Mitzvah and Beyond Club members decorated memory boxes to fill with tokens and take-aways from their monthly meetings.

Up Close to the Torah at Gan

At right: Gan Yeladim topped off a month of holiday celebrations with a flag parade just before Simchat Torah, along with an opportunity to dance with a Torah, culminating with an up close kiss and hug as the Torah scroll was rolled in preparation for the holiday.



Sweet as Can Bee

United Jewish Federation’s PJ Library held its “Sweet as Can Bee” program on October 6 at Temple Beth El in Stamford. More than 80 people attended the fall program, which included an apple and honey tasting, storytime, and an educational program about honey and the importance of bees led by Julie Cook, Savannah Bee Company’s Westport store manager. In addition, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy art teacher Yael Shmilovitch helped the kids create mosaic sukkah decorations.

Sunday school children from TBE participated in the program along with multiple families from around the community. The program was sponsored by UJF’s PJ Library, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy and Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools through a grant. UJF thanked TBE for providing breakfast and the use of its lawn for the program. For more information about



Children learned about the science of bees and how they make honey.

PJ Library, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



Families tasted a variety of honeys and apples with Julie Cook of Savannah Bee Company.



L-r: Mihal and David Areyah chatted with Jason and Marla Lewis and Jessica Sosnovich while their children enjoyed crafts.



DAVID'S TREASURE CHEST



United Jewish Federation

UJF's Women's Philanthropy

is collecting unwrapped toys for David's Treasure Chest at Stamford Hospital, which will be given out to the children during the holidays.

David's Treasure Chest was started by the Kanarek family in honor of their son David who passed away in 2000 of leukemia at the age of 15.

Toy drop off locations through December 6th:

- UJF office (1035 Newfield Avenue, 2nd Floor)
- Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (2186 High Ridge Rd, Stamford)
- Carmel Academy (270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich)

For more information contact Diane Sloyer
203-321-1373 ext. 105/ Dianesloyer@ujf.org



TBE Sunday school children received instruction from Bi-Cultural art teacher Yael Shmilovitch while TBE teachers looked on.

Giving Back with PJ Library

On November 3, United Jewish Federation's PJ Library held a family program with Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. The program was funded by a grant received from the collaboration of Prizmah, Avi Chai and The Grinspoon Foundation.

At BCHA's open house for prospective families, dozens of children stopped by the PJ Library mitzvah table to create blessing bags. The bags were filled with toothbrushes, soap, shampoo and other toiletries, which were later dropped off at an area shelter, just in time for Thanksgiving. Thanks to the Hanna and Mazer Dental Group for its donations. Participants also enjoyed an interactive presentation by Mad Science of Fairfield.



Children put together mitzvah bags filled with toiletries to be delivered to an area shelter for Thanksgiving. (Names withheld on request.)

For more information about UJF's PJ Library, visit www.pjlibrary.org or contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org. For information about BCHA, contact Miriam Sperber at msperber@bcha-ct.org.



Mad Science of Fairfield entertained kids at a PJ Library and BCHA joint program.

PJ CORNER

◆ Want \$100 to hang with your friends? Sign up for a PJ Library "Get Together" and plan a fun gathering with at least two or more other families raising Jewish children. Throw a Hanukkah party, welcome Shabbat PJ Library-style, volunteer together or invite friends to participate in your own great idea. Sign up at www.pjlibrary.org/GetTogether.

◆ Have a kid 8½ to 11 years old? Sign them up for free PJ Our Way Jewish books. Each month, they can make a selection from four chapter books. Sign up at www.pjourway.org.

◆ PJ Our Way invites kids to "A Bake, Taste and Donate" event on Sunday, December 15, from 3:30-5 pm. Kids will bake a variety of cookies, tasting along the way, then wrap them to donate to families at Inspirica, a local shelter. The event, for ages 8½-11, will be held at 301 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford. The cost is \$5 per person, parents welcome. Sign up at www.ujf.org/pjcookie.

◆ Come celebrate the festival of lights at "PJ Library's Pancakes and Pajamas Chanukah Party" on Wednesday, December 25, from 9-10:30 am. There will be music, breakfast, crafts and story time. The cost is \$5 per child in advance/\$25 family max. The event is in collaboration with and will be held at the Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave. Sign up at www.ujf.org/pjpancakes. P.S. come in your pajamas.

Try making these tasty Chanukah treats with your kids for the holidays: "MELT IN YOUR MOUTH CHANUKAH GELT COOKIES"

1 stick (½ cup) butter or margarine
½ package (4 oz.) cream cheese or tofutti cream cheese



Melt in Your Mouth Chanukah Gelt Cookies

1 cup confectioner's sugar
1 Tbsp. vanilla sugar (or 1 tsp. vanilla extract)

1⅓ cups flour
(Approximately) 36 medium sized chocolate coins, unwrapped

Instructions:
Preheat oven to 375°F. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

In the bowl of your electric mixer, cream together the butter or margarine and cream cheese until just combined. Add the confectioner's sugar and vanilla sugar, and cream until smooth.

Add the flour and beat until it forms a dough. Don't overmix. Form 1-inch balls of dough (use a small cookie scoop to measure, if you have one) and place on tray.

Bake for 12 minutes. Remove from oven and, working quickly, place an unwrapped chocolate coin into the center of each cookie. Press down slightly on the coin, breaking the surface of the cookie.

Return tray to the oven and bake for an additional minute or two, until cooked through. Remove cookies from oven and set aside to cool. (Don't touch the hot chocolate coins – they can burn!)

United Jewish Federation
Invites You To A:
Jewish Food

Scavenger Hunt!

Explore Jewish foods on a grocery store scavenger hunt!
Craft, Story Time & Snacks.
Sunday, February 9, 2020 3pm - 4:15pm All ages welcome!
Meet in the Fairway Market Café, 699 Canal Street

This is a free program, but we ask that you RSVP at www.ujf.org/pjhunt or contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org/203-321-1373 ext.109

A Program of United Jewish Federation

Invites Kids 8½ to 11 years old to:

A COOKIE BAKE, TASTE & DONATE

Kids will bake a variety of cookies (tasting along the way) then wrap them to donate to families at Inspirica, a local shelter

Sunday, December 15th, 3:30pm-5:00pm
Congregation Agudath Sholom, 301 Strawberry Hill Ave. (auditorium)
\$5 per child (covers supplies)
Sign up at www.ujf.org/pjcookie
Parents welcome!

Co-chairs: Emily Balinsky & Tracey Aaron
For information contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org

A Program of United Jewish Federation

Join us for a "Pancakes & Pajamas" Chanukah Party!

Fun for the whole family – all ages welcome!

Wednesday, December 25th, 9:00am-10:30am
Stamford JCC auditorium, 1035 Newfield Ave.

Breakfast, crafts, story time, mitzvah project & more!
Special interactive music program with David Citrin of the JCC

\$5 per child in advance/\$10 per child at the door (\$25 max per family)

We ask that you RSVP in advance to ensure we have enough supplies

RSVP at www.ujf.org/Pjpancakes
P.S. Come in your pajamas!

For more information, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org

➡ Visit www.ujf.org or facebook.com/stamfordFederation

VOICES AND VIEWS

WHY I CARE...

“Whatever community organization, whether it’s a women’s organization, or fighting for racial justice ... you will get satisfaction out of doing something to give back to the community that you never get in any other way.”

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Focus on Irene Bahrami

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

Irene Bahrami’s smiling face and warm greeting have been a fixture at the Stamford JCC since she started at the front desk more than 20 years ago. She loves Stamford and has seen many changes since she moved here in 1986. Previously she lived in New Jersey and the Bronx, and was raised by her parents, who are originally from Puerto Rico. Irene raised four children and has two grandchildren. Her hobbies include cooking, crocheting, writing poetry, getting together with family and her job. This is why she cares:

How did you get involved with the community?

I started in a part-time role at the JCC and within two months I was asked to be full time. As a receptionist, I register people for classes, answer countless questions each day, help with babysitting and greet people as they walk through the door, as well as on the



Irene Bahrami

phone. I enjoy the Jewish community immensely, have learned a lot and consider myself a part of the community. I enjoy my career, and have seen kids grow from small children to adults, bringing in their own children to the J.

How do you give back?

I have been crocheting for many years. I find it calming, it grounds me, and it is something that

I enjoy doing as a creative outlet. I started making hats and sweaters for Jump Start – a JCC program for special needs children. I have also donated items to various auctions in the community. I’ve made red hats for the American Heart Association, and for the Midnight Run, where my items were delivered to the homeless. Because I am often crocheting something at any given time, someone from United Jewish Federation noticed a baby hat I was making. They asked if I would consider making them for UJF’s Shalom Baby welcome bags, which are given to families who have recently had a baby in the community. I’ve been doing this for over two years.

I make my items from scraps and leftover yarn, as well as unfinished items that people donate. From these bits and pieces, I create beautiful and colorful items that keep babies warm and fashionable. If people have leftover yarn, I encourage them to drop it off to me at The J, so a young child can benefit from a new hat or sweater.

Do you have any special memories in the 20 years you have spent in the community?

I fondly remember Sylvia Plotkin teaching me some crochet stitches and giving me yarn before she passed away. I took that yarn and knitted a gift which I then gave to her great-grandchildren when they were born. This warmed my heart.

JCC Continued from page 7

during or before the open house. “Membership to The J also makes a great holiday gift,” said Ilene Madwed, JCC managing director of membership services. Current JCC members who refer new members will benefit from a rewards program. For more information, contact Madwed at 203-487-0945, or e-mail membership@stamfordjcc.org. The JCC is located on Newfield Avenue, at the intersection of Vine Road in Stamford.

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

Events Continued from page 13

chosen charity.” The Package Party will be held on Tuesday, December 24, at 7:15 pm. The event will be open to both men and women, and will feature a latke and vodka bar.

To top off the celebrations, on Saturday, December 28, starting at 6 pm, Chabad will hold its third annual Chanukah Menorah Car Parade. This will be an opportunity for people to bring their cars to Chabad to be decked out with a

TEEN VOICES

BBYO and Me

BY MAX TRELL

I am a man of my faith: the Jewish faith. When I’m not working at Field Trip, a Westport-based company that produces beefjerky and other snacks, you can most likely find me planning and executing events for BBYO, the Jewish, teen-led organization that I take part in. It is an activity that I could not go on without.

While most people in BBYO join the organization during their eighth or ninth grade year, I joined as a junior in high school – relatively late. Despite being the “new kid,” I was one of the most active members in my chapter for the duration of my first year. I attended every chapter function – whether it be a meeting, event, or convention – and even applied for every leadership role available.

At the end of the year, I decided to take it a step further. After not even one full year of membership, I decided to run for president of our 70 member chapter, the highest position on the teen board. After a competitive election, where teens in the chapter voted for the next wave of board members, I was elected to the high and honorable position of Leviticus AZA’s president. When my term officially began, I put 110 percent of my effort into ensuring that chapter operations were carried out as smooth as possible. Since becoming president, I have had over 30 new prospective members come to meetings, broken the Connecticut BBYO region record for the most chapter members in attendance at a single



Max Trell

regional event, and taken the opportunity to meet and get closer with hundreds of Jewish teenagers of all grade levels and ages around my community.

While BBYO is widely perceived as a hangout spot where Jewish teens go just to add to the ethos of their college resumes, there are many values that can be obtained

from participating in the organization. Hours upon hours of planning for meetings and conventions, executing community service projects, and assisting with Judaic teachings in Stamford and surrounding cities have gone into my time with my chapter. I’ve amassed a great deal of social skills and forged friendships throughout my time spent in BBYO, which will certainly transfer throughout my college years and wherever my future career may lead me.

Becoming a leader in a Jewish organization has taught me that the most effective way to be a leader is not by acting as a superior, but rather by leading as an equal and a friend. If you have the opportunity to join one of these groups, I strongly suggest you take that opportunity and become involved – whether it be BBYO, NFTY, NCSY, USY, or some other movement – as it will go a long way in building your Jewish character and identity.

Max Trell is a 12th-grader at Staples High School. He enjoys watching sports, playing a plethora of musical instruments and participating in The Friendship Circle. Outside of Connecticut, he has attended AIPAC, Camp Silver Lake and B’nai B’rith Perlman Camp.

Solar Continued from page 14

reports that locals are now nearly universally onboard with hundreds of them working as employees at the plant. “It took everyone cooperating – thousands of permits were needed every step of the project – but we all realized this plant is a step toward making Israel greener and cleaner.”

“Further privatizing of the industry will help grow Israel’s solar industry, as will the current drop in solar-energy startup costs,” adds Paz. “What’s going on here is just the beginning of a real revolution in Israel’s energy field.”

Also on hand was Naty Saidoff, the majority owner of Shikun and Binui, as well as the incoming chairman of the Israeli American Council. He described the project as “meeting the needs in terms of sustainability and environmental protection, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, in and of itself a profitable project, which has created jobs for many members of the Negev communities.”

Personally, he added, he’s “proud to be given the opportunity to build meaningful mega-projects in Israel and abroad, and plan to promote similar projects in the future.”

Yosef Abramowitz, solar-energy activist and CEO of Energiya Global, which develops non-polluting energy sources in Africa, is pleased to see new developments in the field. “We need as many of these plants as possible as soon as possible to get rid of the use of fossil fuel,” he said. “It’s also a very good thing they’re diversifying between the solar technologies that use heat versus light.”

So how do Israel’s 21st-century energy challenges differ from other countries’ issues? “We are isolated here in that, if we experienced an energy crisis, we could not rely on our neighbors to help us out,” Steinitz told JNS. “We know we have to balance the need for energy security, which is a high priority, with the critical need to create sources of renewable healthy energy. Israel needs them both.”



A machine cleaning the parabolic mirrors at the Ashalim Solar Thermal Power Station. (Photo courtesy of the Ashalim Solar Thermal Power Station)

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

“The New Jewish Voice” (USPS #184) is published monthly by the United Jewish Federation Inc., 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT 06905-2521.

www.ujf.org for updates and donations

Ricky Arbron President
Diane Sloyer CEO, Advertising Representative

Advisory Committee
Meryl Gordon Chair
Meryl Japha, Nancy Schulman, Ellen Weber

Reporter Group Staff
The Reporter Group edits and publishes *The New Jewish Voice*.
Rabbi Rachel Esserman Executive Editor
Diana Sochor Layout Editor
Ilene Pinsky Assistant Editor
Jenn DePersis Production Coordinator
Bonnie Rozen Advertising Representative
Kathy Brown Bookkeeper

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

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

Kashruth
We are not responsible for the Kashruth of any advertiser’s product or establishment.

HOW TO REACH THE EDITOR:

Mail: Sandy Golove
1035 Newfield Ave. - Suite 200
Stamford, CT 06905-2521

E-mail: sandy@ujf.org

Phone: (203) 912-9945

Send article submissions via e-mail to 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.

HOW TO REACH THE ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES:

BONNIE ROZEN
Phone: 1-800-779-7896, ext. 244
E-mail: bonnie@thereportergroup.org

DIANE SLOYER
Phone: (203) 321-1373, ext. 105
E-mail: dianesloyer@ujf.org

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

Phone: (203) 321-1373
E-mail: sandy@ujf.org

Victims of Terror, Aliyah, and Global Security

Jewish Agency Head Briefs Federation

Every November, hundreds of Israeli emissaries gather for an annual conference. They range in age from 18-year-olds who do a year of service before the Israeli army to campus fellows in their late 20s who spend three years on college campuses throughout North America. The Jewish Agency for Israel, a historic partner of the Federation overseas allocation, funds and supports the *shaliach* (emissary) program.

The conference was held in Stamford this year and local Federation donors had the opportunity for a briefing with Isaac Herzog, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency, and then to join the hundreds of emissaries to hear a panel discussion with Natan Sharansky and Professor Ruth Wisse on antisemitism.

Herzog briefed the group on the Jewish Agency's role in the Fund for the Victims of Terror, *aliyah* and absorption, and global security.

The Fund for the Victims of Terror, an initiative supported by the Jewish Federations of North America, Keren Hayesod, and foundations and donors from Jewish communities around the world, brings emergency assistance to individuals and families affected by rocket fire and other forms of terrorism. Through this fund, the Jewish Agency provides money to assist victims with immediate needs. Representatives of the Jewish Agency visited the families who suffered the recent rocket attacks to personally

deliver financial aid, as well as to convey Diaspora Jewry's solidarity with the victims.

With antisemitism on the rise, global security is a high priority. The agency's Fund for Security Assistance for Jewish Communities was established in 2012, following an attack against a Jewish school in the French city of Toulouse in which an Islamist gunman murdered a rabbi and three children. Since then, the fund has assisted 600 Jewish institutions in 260 different communities in 60 countries, at a cost of about \$13 million. The Jewish Agency reportedly anticipates it will need an additional \$3 million to meet further such requests from communities in some 40 countries by the end of 2020.

The funds have been used to install security cameras, bulletproof glass, shatter-proof glass, security fences and walls, anti-ramming barriers, guard posts and alarm systems.

The fund was credited with thwarting the attack on a synagogue in Halle, Germany, this past Yom Kippur. The entrance door, which had been reinforced with funds from the Jewish Agency's security fund in 2015, withstood an attempt by the terrorist to break in by shooting and setting off an explosive device.

Federation dollars earmarked for Israel and overseas will benefit the impactful and necessary work of the Jewish Agency for Israel. The global Jewish family depends on Federation's support.



L-r: Diane Sloyer, Nancy Mimoun, Isaac Herzog, Elissa and Philip Klapper and Rabbi Daniel Cohen. (Photos by Aviva Maller, Aviva Maller Photography and Events)

Engaging PJ Library Families

United Jewish Federation's managing director of campaign and community engagement, Sharon Franklin, was invited to the November PJ Library conference "Engaging Families through Stories, Art and Playful Exploration," which was held in Northampton, MA. The goal of the conference, set at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, was to learn techniques on how to enhance storytelling and create a more interactive experience for

the audience, and to pair books with relevant arts and crafts. "I'm excited to bring back what I've learned to my community and to bring PJ Library's amazing collection of books to life for our families," shared Franklin.

PJ Library is a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and partners with United Jewish Federation and private donors to send free books to families raising Jewish children around the world, including the local community.



At right: Sharon Franklin shared her creativity as part of a PJ library collaborative *today (thank you) collage* at the November PJ Library conference.



L-r: Shara Israel, Natan Sharansky, Len Mark and Diane Sloyer.



L-r (in front): Claude Bernstein, Kerrin Behrend and Joan Behrend.

Troubled Water

Join UJF and UJA-JCC Greenwich for an evening with Seth Siegel, author of *Troubled Water*. Hear how America's drinking water became contaminated, the risks it poses for us, what's needed to make it safe - and discover Israel's role for the solution.

January 30, 2020
at The Bruce Museum

7pm Dinner and Drinks
Presentation to follow
\$80 Per Person

SAVE THE DATE

Register by January 13th at www.ujf.org/water

Questions, Contact Diane Sloyer
203-321-1373 ext 105/dianesloyer@ujf.org

This event is intended for donors of \$5,000 or more to the 2020 annual campaign.

➡ Visit www.ujf.org or facebook.com/stamfordFederation

WE'VE BEEN

SHARING THE LIGHT

FOR GENERATIONS.

This Chanukah, help us share the light with everyone, young and old. Together we can ensure that community programs and activities that build Jewish identity remain vibrant and strong. And we can fight poverty, hunger and despair right now. Share the light. **Donate. Volunteer. Make a difference.**



**Your Community
Your Money
Your Choice**

www.ujf.org
203-321-1373
1035 Newfield Ave. Stamford

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020/KISLEV-TEVET-SHEVAT 5780
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 8

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

European Jewry at a Crossroads

Chief Rabbi of Moscow to Speak at CAS

The community is invited to hear Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, chief rabbi of Moscow, speak about “European Jewry at a Crossroads” on Monday, December 16, at 7:30 pm, at Congregation Agudath Sholom, 301 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford. The event is being hosted by Congregation Agudath Sholom’s Adult Education Committee.

“It is an honor for Agudath Sholom to host Chief Rabbi Goldschmidt of Moscow,” said Rabbi Daniel Cohen. “He is a leader for European



Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, chief rabbi of Moscow

Jewry. He will address the challenges our brothers and sister confront in Europe. We are united as one people and it is important for us to strengthen our bonds as a nation. The evening is also an opportunity for our community to gain a deeper appreciation for the Russian Jewish community in our midst.”

Rabbi Goldschmidt has been the chief rabbi of Moscow, Russia, since 1993, serving at the Moscow Choral Synagogue. He also

See “European” on page 6

Father/Daughter Team Highlight Annual Jewish Education Panel

Rabbi Michael Taubes, *rosh yeshiva* at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University, and his daughter Shuli Taubes, Judaic studies instructor at SAR High School in Riverdale, NY, will highlight the annual Challenges in



Shuli Taubes



Rabbi Michael Taubes

Jewish Education Panel, to be held at Young Israel of Stamford, 69 Oaklawn Ave., on Saturday, January 11. The panel will begin at 11 am, immediately after morning services, and run for about an hour.

See “Panel” on page 6

UJF Launches Math Mates

New Tutoring Program in Stamford Public Schools

United Jewish Federation announced the launch of Math Mates, a math tutoring program for students in the Stamford elementary schools system. Math Mates is based on the idea of Joy Katz, who volunteered tutoring math for several years in the elementary schools. Katz, who is currently the president of the Jewish Community Center, brought her idea to develop a larger volunteer program to the Federation, where a similar program for reading tutoring has been in place since 1999.

“As a past volunteer in the public school system, I have seen kids who weren’t getting the attention at home

to help them with basic math skills and so they relied on their phones to do simple math,” said Katz. “I felt that a program similar to Reading Partners, where kids could receive math help early in their education, would be a real boost to their math ability moving forward. I’m very excited that UJF will now be launching Math Mates into the elementary schools and assisting those kids who have been struggling with math.”

“Math Mates will pilot in January of 2020 in three schools, with tutors aiding students in the kindergarten and

See “Math” on page 2

Heart Songs

Temple Sinai Annual Cantor’s Concert

On Sunday, December 15, at Temple Sinai, 458 Lakeside Dr., Stamford, Cantor Micah Morgovsky will present a solo concert titled “Heart Songs.” The music will center on expressions of the heart and soul. Cantor Morgovsky’s selections will reflect the need to safely share innermost thoughts and aspirations.

Cantor Morgovsky reflected, “Music gives voice to that which we so often keep hidden – our hopes, our dreams, our longing. My hope is that in sharing these songs, songs that are deeply emotional and personal, those lis-



Cantor Micah Morgovsky

tening might feel inspired to lean into their own vulnerability. When we open our hearts, we invite others to draw closer.”

There will be a pre-concert reception beginning at 4:30 pm and the concert will begin promptly at 5:30 pm. Seating is limited for the annual event, and tickets can be purchased in advance either online at www.templestinaistamford.org or by calling Shelly Welfeld at Temple Sinai at 203-322-1649.

Concert proceeds will support spiritual music and arts programming at Temple Sinai.

Candle Lighting	2	Bits & Pieces	6	UJF Annual Meeting	9	Chanukah	13	PJ Library	17	Voices & Views	18
-----------------	---	---------------	---	--------------------	---	----------	----	------------	----	----------------	----



Federation Donors Meet with Isaac Herzog

United Jewish Federation joined Isaac Herzog (seated in the center), chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, for a leadership briefing. Herzog was in Stamford as part of a conference for shlichim (emissaries), a Jewish Agency initiative that trains and sends hundreds of young Israeli emissaries throughout the world to strengthen Jewish identity and connection to Israel. The Jewish Agency is a partner and beneficiary of United Jewish Federation. See page 19 for further coverage. (Photo by Aviva Maller, Aviva Maller Photography and Events)