



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Temple Sinai Annual Cantor's Concert

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) Temple Sinai invites the community to its annual Cantor's Concert scheduled for Sunday, December 17. There will be a pre-concert reception starting at 4:30 pm and the concert will begin promptly at 5:30 pm.

Wickedly Good will feature Cantor Micah Morgovsky (Temple Sinai), Cantor Katie Kaplan (Temple Beth El), Temple Sinai congregants Sophie Graf, Ayalah Spratt, and Jen Zonis, and accompanist Alex Ruvinstein on piano.



Cantor Micah Morgovsky

An eclectic array of songs from Disney, Broadway and pop culture will fill imaginations with a light-hearted musical exploration of good and evil.

Cantor Micah reflects, "I love experimenting with musical themes across genres. My goal is to evoke a wide range of emotions through song and story in

a concert that is enjoyable for the entire family."

Seating is limited for this highly

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UJF Annual Meeting Hosts First Druze Emissary

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien will hold its annual meeting on Monday, December 11 at Temple Sinai, 458 Lakeside Drive. The evening will begin at 7:00 pm with a dessert reception and the program will begin at 7:30 pm. This event is free and open to the community.

The featured guest speaker will be Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh, Senior Envoy of The Jewish Agency for Israel based



Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh

at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. She began working for the Israeli Broadcasting Corporation in 2011, where she hosted a program in Arabic focusing on the social and cultural issues concerning Arab youth in Israel.

In 2015, Kamal-Mreeh was selected to host the Israeli Broadcasting Corporation's daily newscast in Arabic, and in 2017 she began anchoring its main Hebrew

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Shine A Light on Antisemitism

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien and UJA-JCC Greenwich have been awarded a grant from the "Shine a Light on Antisemitism" initiative to show *The Devil's Confession: The Lost Eichmann Tapes* on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 pm at the Ferguson Library, Dudley N. Williams Auditorium, One Library Place, Stamford. The Ferguson Library is a co-sponsor of this film.

The Devil's Confession: The Lost Eichmann Tapes unearths secret recordings of Adolf Eichmann, one of the chief architects of the Holocaust's Final Solution, which definitively shows his active involvement in the planning and implementation of one of the greatest atrocities in world history. Recorded in Buenos Aires in 1957 by Dutch journalist and former SS-Officer Willem Sassen with the intention to prove the Holocaust did not happen

as portrayed and without Hitler's knowledge, these tapes show the opposite and expose Eichmann, in his own voice, stunningly contradicting claims he made during his eventual trial for crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes against the Jewish people. *The Devil's Confession: The Lost Eichmann Tapes* sheds light on the hidden forces

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March for Israel Marks Historic Moment

UJF proudly took its place among the nearly 300,000 people who traveled from around the world to attend the March for Israel in Washington DC on Tuesday, November 14. Co-sponsored by Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, the March for Israel helped raise awareness about the war in Israel, called for the release of hostages, and showed national solidarity in the fight against antisemitism in all forms. See pages 10-11 for more photos. (PHOTOS COURTESY OF UJF)



From UJF's Chief Executive Officer It Takes a Village

BY DIANE SLOYER

As I sit to write my column, it is the 30th day since Hamas barbarically killed Jews in their sleep and bragged about it to the world. It has been 30 days since approximately 240 were taken hostage. It has been 30 days since



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

our collective Jewish community buried loved ones and prepared to fight the war on terror. Thirty days traditionally marks the end of the 30 day mourning period but we, as a Jewish people, continue to mourn with a sense of unfathomable grief and still for me, disbelief and shock.

I have fielded calls every day since Black Saturday, "How can we help?" I understand the overwhelming sense of purpose we all feel. I am grateful that I have the privilege of serving as the CEO of United Jewish Federation where I and our small but mighty staff, have a place to go every day, where we can feel we are making a difference. It is never enough, and I continue to feel overwhelmed and helpless,

but it is a place where I can at least direct my energy.

Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) is a network of 146 Federations of varying sizes. Together, we represent all of North America and are each poised to jump into action and mobilize in times of crises. Since October 7, your local Federation has done exactly that. We organized an evening of solidarity, attended by over 2,000. Working with Mayor Caroline Simmons, we gathered together as a community and raised the flag of Israel over the Stamford Government Center as well as rallying and showing our support for Israel. Just the other day, we hosted a stroller installation to call attention to the plight of the hostages. Along with the other Federations, we participated in a large March on Washington DC with five buses filled with local community members.

Our Federation has had a significant presence in the media as well, advocating for Israel and the funds needed to support her in this time of need. This included *News*

12 Connecticut, the *Stamford Advocate* with both stories and paid advertisements *CT Insider*, and a digital billboard that drove around our area showing the faces of the hostages. This is not just a Jewish story but that of a fight on terror, hatred, anti-zionism and antisemitism.

And beyond these public shows of solidarity, Federation's Shaliach, Yoav Yaron, has been working with our local teens throughout the Jewish and public school communities. Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council Director Sharon Lewis and Deputy Director Eric Ross, have compiled a comprehensive guide to advocacy and have spent numerous hours with government and public school officials on advocacy and messaging. We have fielded hundreds of calls from community members who have turned to UJF for support. And for many, this is the first time!

Within the first two weeks of Operation Swords of Iron, I was fortunate to have traveled on a solidarity mission to Israel with JFNA along with Federation President Michael Schlessinger. We were met with an

overwhelming sense of unity. I returned feeling devastated and broken having heard the specifics of the horrific events. However, we also gained a renewed sense of resolve that Federation matters, our work matters and its impact can be great. And now more than ever, we in the US, just like in Israel, need to put our differences aside and work together for the good of the Jewish people.

It is a daunting task, but I am confident we can accept the challenge. We have no choice.

And this organization is here to do exactly that! There is no other organization where one gift, big or small, does a world of good. Day in and day out, your local Federation works for our community and our global Jewish family. Being part of a collective leverages relationships and makes things happen! Your Annual Campaign gift ensures that UJF remains strong to do the important work at hand. We need each other now more than ever because we are all in this together. Please support the 2023 Annual Campaign.

UJF President's Message A Call To Advocacy

BY MICHAEL SCHLESSINGER

November 7, 2023 marked 30 days since the Hamas massacre of more than [1,200] Israelis on October 7. The topic of Israel, so typically avoided at pluralistic American Jewish gatherings 31 days ago, has naturally become all we talk about. During sleepless nights, or as we scroll the internet, our disbelief deepens, and our questions proliferate:



Michael Schlessinger, UJF President

(among others) just hate Israel, or do they hate Jews and the non-Muslim west as well?

- With calls for a "cease fire" intensifying, and many miles of tunnels left to be destroyed together with the rest of a "state-like" terrorism infrastructure many years in the making, what is the future of Gaza and with

what long-term implications for the viability of Israel?

- How have we, with our unparalleled intellectual and scholarly legacy, so spectacularly lost (or at least begun to lose) the argument over Israel's legitimacy, especially among the under-35 demographic? What role have TikTok algorithms and Qatar funding played? How can lazy and inaccurate buzzwords ("apartheid," "settler colonialism," "occupation") coexist with and obscure the reality of the modern miracle we know as Israel?
- What must we do to reverse this public opinion trend, especially with Israel in what seems to be a very real existential moment and with Jews around the world threatened, intimidated and considering making Aliyah?

Since October 7, I have wondered whether I am overreacting. Are the crimes of October 7, coupled with a well-funded and tightly coordinated protest and propaganda campaign designed to limit Israel's response, a real threat to Jewish existence, or are they just another (albeit singularly horrific) example of a sad but tolerable status quo?

I think we should apply the precautionary principle. If October 7 revealed an existential threat, we should dramatically reallocate our resources as a community to confront it. There are signs that is beginning to happen, including the November 14 March on Washington. As we do so, I hope we correct two mistakes. First, let's stop saying "we are losing the PR war" – it's not a PR war, it's a real war. Clever social media influencers, no matter how young and hip, will not do the trick. Nor will outsourcing to the ADL. Second, and relatedly, let's do this strategically, as a "big tent" community. Our failure to spot and nip in the bud the weaponization of ideologies from both the right and left stems in some significant part from our own division. We will not have unanimity on what my rabbi calls "the details" of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but if "never again" means anything, we will find enough common ground to defeat an existential threat. Am Yisrael Chai.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

December 1.....	4:08 pm
December 8.....	4:08 pm
December 15.....	4:08 pm
December 22.....	4:11 pm
December 29.....	4:16 pm
January 5.....	4:22 pm
January 12.....	4:29 pm
January 19.....	4:37 pm
January 26.....	4:45 pm

UPCOMING DEADLINES

February-March 2024 - Purim
Deadline: Monday, January 8, 2024

Email submissions to
sandy@ujf.org
You should receive notification
that your submission was
received!

Sparking Citywide Random Acts of Kindness

The City of Stamford has partnered with Congregation Agudath Sholom to launch the Stamford Kindness Project – Sparking Citywide Random Acts of Kindness.

Faith leaders, elected officials, community members, local businesses and organizations gathered on November 3 in the Stamford Government Center lobby to launch the project. The event included remarks from Mayor Caroline Simmons, Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools, Talay Hafiz, President of the Stamford Islamic Center, and Rabbi Daniel Cohen, senior Rabbi of Congregation Agudath Sholom, who provided inspirational ideas for sparking kindness.

The initiative aims to inspire and unite the community through kind and selfless acts. The campaign began on November 3 and will run through the end of 2023 and beyond. All members of the community, organizations, and local businesses are invited to participate in any capacity they are able to. This can be done by organizing acts of kindness in homes, businesses, schools, or organizations and inspiring others to do the same. Participants can use the #StamfordKindnessProject hashtag on social media to spread the word.

The city is aiming for 100,000 acts of kindness before the holidays, which can be achieved through one good deed from each resident.

“We’re living in a world where



Rabbi Daniel Cohen of Congregation Agudath Sholom, Reverend Mark Lingle of St. Francis Episcopal Church and Talay Hafiz, President of the Stamford Islamic Center.

unfortunately there’s too much hate, there’s too much violence. We have an obligation to flood the City of Stamford with kindness,” said Rabbi Cohen. “One day at a time, one act at a time, and one life at a time – respecting the faiths of others because we are confident in our own; inviting others to join us in building a world worthy of being a home for the Divine presence. I am honored to partner with Mayor Simmons and the city of Stamford for the Stamford Kindness Project.”

“In the midst of the wars happening in our world, now is the perfect time for the Stamford Kindness Project,” said Mayor Simmons. “Kindness has no boundaries and doesn’t discriminate based on race, religion, or social status. It’s a universal language that can unite people and transcend our differences, creating a ripple effect beyond our immediate surroundings. I’m excited to see how kind our City of Stamford can be.”



Community leaders gather to launch the Stamford Kindness Project (l-r) Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools, Carmen Hughes, City of Stamford Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Rachel Alonso-Mendoza, Special Assistant to the Mayor, Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons, and Kindness Project committee members Olivia Aryeh, Risa Raich, and Jess Berger.

An Evening with Schoke JFS

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service invites the community to its annual celebration, “An Evening with Schoke JFS,” on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 5:30 pm, at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road. Nan and Paul Gordon and Betsy and Michael Stone are the recipients of the 44th Annual Mitzvah Award, and Sally Kleinman and Ronnie Sichel are recipients of the Community Service Award.

The evening’s events include a cocktail reception followed by dinner,

presentation of awards to the honorees, a paddle raise in support of the Japha Family Emergency Assistance Program, and dessert. There will also be an online auction. The event is chaired by Connie Freeman, Meryl Japha, Jillian Klaff, and Esther Rein, with Jeri Appel as auction chair. General tickets include dinner and dessert for \$250, and can be purchased at www.ctjfs.org. Contact Janet Wainright at 203-921-4161 or jwainright@ctjfs.org to place a journal ad.

Chabad of Stamford Hosts Annual Gala

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford will host its Annual Gala celebration this year on Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 5:00 pm, at the Armon Hotel in Stamford. The entire community is warmly invited to join in this celebration of unity, solidarity and togetherness.

The evening will start with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres followed by dinner, awards and entertainment with dessert buffet to follow.

In the wake of the horrific recent events in Israel and the world, Chabad of Stamford underscores the importance of coming together in unity and solidarity. The gala aims to honor special guests and the community for their steadfast support and dedication. For Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov, it serves as an evening to shine light on the positive developments and strength witnessed over the past year.

For Leah Shemtov, “the Gala promises to infuse the spirit of the past year and be an evening filled with meaning and inspiration.”

Rabbi Moshe sees it as a “gathering

of our community to come together in acknowledgement and celebration of all that Chabad and Gan Yeladim has to offer the community. Chabad of Stamford is not just a shul or a school, it’s a place where we strive to offer the community something for everyone, of all ages and all stages.”

The Gala dinner will be preceded by an online crowdfunding event. These two combined events are Chabad’s largest fundraisers and enable them to continue servicing the community. As they bid farewell to 2023 and usher in 2024, Chabad will launch a matching campaign in December.

Leah Shemtov shares that “Rabbi Moshe and I are taking this moment to celebrate the unique gifts and lessons the past year has brought us as we eagerly anticipate strengthening our efforts in the year ahead, in partnership with our wonderful Stamford community.”

For more information about Chabad’s Annual Gala celebration, please email programs@stamfordchabad.org or visit www.stamfordchabad.org.



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Scholar in Residence Comes to Chabad of New Canaan

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) On Sunday Dec 3 at 10:30 am, Scholar in Residence Rabbi Yechiel Krisch will discuss “The Intersection Between Science, Technology, Medicine, and Authentic Judaism” at Chabad of New Canaan, 137 Putnam Road, New Canaan.

Rabbi Krisch is a seasoned lecturer and sought-after speaker. He holds academic degrees in biology, health sciences, and science journalism, and Orthodox (Chabad) rabbinic ordination. His science writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic, Scientific

American, Popular Mechanics, and several other international publications (under the byline Joshua A. Krisch). He served as a Chabad emissary to Ithaca College in upstate New York for five years, conducted cancer research, worked as an EMT, and flew single-engine airplanes.

For more information or to register for the Scholar in Residence program, email rabbi@chabadnewcanaan.org, call 203 972 7708, or visit www.newcanaanjewish.org

The Stamford JCC Presents: The Land of Sweets

(Courtesy of JCC) Who's ready to embark on a whimsical and enchanting journey to *The Land of Sweets*? Mark your calendars for a heartwarming family-friendly event that promises to transport you to a world of magic, dance, and sweet delights. *The Land of Sweets*, a children's musical production inspired by *The Nutcracker*, is set to captivate audiences of all ages on Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 pm.

Presented by The Stamford JCC's Performing Arts Department, this event is designed to take individuals on an adventure through a mystical kingdom inhabited

by delectable dance sweets. But that's not all! As the citizens of CandyTown guide attendees through this enchanting realm, they will be treated to an exquisite showcase of dance and music featuring compositions by Tchaikovsky, Duke Ellington, and more.

The Land of Sweets tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased online at www.stamfordjcc.org. All ticket sales benefit The Stamford JCC's Performing Arts Department.

For more information, contact performingarts@stamfordjcc.org.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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A Tale of Murder, Deception, and Friendship

(Courtesy of JCC)

Former television sports reporter turned crime writer Elise Hart Kipness will be speaking about her book,

Lights Out, at The Stamford JCC on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

In this debut novel, the first in the series, comes a fast-paced thriller that follows a sports reporter's journey off the court...and into a world of murder and deception.

Former Olympic athlete and sports reporter, Kate Green, isn't sure how much more tumultuous her life can get. She's been put on temporary leave from her job. Then NBA superstar Kurt Robbins is killed, and the prime suspect in his murder is none other than his wife Yvette...and Kate's best friend.

Kate knows that Yvette's marriage wasn't exactly stable, but her friend is no murderer, and Kate is determined to prove it with her own investigation. While she tries to salvage Yvette's life, Kate's own continues to unravel. Her career is in limbo. Gossip columns speculate about her future. Her children are battling their own demons. And her estranged father suddenly reenters her life as a detective assigned to Kurt's homicide case.

As her worlds collide—exposing secrets, lies, and ulterior motives—Kate may have to choose between the games she can play and the one she might lose.



Author Elise Hart Kipness

Elise has been a longtime member of The Stamford Jewish Community Center. She shares, "It is so exciting for me to have an event at The Stamford JCC! My family and I have been coming to this JCC for decades and have so many wonderful memories. So it's extra special to be able to return here and talk about my new book."

In addition to reporting for Fox Sports Network, Elise was a reporter at New York's WNBC-TV, News 12 Long Island, NY, and the Associated Press. She is currently Co-President of the newly formed Sisters in Crime Connecticut (SinC-CT), an organization dedicated to the advancement, recognition, and professional development of women crime writers. A graduate of Brown University, Elise has two college-aged sons and three labradoodles. She and her husband divide their time between Stamford, Connecticut and Key West, Florida.

Registration for the event is required. Members \$20, Community \$30. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone will receive a copy of *Lights Out*, and Elise will be signing copies. Visit www.stamfordjcc.org.



Embrace the Winter Season with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Join Chabad of Stamford and Gan Yeladim for two fun winter gatherings. On Monday, December 25, Chabad invites individuals and families to its "Family Day Brunch" starting at 10:30 am. Enjoy an array of family activities and a buffet brunch featuring waffles, pancakes, eggs, and all the fixings. This year, participants are encouraged to lend a helping hand to those in need by baking challah and preparing chicken soup for "Shabbat to Go" packages, bringing the warmth of Shabbat to those who could use it. There will also be "Mitzvahs for Israel" stations for people to do special good deeds for those in Israel.

On Saturday, January 6, join Chabad for its annual "Havdalah in PJs" event at 6:00 pm. This family event features a musical Havdalah ceremony along with activities, songs, dance, storytelling, and snacks, including hot chocolate and s'mores.

For more details, please email Chabad of Stamford at programs@stamfordchabad.org.

Now is the Time

BY SHARON LEWIS,
UJF JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL
DIRECTOR

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) was one of the first priorities when United Jewish Federation (UJF) was formed 50 years ago. UJF founders knew that to be secure and to grow, UJF needed our community members to advocate for the interests of our Jewish community, fight antisemitism, support Israel and create bonds of fellowship with other faith and cultural communities in Stamford. We have been successful in these efforts in many ways but **NOW IS THE TIME** to increase these efforts.

The JCRC Committee has been actively engaged in this work for decades, but it has never been more important. If you are not involved in JCRC work, **NOW IS THE TIME AND WE NEED YOU!**

NOW IS THE TIME to join together and advocate for our state and nation to support Israel. We need YOU to engage and write to and call our elected representatives to make sure they know how important support of Israel is at this time. There are many ways you can be an advocate. You can help us lobby, you can help us educate others, you can help us write letters, and you can help us keep abreast of all the latest developments.

NOW IS THE TIME to help the JCRC fight antisemitism. Before October 7, there was virtually no expression of antisemitism in Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien. But since then, incidents of antisemitism in Stamford have increased. In response to swastikas drawn at a Stamford school, Rabbi Daniel Cohen and I met with Superintendent Lucero



Sharon Lewis,
UJF JCRC Director

to discuss administrative response to antisemitism in the schools and that Jewish students in Stamford Public School need more support from the administration. Our community *shaliach*, Yoav Yaron and youth leader, Dovi Siderson, have met with students at Westhill and Stamford High Schools. We have had meetings with principals to address these incidents

NOW IS THE TIME for you to help us with the fight against antisemitism. We need you to help us know where and when these incidents occur. The more eyes on the problem, the better we can respond.

Federation professionals from across North America gathered in Chicago at the beginning of November for a convention planned long before October 7. The importance of community relations was one of the themes of the conference before the war started. But in our current moment, JFNA is turning its laser focus on the vital importance of increasing resources towards community relations and public affairs. **NOW IS THE TIME** to join the JCRC and become active in increasing our efforts to create strong bonds of fellowship with other faith and cultural communities. We want allies and we must also be allies to other communities. **NOW IS THE TIME** to help us do this.

The JCRC Committee meets quarterly and is organized into subcommittees which meet more regularly. For more information, please reach out to me, slewis@ujf.org.

JCRC Legislative Briefing

The Legislative Reception held by UJF's JCRC and the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) on Sunday, November 19 at Agudath Sholom provided

the chance for community members to hear from local State Representatives, who echoed on-going support for Israel and the local Jewish community.



Left to right: JFACT Executive Director Michael Bloom, UJF JCRC Director Sharon Lewis, State Senator Ryan Fazio, State Representative Rachel Khanna, State Representative Matthew Blumenthal, and State Representative Lucy Dathan (PHOTO COURTESY OF UJF)



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

ADDRESSING ANTISEMITISM

A 3-Part Zoom Series Starting on International
Holocaust Remembrance Day



RICHARD
HUROWITZ



DIANA
FERSKO



PHILIP
SLAYTON

JANUARY 28TH, 7 PM
(INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY):

In the Garden of the Righteous: The Heroes Who
Riskyed Their Lives to Save Jews During the Holocaust
with Richard Hurowitz

FEBRUARY 25TH, 7 PM

We Need To Talk About Antisemitism with
Rabbi Diane Fersko

MARCH 10TH, 7 PM

Antisemitism An Ancient Hatred in the Age of Identify
Politics with Philip Slayton

Register at

WWW.UJF.ORG/JCRC SERIES

For more information, please email slewis@ujf.org

Celebrate Chanukah with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) This Chanukah, Chabad of Stamford is set to illuminate the community with an array of festivities and events for all to enjoy. Leading up to the holiday, Chabad will open its Chanukah pop-up shop, where you can find a wide selection of Chanukah essentials, including olive oil vials, candles, dreidels, menorahs, games, puzzles, arts and crafts, decorations, gelt, treats, and more.

Kicking off the celebrations on Friday, December 8, Chabad will host a "Friday Night Live" Chanukah Kabbalat Shabbat. A menorah lighting will take place at 4:00 pm followed by a Kabbalat Shabbat and a kiddush featuring a deluxe latke bar at 5:00 pm.

On Saturday, December 9, Chabad will host a "Menorah Car Parade," now in its seventh year. Starting at 6:00 pm, participants are invited to bring their cars to Chabad for a makeover with car menorahs. Together, they will drive through Stamford, spreading light and the Chanukah spirit throughout town. The parade will commence at Chabad on 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford, wind its way through downtown Stamford and Harbor Point, and culminate at Latham Park. Here, participants will join in lighting a giant menorah on the 3rd night of Chanukah, while enjoying gelt, latkes, and donuts.

On Sunday, December 10, the Cteens group will have an ice skating party at 12:30 pm.

Later in the day, Chabad's Chanukah Community celebration and Giant Menorah Lighting will take place outdoors at Latham Park in downtown Stamford, beginning at 4:00 pm. This

event is open to families, local dignitaries, and community leaders. The event will also feature latkes, hot apple cider, donuts and chocolate gelt.

Sunday's festivities will continue with a concert celebrating Chanukah and the land of Israel with Israeli singer Yoel Sharabi. An Israeli dinner will be available for purchase, and there will be an opportunity to kindle the menorah with pride and unity.

On Tuesday, December 12, Chabad's Jewish Women Connected (JWC) will organize a package party at 7:15 pm, featuring food, drinks, fun, and a live auction. Participants bring wrapped gifts that are then auctioned off to the highest bidder, with the proceeds benefiting a chosen charity.

Finally, on Wednesday, December 13, Chabad's "Betsy's Buddies" program will host a Chanukah lunch for community seniors and their friends. This event is multi-generational, with volunteers preparing and serving the meal, and the children of Gan Yeladim providing entertainment.

Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov encourage everyone to "come and warm your heart with Jewish pride as we light Fairfield County's largest menorah. Spreading light and joy is the perfect way to amplify the Chanukah message - that of Jewish continuity, perseverance, and the spreading of light."

All of these events are open to the entire community. If you would like more information, wish to register, or are interested in volunteering, please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org or call 203-2CHABAD.

Spread Cheer with Schoke JFS Gift Drive

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service is gearing up for the holiday season with the annual "Matanot Lev Gift Drive." *Matanot Lev* (gifts to the needy) aims to sprinkle an extra dose of magic on the holidays by fulfilling the wishes of families, Holocaust survivors, and isolated seniors who do not have the means to do so themselves.

In the spirit of giving, recipient families are encouraged to share their Chanukah wish lists with their dedicated case managers at Schoke JFS. These heartfelt wishes are then conveyed to the community through the *GiveSmart*

platform. The wider community can illuminate the lives of families in need by choosing and purchasing gifts that will be thoughtfully wrapped and sent directly to them. Gifts can be purchased for Schoke JFS clients through the convenient *GiveSmart* site at www.ctjfs.org/matanotlev.

Generosity fuels the Matanot Lev Gift Drive, making it possible to spread joy and light to those less fortunate in the community. Join Schoke JFS in creating heartwarming moments and unforgettable memories for those who need it most.

Get Lit with Federation

(Courtesy of UJF) This Chanukah, United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is excited to take part once again in the Darien community candle lighting, Sunday, December 10 at 6:00 pm and Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 pm in Darien. UJF CEO Diane Sloyer will offer remarks and UJF staff members will interact with participants to enroll children of the many new Jewish Darien families in the PJ Library program. Additionally children in attendance will receive Chanukah give-a-ways.

On Tuesday, December 12 at 4:30 pm, United Jewish Federation will convene the community at the Stamford Government Center where Mayor Simmons will share remarks and the menorah will be lit. Refreshments and music will be part of the celebration.

On Sunday, December 10 at 6:00 pm and Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 pm, Federation will receive the honor of lighting the menorah in Darien for the 7th night.

Please join us this Chanukah in spreading the light!

Chabad of New Canaan Celebrates Chanukah

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) On Friday, December 8, the second night of Chanukah, Chabad of New Canaan will hold a community shabbat Chanukah dinner. Join a warm, festive dinner complete with traditional Chanukah foods at Chabad of New Canaan, 137 Putnam Road, New Canaan, CT.

Menorah lighting followed by Shabbat candle lighting will be at 4:00 pm. Shabbat services begin at 4:30 pm and Shabbat dinner at 5:15 pm.

On Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 pm,

there will be a Community Menorah Lighting on God's Acre, 23 Park St, New Canaan. The Menorah Lighting is an annual highlight for the New Canaan Jewish Community.

Enjoy hot Latkes, Chanukah gelt, donuts, Chanukah music, and other Chanukah fun.

For more information or to register for any of these programs, email rabbi@chabadnewcanaan.org, call 203 972 7708 or visit www.newcanaanjewish.org

Chanukah Kids Night Out at The J

(Courtesy of JCC) On Saturday, December 9 from 5:30-8:30 pm, join the Stamford Jewish Community Center for an evening full of Chanukah activities for children ages 5 to 12. Explore Chanukah through crafts, food and arts.

JCC members can attend for a rate of

\$25 first child, \$15 for additional. Non-members can attend for a rate of \$40 first child, \$20 for each additional child.

For more information, please reach out to Reyanne Neal, Director of Youth & Family, rneal@stamfordjcc.org.

Temple Sinai Annual Cantor's Concert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

anticipated annual event. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at [www.templestainstamford.org](http://www.templestain Stamford.org) or by contacting the Temple Sinai office at 203-322-1649. The suggested donation is \$36/adult and \$18/child under age 13. Sponsorship

opportunities are available. Sponsors will receive additional benefits, including reserved seating and recognition at the concert.

Temple Sinai is located at 458 Lakeside Drive in Stamford. Concert proceeds will support the synagogue's music and arts programming.

UJF COMMUNITY CANDLE LIGHTING



Tuesday, December 12
4:30 pm

Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT.

Schoke JFS Supports Those with Seasonal Affective Disorder

**BY GUS NUNEZ, LMSW, SCHOKE JFS
DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL AND FAMILY
LIFE SERVICES**

As the seasons change, many individuals find themselves grappling with seasonal depression, commonly known as “seasonal affective disorder” (SAD). The onset of darker, colder days can take a toll on mental well-being, leading to feelings of lethargy, depression, despondency, and a lack of motivation. However, there are several effective strategies that can help combat seasonal depression and promote a sense of emotional balance and well-being.

Self-Monitoring Techniques

Mood Journaling: Keep track of your mood patterns and any seasonal fluctuations you might observe. This can help you identify specific triggers and monitor your emotional well-being over time.

Activity Tracking: Monitor your daily activities and their impact on your mood. Note down any activities that bring you joy or alleviate your symptoms.

Coping Strategies

Light Therapy: Invest in a light therapy box that mimics natural sunlight, as exposure to bright light can help regulate mood and improve overall well-being,



Gus Nunez, LMSW, provides emotional support to a client.

particularly during the darker months.

Regular Exercise: Engage in regular physical activity, such as outdoor walks, yoga, or any other form of exercise that you enjoy. Exercise is known to boost mood and alleviate symptoms of depression.

Social Engagement: Stay connected with friends and family, and actively seek social interactions to counteract feelings of isolation. Join community groups or clubs

that foster a sense of belonging and provide emotional support.

Professional Resources

Therapy Services: Reach out to Gus Nunez, LMSW, Schoke Jewish Family Service Director of Clinical and Family Life Services, at 203-921-4161 or gnunez@ctjfs.org. Gus can connect you with one of the licensed therapists through the Schoke JFS Kuriansky Family Counseling Program.

They can offer personalized guidance and support tailored to your specific needs.

Support Groups: Consider joining one of the Schoke JFS support groups at www.ctjfs.org/groups/. Connecting with others who share similar experiences can provide a sense of camaraderie and understanding.

Additional Tools and Resources

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH): Visit the NIMH website for comprehensive information on seasonal affective disorder and available treatment options.

American Psychiatric Association (APA): Explore the APA website for valuable resources and educational materials on mental health and well-being.

Remember, seasonal depression is a treatable condition, and seeking support is a crucial step towards managing its effects. By implementing these practical tools and techniques, individuals can take proactive measures to alleviate symptoms and regain a sense of emotional equilibrium, even during the challenging winter months.

UJF Annual Meeting Hosts First Druze Emissary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Saturday evening newscast, as well as a nightly newscast, becoming the first non-Jewish anchorwoman to broadcast a main evening news in the Hebrew language in Israel.

In April 2019, Kamal-Mreeh was elected to the Knesset as a member of the Blue and White party, making history as the first Druze woman to become a Member of the Knesset. During her tenure, she chaired the Caucus for Planning, Zoning and Industrial Areas, and the Caucus for the Advancement of Druze Women. She was a member of the Interior and Environment Committee, the Advancement of Women's Status and Gender Equality Committee, and of the special committee for fighting crime within the Arab sector. Kamal Mreeh co-chaired the Israel-Germany friendship group and chaired the Israel Switzerland parliamentary friendship group.

Kamal-Mreeh holds a degree with honors from Bar-Ilan University in Medical Imaging and Social Sciences, and a master's degree with honors in International Relations from Haifa University, specializing in negotiations and making decisions in international relations. In 2021, Kamal-Mreeh became the Jewish Agency's first Druze emissary to the U.S. based in Washington D.C. She

is a “Munich Young Leaders” Alumni and in 2021 was chosen by the “World Economic Forum” as one of the young global leaders. In the same year she was also awarded the knight of Government Quality by The Movement for Quality Government in Israel.

Kamal-Mreeh was born and lived in the Druze village, Daliyat al-Carmel. She is married to Shadi and a mother of two children, Tom and Liam. She enjoys cooking, art, nature, and quality time with her family which is the key for her pure happiness.

“Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh’s personal and professional journey makes her a powerful embodiment of Israeli society’s diversity and complexity. We are thrilled that this unprecedented appointment will bring greater awareness regarding that diverse landscape to the United States as part of our efforts to strengthen understanding of Israel worldwide,” said Amira Ahronoviz, The Jewish Agency’s Director General and CEO.

In addition to this extraordinary woman, the annual meeting will feature a State of the Federation address given by Federation President Michael Schlessinger as well as a farewell to departing board members and the installation of incoming board members.

Registration can be found at www.ujf.org/annual23.



MOZAIC
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Life with Community



A NEW VISION IN SENIOR LIVING. YOURS.

Mozaic Concierge Living is bringing that vision to life in Stamford. A community where a healthy, happy retirement is defined by your own terms. A lifestyle concierge is just a phone call away. Beautiful surroundings with 168 luxury residences and robust cultural, social, educational and recreational opportunities. Plus, any future needs that develop will be met with the full spectrum of life care services.

Priority Club Membership is still available, but for a limited time!

To learn more about Mozaic Concierge Living or become a Priority Member, please contact us at **203-396-1140** or info@mozaiccl.org.

mozaicconciergeliving.org



Chabad Dedicates Evening to Prayer, Challah and Coping with Stress

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) As the heart-wrenching and traumatic news in Israel unfolded this past October, the community came together in meaningful ways to do mitzvahs, pray and raise money for Israel.

One event, which was organized by Leah Shemtov, Co-director of Chabad of Stamford, and Hillary Isaacs, Gan Yeladim Associated Director and School Psychologist, included trauma specialist Elissa Stein, MA, LMFT, LPC, who joined women in the community for an evening of prayer, inspiration, and challah making. The women had the privilege of listening to Elissa, who shared valuable, practical (and much needed) coping tools for these challenging times. Over 50 women came together, bound by unity and prayer and offered heartfelt prayers for the people of Israel, led by two mothers who each have two sons currently serving in the IDF.

During this gathering, women also came together to shape challah and say



(l-r) Morah Hillary Isaacs, Morah Leah Shemtov and Elissa Stein led an evening at Chabad of Stamford dedicated to empowering women in challenging times.

the powerful prayer of 'Hafrashat Challah' (separating the challah) with Morah Leah. Women baked challahs for their own shabbat tables and to share with others.

In the words of Leah Shemtov, "let our collective prayers be answered visibly, and may the strength we find in coming together bring forth a future filled with only good news here and in Israel."

Talking to Your Kids about Israel

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service licensed clinician Hannah Pollack, LMSW, was at Or Hadash, a synagogue in Fairfield, CT, for a Q&A following the joint Schoke JFS and Jewish Family Services of Greenwich presentation *Talking to Your Kids about Israel* with Betsy Stone, Ph.D. If you or your family are struggling to talk about what is happening, please don't hesitate to reach out to Matt Greenberg, Schoke JFS President and CEO (mgreenberg@ctjfs.org) or Gus Nunez, Director of Clinical and Family Life Services (gnunez@ctjfs.org).



Hannah Pollack at Or Hadash in Fairfield.

Jewish Historical Society Celebrates 40 Years



Sandy and Fred Golove and family (PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

(Courtesy of JHSFC) Over 150 people joined the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) at its 40th Anniversary celebration to honor Elissa and David Kaplan and Sandy and Fred Golove. The Kaplans were honored with the Society's Heritage Award for their commitment to preserving Jewish history. The Goloves received the first Lifetime Achievement Award for their contribution

to Jewish communal service.

JHSFC celebrated its forty years with an exhibit of projects including "It Happened Here!", celebrating Jews that have lived or live in Fairfield County over the past century, and "Remembering the Family Store," a Stamford circa 1940-1965 documentary showcasing pictures and a map of the downtown area.



Elissa and David Kaplan and family (PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

TEEN CHANUKAH ON ICE

ICE SKATING • SUFGANIYOT • HOT CHOCOLATE

8-12 GRADERS INVITED TO CELEBRATE HANUKKAH ON ICE WITH US

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 AT 12:30-2:00 PM

LOCATION: STAMFORD, TBA

\$10 PP

WWW.UJF.ORG/ICE

A Transformative Journey Exploring the Civil Rights Movement

(Courtesy of JCC) In the heart of the American South, the state of Alabama stands as a living testament to a history both triumphant and deeply troubling. It is a place where the struggle for civil rights witnessed some of its most pivotal moments, and where the journey toward justice continues to this day. Over three days in October, a group of 20 individuals from The Stamford Jewish Community Center (JCC) embarked on a transformative civil rights journey to experience some of the nation's darkest and most heroic battles for Civil Rights. Led by Etgar 36, a non-partisan Jewish educational organization, the pilgrimage through Montgomery, Birmingham, Selma and Atlanta conveyed deeply felt pain, inspired profound reflection and a renewed commitment to civil rights.

"This Civil Rights trip was even more educational and impactful than I had hoped. I highly recommend it for anyone and everyone, as most of us have not been taught much of Black history," said Joy Katz, chair of the JCC Social Action Committee. "Learning among a group of community members certainly was a bonus on this trip. We all shared the commitment and desire



A group of 20 individuals from The Stamford JCC traveled to the South to explore the Civil Rights Movement. (PHOTO CREDIT: JENIFER SIMON)

to educate ourselves about the past given that civil rights are still being fought over today."

Highlights of the trip included the new National Memorial for Peace and Justice (the first national memorial for victims of lynching), the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum and the Rosa Parks Museum, all in Montgomery. In Selma, the group heard the personal account of Lynda Blackmon Lowery, the youngest civil rights marcher who walked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for the 54 miles

from Selma to Montgomery over five days. She participated in dozens of children's marches and was jailed nine times before her 15th birthday. The group then crossed the hallowed ground of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where the first of three marches, led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. along with John Lewis, was brutally halted by state troopers (known as "Bloody Sunday.")

Along the way, the participants learned about the roles that Jews played as nonviolent activists. On Friday night, the group attended Shabbat services at Temple

Beth Or in Montgomery and ended the trip on Sunday at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta where Martin Luther King, Jr. was ordained as a pastor and Senator Raphael Warnock now serves as Reverend.

Joy Katz said, "I found it quite moving that on Friday night we attended Shabbat services at a synagogue named the 'House of Light,' and at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, we sang a resounding rendition of 'This Little Light of Mine,' highlighting the common goals of finding light and peace for Jewish and Black people alike."

As the participants returned from their transformative trip, they carried a deepened understanding of the sacrifices and courage by civil rights activists. Personal accounts, such as those of trip participant Marty Levine, an active freedom rider and protester, added a very personal perspective and wealth of information. The journey to Atlanta and Alabama was a call to action, reminding the group of the past and inspiring them to work for a more just and equitable future for all.

BCHA Students Express Love of Israel

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) Students displayed their love of Israel during a recent schoolwide assembly at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. Students wore necklaces that were gifted to all students from an anonymous donor. In addition, there were songs performed by the lower and middle schools, dancing throughout the gymnasium, and an overall display of love, support, and strong connection to Israel. Am Yisrael Chai!



BCHA Upper School students Gabe Haron and Tamar Links speak to the students during the assembly. (PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL SILVERFAB)



Students at BCHA attend a schoolwide assembly to show their love, support and connection to Israel.

CHANUKAH

5784

with chabad of stamford

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7 AT 5PM @ CHABAD		FRIDAY DECEMBER 8 AT 4PM @ CHABAD		SATURDAY DECEMBER 9 AT 6PM STARTING @ CHABAD		SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 AT 12:30PM		SHOW YOUR JEWISH UNITY AND PRIDE THIS CHANUKAH WITH CHABAD OF STAMFORD!		SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 AT LATHAM PARK STARTING @ 4PM		TUESDAY DECEMBER 12 AT 7:15PM @ CHABAD		WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13 AT 12PM @ CHABAD		OPEN DAILY 9-5 (FRIDAYS 9-3) @ CHABAD	
GAN CHANUKAH PIZZA & PJS PARTY		FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE - LATKES, BABKES & BEER		CHANUKAH MENORAH CAR PARADE		CTEEN AND CTEEN JR. "CHANUKAH ON ICE"				GIANT MENORAH LIGHTING + ISRAELI CHANUKAH CONCERT		JWC CHANUKAH PACKAGE PARTY		BETSY'S BUDDIES CHANUKAH LUNCH		CHANUKAH POP UP SHOPPE	

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UJF Joins March on Washington Rally for Israel and Against Antisemitism

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 was a historic moment for the Jewish community as the largest group in US history came together to show support for Israel in a critical time of need.

With the world watching on with interest, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien took part in the March for Israel which was co-sponsored by Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations.

Nearly 300,000 people (one for every 50 Jews in the world) traveled to Washington DC to support Israel, demand the release of the hostages,

and take a stand nationally against antisemitism in all forms.

While the event was both historic and inspiring, it also served as a reminder that the Jewish community is unified in support of friends and family here, in Israel, and around the world following the attacks on October 7. The focus, unity and strength of local community members is remarkable and continues to give hope for future generations who will look back on this historic moment. The inspiration felt by being with close to 300,000 supporters, Jews and non-Jews alike, is something people will never forget. *Am Yisrael Chai!*







Just as a firehouse with its equipment in place to aid in the event of a fire, a strong Federation is ready whenever crises arise. Federation's Annual Campaign ends December 31. Please give generously! www.ujf.org/give.

2023 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN for COMMUNAL NEEDS

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

Community IMPACT

Where it's Needed Most | UNLIMITED

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

The Infrastructure of UJF | UNLIMITED

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

Israel & Global Jewry | UNLIMITED

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

Communal Scholarship Fund | UNLIMITED

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

LIFE & LEGACY® | \$170,000

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

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

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

New Jewish Voice Newspaper | \$80,000

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

Communal Security | \$80,000

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

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

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

NextGen | \$45,000

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

Engagement & Affinity Groups | \$37,000

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

Shalom/Welcome Program | \$18,000

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

Yom HaShoah Commemoration | \$12,000

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



Youth & YOUNG ADULTS

BCHA Support Services Program | \$60,000

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

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

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

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

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

Mitzvah Makers | \$20,000

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

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

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

CAS Teen Israel | \$15,000

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

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

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

One Happy Camper | \$12,000

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

Friendship Circle Inclusion Fair | \$8,500

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

UCONN Stamford Hillel Shabbat | \$8,000

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

Social Services & SENIOR SUPPORT

JCC Arts & Entertainment Program | \$80,000

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

Build Support Through Connections | \$27,500

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

Schoke JFS Senior Care Navigator | \$24,000

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

Schoke JFS Holocaust Survivor Fund | \$20,000

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

Anachnu Holocaust Survivor | \$12,000

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



United Jewish Federation

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

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



BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Michella Gross & Yoav Bar-Asher on the birth of a daughter, Yofiel; and to the grandparents **Yaffa & Pinchas Gross**.

Sarah & Jeff Grossbard on the birth of a son, Ellis Grossbard; and to the grandparents **Catherine & Robert Friedman**.

Tamar & Jason Levine on the birth of a daughter, Gila Tikva.

Marina & Daniel Madwed on the birth of a daughter, Hannah Sasha Madwed; and to the grandparents **Ilene & Bert Madwed**.

Ilyse & Dean Schuckman on the birth of a granddaughter, Georgia Dee.

Vanessa Perel-Panar & Ethan Schwartz on the birth of a son, Lewis Henry Perel Schwartz; and to the grandparents **Marjorie Schwartz and Anita Perel-Panar & Avie Panar**.

Sharon & Josh Rogol on the birth of a son, Chase Theodore Rogol; and to the grandparents **Rhonna & Brian Rogol**.

Tali & Jesse Salver on the birth of a son, Shmuel Refael; and to the grandparents **Stacey & Shimmy Trencher and Bahee & Issac Salver**.

Liba & Steven Steinmetz on the birth of a granddaughter.

Betsy & Mike Stone on the birth of their

grandson, Noah Roth Stone.
Barbara & Ken White on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Morgan Zoe Sinensky.

MAZEL TOV ON MARRIAGES/ ENGAGEMENTS:

Frank Trief & Donna McDaid on their marriage.

MAZEL TOV OTHER:

Michael Feldstein on the publication of his new book, *Meet Me In The Middle*.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Millie Avner: daughter of **Jessica and Dan Avner**.

Amitai TelRav: son of **Julie & Rabbi Jay TelRav**.

Hannah Zelazny: daughter of **Stephanie & Dan Zelazny**.

Noa Zizmor: daughter of **Navah & David Zizmor**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Harvey Dorfsman: brother of **Michael Dorfsman**.

Gertrude Ecker: mother of **Bill Ecker**.

Daniel Philip Levitt: father of **Jonina Levitt Steiner**.

Sandra Marcus: mother of **James Marcus**.

Jerome Plotner: father of **Judah Plotner**.

Herbert Rubin: father of **Caroline Temlock Teichman, Barbara Brown Cooper and Don Rubin**.

Roey Chaim Weise: cousin of **Shelly Welfeld**.

Iris Zaret: mother of **Aileen Tisser, Robyn Labombarda and Gayle Fontanetta**.

Teen Delivers Loaves of Love

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan Yeladim welcomed back teen volunteer and Gan alum Sam MacDonald who helped deliver Loaves of Love Shabbat packages all around Stamford. Loaves of Love prepares and delivers free 'Loaves of Love' care packages which include fresh

Challah and chicken soup. Orders are also taken for full Shabbat and weekday meals. Loaves of Love is a project to share love and community with families who need it most, like new parents, a new neighbor, someone sitting Shiva or going through a crisis, or just because!



The Hebrew Corner

A Monthly Primer by Robert Abrams, UJF Education Committee Chair

We all love the holiday of Chanukah. The word Chanukah means "dedication" in English. This name was given to the holiday because after the Maccabees were victorious over the Syrian Greeks, they cleaned, purified, and rededicated the Temple. The root letters of the word CHah-Nu-Kah are CHet, Nuhn, and Cahf (also known as CHahf).

But these root letters and their order mean dedication in a different sense of the word when we use the same root letters in the same order but using different vowels to sound out the word. Our new word is CHih-NuhCH, and it means "education"

in English. We usually use the Hebrew word Moreh or Morah for a teacher. But a teacher, one who is either tasked with overseeing the development of the student as a whole (not only their education in a particular subject) or tasks themselves with that responsibility is called a Muh-CHah-NayCH: an educator. And this educator is dedicated to the student and the student's maturation and growth as a person.

Parents and educators are all Muh-CHahN-CHeem; all dedicated to our children's and our students' education, growth, and maturity.



Robert Abrams

A Message from UJF's Community Shaliach We Are Stronger Than Ever, We Are One!

BY YOAV YARON

Following the attacks on Israel and the fallout from the war, planning for the upcoming days and weeks became a mockery in my eyes. How can I plan something when the world is changing every minute? How can I think about tomorrow when some mornings I find myself wishing that I would have just stayed in bed instead of facing the realities outside?

How can I think about the future when there is constant worry?

I can't control what the future will hold for Israel or any of us, and therefore I'm trying to focus my thoughts and actions on what I can control. As I write this newspaper article, I have changed and deleted so many words and sentences because of the overwhelming emotions on the matter. I wish that my words



Yoav Yaron

would be irrelevant, and the war would be over. Life is so unpredictable right now, and in these times it's even scarier for what is at stake.

I speak often during the week with friends and family back home in Israel to hear what's going on over there, and even though I logically know I need to stay here with our community and be available to everyone, it's not

so easy. I want to be home. I want to be next to my friends and family. But I am needed here. This is how I can help Israel.

It's a hard time to be a shaliach these days: to speak, to listen, to cry, to pray, to laugh, and to be away from loved ones but close at the same time. It's all very hard. Our mission, as emissaries, has changed completely, and we are learning as we go. But I do believe and trust in our people, all over the world, that we will prevail. We are stronger than ever. We are one!

Shine A Light on Antisemitism

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that concealed the recordings, altering the arc of history as it has been understood for more than 70 years, and provides irrefutable proof against Holocaust denial and the pernicious antisemitic hatred from which it springs.

"Shine A Light on Antisemitism" is an initiative designed to provide resources

to stand up to Jewish hate across North America. This year, more than ever, incidents of antisemitism have reached record levels. UJF is grateful to the Illinois Holocaust Museum for making this film available.

This program is free but registration is limited. To assure a seat, please register at www.ujf.org/shinealight23.

PJ Library Hosts Family Events

(Courtesy of UJF) On Friday afternoon, October 20, PJ Library families came together to celebrate Israel at Napoletana Restaurant in Stamford. Attendees enjoyed Israel-themed craft activities, kosher food, and singing and dancing along to Israel and Jewish-themed live music. Many thanks to Napoletana owner Doron Ginat for hosting this event.

Kicking off 50 hours of philanthropy for UJF's Big Give Weekend, PJ Library sponsored Temple Beth El's Shabbuzz Shalom program on Friday afternoon, November 10. The activities focused on doing mitzvot, giving tzedakah, and sharing kindness with others. Dozens of children were treated to a mitzvah-themed PJ read-aloud, decorated and filled "mugs of love" and made thank you cards for local first responders.

PJ Library sends Jewish children in Fairfield County—and around the

world—a free Jewish-themed book each month. The Federation-funded program is designed to strengthen the bonds between parents and children through stories about traditions and values, and to build their connection to the Jewish community. Children under nine years old can get a free book monthly through PJ Library and can receive chapter books free of charge for children ages 9 through 12 from PJ Our Way. Contact Eric Ross at Eric@ujf.org for more information.



Lisa Manheim and Oz make "mugs of love" to share with first responders.



PJ Library families and friends came together to celebrate Israel.



It was all smiles for Corey Shulman and his daughter, Bret, during the PJ Library "read aloud".



Tova Weinstock Reich with her boys Ernie and Noah, with Miriam Sperber and her daughter, Elle.

UJF's Israeli Emissary Impacts the Community



Temple Sinai 5th graders and chaperones toured Ellis Island to begin a year-long journey learning about Jewish identity and connection to Israel.



Temple Beth El teens learned about Israeli folk hero Rachel Edri, who held off terrorists with home-baked Moroccan cookies until help arrived, before baking brownies for local families who have loved ones in the IDF.



The Jewish Agency for Israel in New England delegation gathered together at the home of Ambassador Meron Reuben, Consul General of Israel to New England.



Local families received brownies baked by Temple Beth El teens.



Teen students at the Stamford JCC heard from Yoav Yaron about the resilience of Israeli society during trying times.



Israeli Emissary Yoav Yaron spoke at the Stamford JCC on "Creating Community In a Time of Crises".



The men's club at Temple Beth El enjoyed making and tasting beer.



The Hebrew Poetry night got underway with a small group reading.



Bowling night at RMP in Stamford with local Israeli families and children was a hit!

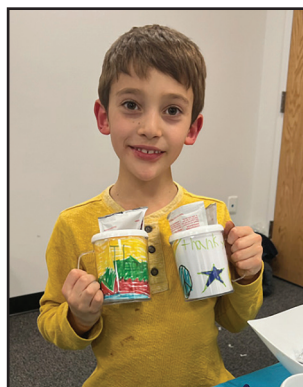
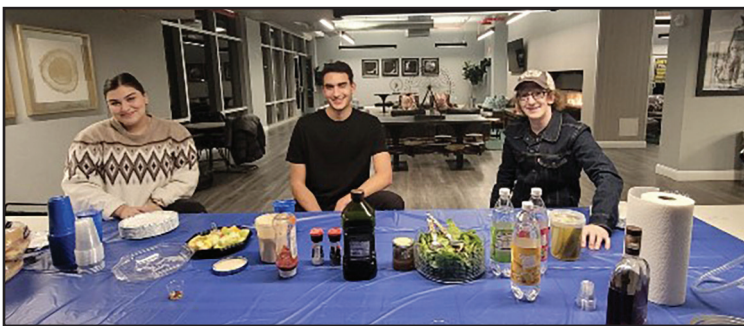
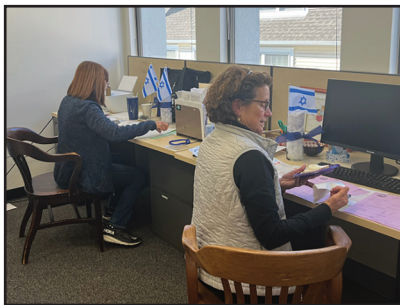
The Big Give Makes A Big Impact For Annual Campaign

(Courtesy of UJF) The Big Give, a rebranding of United Jewish Federation's Super Sunday, was held in mid-November and was chaired by Robin Fischel and Wendy Siegel. The new UJF offices were transformed to a festive blue and white in support of Israel. Annual campaign calls were made throughout the day and close to \$250K was raised to support

the Annual Campaign. Throughout the day, other community activities took place including "Advocacy Training 101," a PJ Library "kids funday" including decorating and filling mugs for first responders, and a Dignity Grows packing event.

"We raise 80 percent of our annual campaign in the last 3 months of the year

and we are trying to reach our annual goal while also raising money for the war in Israel. While the success of The Big Give brings us closer to our goal, it is our hope that these times of crisis show the community just how vital Federation is and that the community will step up to support the Annual Campaign," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.





Thank You Big Give Sponsors

- Silver Sponsors**
Eileen and Caroline Simmons
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- Bronze Sponsors**
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ShopRite
Six Thirteen Restaurant
Stop & Shop
- Event Chairs: Wendy Siegel & Robin Fischel



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 19

Gan Yeladim Hosts Open House

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) At the Gan Open House this year, current Gan families, as well as prospective families, came together to enjoy an array of activities guided by the dedicated Gan *morahs* (teachers). Challah baking, fall exploration, hands-on art and sensory fun were just some of the experiences offered.

Prospective families had the chance to explore Gan with Morah Hillary Isaacs and the Gan parent ambassadors. The youngest guests clapped and sang at Tiny Treasures music and movement with Morah Leah Shemtov, and then all joined in a spirited drum circle led by Musical IQ. To cap off the morning, everyone came together to perform acts of *tzedakah* (charity) and offer a blessing

over soft-serve ice cream.

For more information or to arrange a tour of Gan, please contact Wendy@stamfordchabad.org.



Marching to the beat of their own drums at the Gan Yeladim Open House.

UJF Affinity Groups Come Together

(Courtesy of UJF) On October 23, dozens gathered together for UJF's Combined Affinity Groups event at WorkPoint Shared Workspace in Shippan Point. Traditionally, each affinity group holds its own events – but community feedback showed that most members wanted most of all to branch out and meet new people. Consequently, community members from all stages and walks of life came together for an engaging presentation by Hebrew University professor Dr. Jeffrey Mensch about his research on “Rational Inattention” and how it can inform better decisions in our global economy.

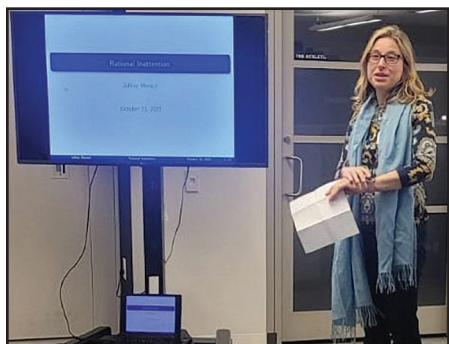
The UJF Affinity Groups include the Cardozo Society for legal professionals, the Maimonides Society for medical professionals, the Rothschild Society for business professionals, Boomer Engagement Network (B.E.N.) for single baby boomers and Chapter Two for empty nesters.

UJF thanks its generous event sponsors, Beverly and David Stein and Mozaic Senior Life.

If you are interested in helping to plan or host an event for one or more of UJF's affinity groups, please contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at Eric@UJF.org or by phone at 203.321.1373.



Dozens gather for networking with all of UJF's Affinity Groups.



Cardozo Society Co-Chair Julie Daniel introduces the presenter.



Hebrew University Professor Dr. Jeffrey Mensch explains the theory of Bayes' Rule.

BCHA Hosts Open House

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy held its annual Open House in October, where prospective students and parents had the opportunity to chat with teachers, administration and current students.

Faculty members held classroom events to showcase the learning that takes place at the award-winning Upper School. In addition, a panel discussion with current students, faculty members and parents helped prospective families answer any questions they had about the Upper School.

A week later, the Lower School welcomed families to BCHA. There were smiling faces and giggles throughout the morning as children were welcomed to the school. There were several arts and crafts activities for the children and parents to explore together.

If you were not able to attend either

the BCHA Lower or Upper School Open House and would like to see for yourself what makes the school such a “special place”, email Bonnie Marcus, Director of Admissions, at bmarcus@bcha-ct.org or call 203-329-2186.



Children had the opportunity to enjoy various activities during the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Lower School Open House.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy students: Izzy Kanefsky, Benny Grunblatt, Tamar Links, Sydney Mann, Gabe Haron talked about what makes the school “an amazing place” during a panel discussion event at this year's Upper School Open House. (PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAUL SILVERFARB)

Fall Fun at Gan Yeladim



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Fall fun in Gan Yeladim's outdoor classroom when the children picked and sorted fall foliage by size and color and then worked on their fine motor skills by threading the leaves.

Parents Enjoy Night Out

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) On Sunday evening, October 29, close to 25 people joined the Friendship Circle for an uplifting evening for parents of children with special needs. The event was hosted by a Friendship Circle Board member and his wife who are also parents of a child with special needs. The gathering was a chance for couples to have an evening out with a supportive community, in an enjoyable and caring environment.

Rabbi Metzger and his wife Raizy were the guest speakers for the evening. They are also parents of an eighteen year old

with non-speaking autism. Their child has recently learned to communicate by typing. The story was inspiring and uplifting. Attendees were also treated to a dinner of soup and sushi and created an art project. Joining together helped to perpetuate the Friendship Circle mission of inclusion and remind everyone that no one is alone.

To learn more about the Friendship Circle, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com



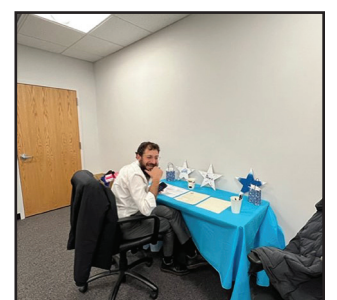
Ellen Fischel, Susan Nisinsweig, Jessica Aysseh, and Friendship Circle Director Malya Shmotkin



Maruja and Alon Ivri

The Big Give

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17





THE DEVIL'S CONFESSION

THE LOST EICHMANN TAPES

JOIN US FOR A RIVETING FILM AS WE SHINE A LIGHT ON ANTISEMITISM:

- Tuesday, Dec. 5
- 7:00 P.M.
- Ferguson Library Stamford, CT
- Free (RSVP required, limited seats available)



**SHINE
ALIGHT**
on Antisemitism

The Devil's Confession

In previously unheard bombshell audiotapes, the architect of Hitler's Final Solution boasts about his role and motives during the Holocaust. Six decades after Adolf Eichmann's trial and execution in Israel, he can be heard talking with Dutch journalist and former Waffen-SS officer Willem Sassen in 1957 Argentina.

This must-see film offers a dramatic rebuttal to the meme of "the banality of evil," and providing irrefutable proof against Holocaust denial and the pernicious antisemitic hatred from which it springs.

Q&A AND LATKES FOR CHANUKAH FOLLOWING THE FILM

CO-SPONSORED BY:

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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Temple Sinai

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) On October 30, Temple Sinai officially “cut the ribbon” to dedicate its Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) with Mayor Caroline Simmons presiding over the event. Rabbi Jay TelRav led attendees in song along with all the teachers, children and staff participating.

The ECEC addresses the urgent need for childcare and offers a nurturing, stimulating and accepting environment for children ages six weeks thru five years old. There is currently an infant room, a toddler room and a preschool room. There are plans for expansion next year with limited openings still available.

For further information, contact Phyllis Lyons, Early Childhood Education Center Director, at 203-322-1649 or morahphyllis@templesinainstamford.org



Phyllis Lyons, Early Childhood Education Center Director, cuts the ribbon assisted by Mayor Caroline Simmons as Rabbi Jay TelRav leads everyone in song.



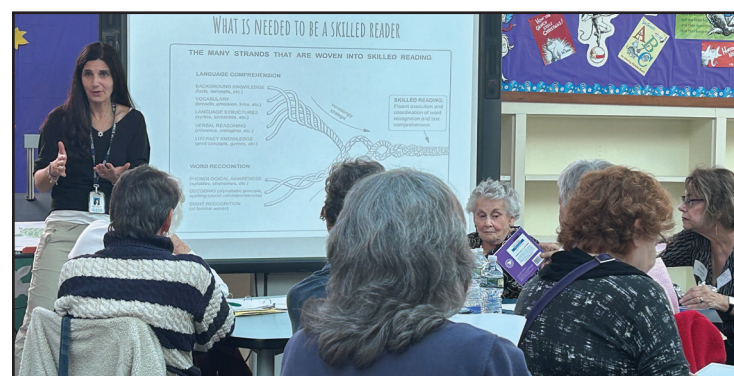
Children and staff celebrate the ribbon cutting for the Early Childhood Education Center at Temple Sinai.

Back to School with Reading Partners

(Courtesy of UJF) On Monday, October 16, Marci Marcus, Title 1 Reading Teacher at Newfield Elementary School, presented the annual Back To School Workshop for Reading Partners volunteers. Over 30 reading tutors attended the class titled “What’s Going on in Literacy: Being on the Same Page.” Topics included current reading instruction practice and tools that can be used in the classroom. Tutors left the workshop with a

deeper understanding of the way reading is taught in the Stamford Public Schools where they are working with students.

Reading Partners spend one hour a week reading with two children for a half hour each in the Stamford Public Schools. To become a Reading Partner and/or to obtain more information about Reading Partners, please contact Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org.



Marci Marcus presents a workshop to Reading Partners volunteers.

LIFE & LEGACY

LIFE & LEGACY Testimonials

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

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

DARON AND TZVI BERNSTEIN TESTIMONIAL

As lifelong members of the Stamford Jewish community, with children and grandchildren now living here as well, we want to know that all of the Jewish institutions and agencies serving our Jewish community will be strong into the long term future.

We have always been enamored with the type of giving that our parents' and grandparents' generation gave - often for projects or resources that were for the future generations and not anything they would benefit from themselves at the time they made the gift.

A good example of this is the ballfield that was purchased by Congregation Agudath Sholom members in the early 60's, just as insurance for the long term future growth of the synagogue or for other needs of future CAS members. That purchase did not benefit the donors at the time they made their gift.

LIFE & LEGACY gives us the

opportunity to make a gift of that nature to several of the institutions we hold dear to us in Stamford. By its very nature, neither of us will benefit from our life and legacy gift in our lifetime and it is reserved exclusively for the future. It also is a gift that does not limit or otherwise restrict our ability to give to urgent needs of the community that arise from time to time. For example, at a time when all of us are thinking about how to support Israel in this period of great need without hurting the needs of our community agencies, our LIFE & LEGACY gift remains in place and secure, regardless of what we give to Israel at this time.

We, therefore, feel very grateful to the Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien for educating us on the benefits and methods of testamentary giving and making this opportunity so easily accessible to us.

CAS Youth, UJF & PJ Library Presents

CHANUKAH BUBBLE SHOW!

Sunday, December 10 10:00 AM

Free and open to the community
For children ages 2 and up
RSVP: cas-stamford.org

www.cas-stamford.org | 301 Strawberry Hill Ave

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LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll

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

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

Anonymous (20)
 Anonymous (27)
 Adrienne & Michael Alexander
 David Amsellem
 Alice & David Andersen
 Jeri Appel
 Mark Appel
 Ricky Snow Arbron
 Suellen Bache
 Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
 Rachel Tyd & Robert Beldock
 Gayle & Mitchell Bell
 Debra & Michael Berg
 Dina & Paul Berger
 Karen & Ira Berk
 Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz
 Lynn & Harvey Berman
 Berkun Family
 Darona & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
 Jen & Andy Bernstein
 Melody & Claude Bernstein
 Bruce & Nancy Blasnik
 Judith Block
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 Jodi & Richard Boxer
 Amy Bubel
 Henry Bubel
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 Grecia & Ron* Gross
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*Of Blessed Memory

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

שירה בִּסְלוֹן

POETRY IN THE LIVINGROOM

Come together with UJF

Community Shaliach, Yoav Yaron, for an evening of unraveling Hebrew poetry, secrets, traits, and language.

One Wednesday A Month

November 29
December 20
January 24
February 21
March 20

Location

In private homes
\$25 for the 5-part series

www.ujf.org/poetry

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

Digital Iron Dome to Protect Israel Against Toxic Posts

New initiative by FakeReporter gives any Internet user the ability to report inappropriate, hateful, antisemitic or anti-Zionist content.

BY BRIAN BLUM/ISRAEL21C.ORG

The Iron Dome has played a major role in shooting down rockets from Gaza, Lebanon and other hot spots along Israel's borders. But what about word bombs launched on social media and even in the mainstream press, which can do just as much damage?

A new initiative by the website FakeReporter, dubbed Digital Iron Dome, combats toxic posts by giving any Internet user the ability to report inappropriate, hateful, antisemitic or anti-Zionist content with a single click.

Fake news is a scourge at all times, but it's especially problematic during war, where dissemination of falsehoods can trigger violence. The recent reporting that Israel had targeted a hospital in the Gaza Strip was debunked by video and audio footage, but not before it prompted tens of thousands of people across the world to intensify their protests, and threats of retaliation made.

Digital Iron Dome is an entirely volunteer effort by high-tech executives, former intelligence unit veterans and major tech giants operating in Israel including Google Meta (Facebook and WhatsApp), X (formerly known as Twitter), TikTok and LinkedIn.

Their stated mission: to swiftly and effectively eradicate false narratives from social platforms.

The team's volunteer analysts thoroughly examine every suspicious post submitted through DigitalDome's web form. If the content is confirmed harmful, the analysts will relay that to Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X and others with the objective of getting the content taken down.

Digital Iron Dome is "a user-friendly reporting platform that empowers every citizen to contribute to this digital defense system," notes FakeReporter CEO Achiya Schatz.

"The proliferation of violent and false content on social media poses a significant threat, often disseminated by hostile foreign entities. Such content stokes fear, disrupts public discourse, and even hinders the flow of accurate information to decision-makers."

Reining in harmful content

While some social media platforms, including X, Meta and TikTok, have indicated they will work to remove incendiary content posted by Hamas and its supporters, others – most notably WhatsApp competitor Telegram – have refused to play ball. Telegram CEO Pavel Durov went so far as to assert that Telegram should continue to provide a home for Hamas content as Hamas uses it "to warn Israelis ahead of attacks."

X may have more incentive to reign in the harmful content: Last week,

European Union officials opened an investigation against the company to determine if it violated the Digital Services Act by allowing the publication of disinformation about the war against Hamas.

Meanwhile, FakeReporter says its "Operation Cleaning the Web" has removed some 55% of the inflammatory content it reported to social networks, with 40% of the offending accounts suspended.

The organization says that, through DigitalDome, it has received more than 20,000 reports on fake profiles, triggering content, and falsified news. Reports can be submitted [here](#).

Cyber Dome

Digital Iron Dome should not be confused with Cyber Dome, a government-sponsored initiative to combat fake news.

Cyber Dome has paid staff from the Ministry of Defense, the IDF and security agencies Mossad and Shin Bet, with offices in Beersheva.

"We call it the secret sauce," Gaby Portnoy, director general of Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD), told The Week. "While the orchestra [combined efforts of various departments] works outside, INCD does the internal work. We all work closely together. All the alerts we receive from the orchestra are

used to improve our skills."

A key ingredient to the Cyber Dome's "secret sauce" is artificial intelligence. The Week reports that the IDF is using generative AI platforms such as ChatGPT "to sift through the vast amounts of information pouring into their systems and identify significant threats. The IDF uses these platforms to build its defense shield and to enhance its attack capabilities during war."

Stopping the flow of cash

Why does fake news proliferate? It helps raise money.

In a separate initiative, several leading Israeli tech entrepreneurs are working together to stop Hamas from generating donations through messages claiming the terrorists as "victims."

"We realized where we had a relative advantage, and where we can most help in the fight against terror," members of the initiative told the Ynet newspaper. They claim to have successfully closed dozens of accounts affiliated with Hamas that were set to transfer millions of dollars.

Terror groups are relatively limited in their ability to use traditional banks, and so have jumped on the cryptocurrency bandwagon. Terrorists also launch online crowdfunding campaigns using payment tools such as PayPal and Zelle, Ynet reports.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Nearly 100 Gather for Revival of Tapestry 2.0

(Courtesy of UJF) On Saturday evening, November 18, nearly one hundred attendees gathered together for the revival of Tapestry 2.0, UJF's long-running annual night of communal Jewish learning. Attendees were treated to a pre-event wine and cheese reception, followed by a beautiful communal Havdalah service led by Cantor Micah Morgovsky of Temple Sinai and Cantor Katie Kaplan of Temple Beth El.

The theme for Tapestry 2.0 was "Israel@75," which provided community members with opportunities to learn about a variety of topics ranging from founding of the State of Israel and the history of the Labor Movement, all the way to the miracle of Team Israel Baseball and the blossoming of the Reform Movement in Israel.

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) shares its

deep gratitude and appreciation to all the Tapestry 2.0 Event Sponsors:

- Marjorie and Robert Abrams
- Stephne and Kerrin Behrend
- Dina and Paul Berger
- Malerie Yolen-Cohen and Jeff Cohen
- Sharon and Michael Feldstein
- Rhoda and Avram Freedberg
- Nan and Paul Gordon
- Lynn and Jeffrey Lowin
- Susan and Len Mark
- Moira Morrissey and Mark Slivka
- Bruce Newman
- Ronnie and Steven Sichel
- Beverly and David Stein

UJF would also like to recognize and thank each of the esteemed Tapestry 2.0 presenters: Michal Abramoff, Upper East Side Senior Shlichah; Michael Feldstein; Dr. David Flatto, Hebrew University Professor of Law; Rachel Klein, Executive Director of

Hillels of Westchester; Jeremy Newberger, CEO of Ironbound Films; Dr. Shai Pilnik, Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Yeshiva University; Rabbi Joshua Rosenfeld, Head of Judaic Studies at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy; Eric Ross, UJF Deputy Director; Yoav Yaron, UJF Community Shaliach; and Co-authors Neil Rogachevsky and Dov Zigler.

And finally, Tapestry 2.0 would simply not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Tapestry Committee: Robert Abrams, Chair, Michael Feldstein, Barbara Friedman, Wynd Harris, Elissa Kaplan, Lynn Lowin, Bruce Newman, Arlene Rosen, Ronnie Sichel, and Betsy Stone.

If you are interested in joining the Tapestry Committee to help plan Tapestry for 2024, please contact Eric Ross at Eric@ujf.org.



BCHA's Head of Judaic Studies, Rabbi Joshua Rosenfeld, presents on the divided soul of Religious Zionism



Tapestry Chair Robert Abrams welcomes the audience to Tapestry 2.0

UConn Hillel Responds to Crisis in Israel

FROM THE DESK OF DANIELLE BERGMAN, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, TRACHTEN-ZACHS HILLEL HOUSE

Since Israel was brutally attacked on October 7, our UConn community has experienced so many intense emotions. Many of us, staff and students alike, have family, friends, colleagues, and loved ones in the region. Our thoughts are with all those impacted by this violence and human tragedy. Our students are seeking comfort, information, and support. Some seek public displays of pride, while many others are looking for safe and secure spaces, like the warm embrace of the Trachten-Zachs Hillel House. Some want to rally and act, while others need uplifting community activity.

On Sunday, October 8, in the aftermath of Hamas' attack on innocent Israeli citizens, we gathered with students and community members at the Trachten-Zachs Hillel House. We provided a space for students to safely process their grief and stand together. On Tuesday evening,



Danielle Bergman,
UConn Hillel

October 10, we hosted a candlelight vigil to "Unite for Israel" in collaboration with our partners at Chabad, The Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, and Huskies for Israel. It was a beautiful display of solidarity as over 100 students came out to pray for all of Israel and those affected by the recent events. On Wednesday, October 25, we held an "Israel Solidarity March" for the hostages held by Hamas. Over 50 students participated, and we were joined by President Radenka Maric, Provost Anne D'alleva, as well as several other senior administrators.

Our students have also been looking for tangible ways to express gratitude to the UConn Police Department, who have been supportive and responsive to our needs and concerns. On Friday, October 21, our students baked cookies and hand-delivered them to our UConn Police Department to thank them for their efforts

to keep our community as safe as possible.

We are continuing our vigilance in addition to helping our students find a sense of normalcy on campus. And, we remain ever-committed to our first priority of ensuring students' safety and well-being. To support the stress and anxiety that many of our students are experiencing, we are exploring drop-in wellness hours offered by our partners at Jewish Family Services of Hartford and UConn PD's support dog Officer Tildy will be visiting our community weekly.

Additionally, our student leadership from UConn Hillel and Huskies for Israel have met with the University Provost, Dean of Students, and Assistant Dean of Students to discuss how to improve the campus climate. We look forward to our continued collaborations with university administration to ensure that the UConn campus remains an inclusive and safe space for Jewish students, and by extension, all students.



A UConn Hillel student lights candles at a solidarity gathering. (PHOTO CREDIT: UCONN HILLEL)

TU B'SHVAT

Date-Nut Bread for Tu B'Shevat

BY RONNIE FEIN

Is it just me or does everyone feel that there's always a Jewish holiday to prepare for? Here it is 2024. We celebrated the High Holidays and then Hanukkah (and in between there was American Thanksgiving) and now we're coming up to Tu B'Shevat. Wow, that was fast!

Tu B'Shevat is one of my favorite celebrations. It's life-affirming in so many significant ways because its focus is conservation, in being kind to the earth and being grateful for the produce it gives. Tu B'Shevat is a time when lots of people give money to plant trees in Israel, another affirmation that we should take good care of our surroundings.

Another reason I love Tu B'Shevat is because the food is so good. While no particular dish is traditional, Tu B'Shevat is mostly about fruit, fresh or dried. Anything goes, from chips with fruit salsa to lamb shanks with dried apricots to date-orange muffins.

In the spirit of this lovely and luscious holiday, here is a perfect recipe to celebrate:

MOM'S DATE-NUT BREAD

- 1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt

- 1 cup chopped dates
- 1 cup chopped dried figs, apricots, cranberries, cherries, prunes or raisins
- 1 cup chopped toasted almonds
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh orange peel
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons Orange brandy, cherry Heering, Madeira, Port or Sherry wine
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup boiling water
- cream cheese, optional



Date-nut bread

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a loaf pan (or a one-pound coffee can). Mix the flour, sugar, baking soda and salt into a bowl. Add the fruits and nuts and toss the ingredients to coat the fruit with the flour mixture. In another bowl, combine the vegetable oil, wine and egg. Pour the boiling water into the fruit-flour mixture and mix thoroughly. Add the egg mixture and blend it in thoroughly. Spoon the batter into the prepared loaf pan. Bake for about 50 minutes or until a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean. Let the

bread cool in the pan for 10 minutes. Invert onto a cake rack to cool completely. Slice and serve plain or with cream cheese.

Makes one loaf

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, *KitchenVignettes*, at www.ronniefain.com, friend on Facebook at [RonnieVailFein](https://www.facebook.com/RonnieVailFein), Twitter at [@RonnieVFein](https://twitter.com/RonnieVFein), Instagram at [@RonnieVFein](https://www.instagram.com/RonnieVFein).

Save the Date

Community Tu B'Shevat Celebration

Thursday, January 25

7:30 pm

More details to come with UJF

United Jewish Federation
The New Jewish Voice
2009 Summer St., Suite 302
Stamford, CT 06905

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NEXTGen

Presents:

Chanukah Casino Night

Join us for an evening of cocktails, casino games, dinner, desserts & DJ
(Games include: blackjack, poker, roulette, craps AND dreidel)

Saturday, December 9 @ 8.30pm @ Temple Sinai

\$100 per person (Early Bird) • \$125 (after December 1) •
\$360 "Chai Flyer" (includes 2 event tickets, plus 5 raffle tickets)
Other sponsorship opportunities available

RSVP: www.ujf.org/casino

***This event is open to the entire community**

**** Dietary laws observed**

Dress code: Cocktail attire



For more information, contact Melanie Vorm melanie@ujf.org

Let The Good Times Roll

All profits from this event will be going to UJF's emergency Israel campaign: Operation Swords of Iron