



# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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

## Carmel Announces New Partnership with Mechon Hadar

### Adult Lecture Series with Rabbi Shai Held

BY JULIE LAPIN

Carmel Academy has announced a new partnership with Mechon Hadar, an internationally acclaimed center for Jewish leadership and learning.

In the inaugural program of this partnership, Mechon Hadar co-founder and scholar Rabbi Shai Held will lead a three-part interactive lecture series exploring how Jewish texts can help answer some of life's biggest



Rabbi Shai Held

questions. He will delve into themes such as self-worth, compassion, gratitude, grace and generosity in relation to enhancing one's spiritual connections and how adults can help themselves and their children truly identify and live a good life.

"At Carmel Academy, we strive to instill in our students the joy of lifelong learning.

Our parents, faculty and expanded  
*See "Carmel" on page 2*

## Save the Date for Another Big Super Sunday

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien will hold its annual Super Sunday fundraiser on February 7, 2016, at the Jewish Community Center in Stamford. The 2016 Super Sunday event, chaired by Robin and Jason Fischel and taking place on Super Bowl Sunday, hopes to raise even more money than last year. The funds raised will allow Federation to support Jews locally, in Israel and worldwide. More than 3,000 calls will be made by representatives of UJF's recipient agencies, as well as community volunteers.

"Super Sunday brings the community together unlike any other event. The energy, the joint sense of accomplishment

and of helping each other is palpable. I know the 2016 event will be no exception," said UJF's CEO Jim Cohen.

"It's so amazing to see all of our community, from school children to seniors, in one room working together. And, plans are under way to ensure that the day is fun for all ages," said Robin Fischel. "UJF will once again partner with PJ Library to offer fantastic children's programming, as well as creating family activities throughout the JCC."

Federation will also continue the tradition of offering a pizza party to the school class or group of children who bring in the most amount of coins for

*See "Super Sunday" on page 9*

## How Israeli Volunteers on the Ground in Europe are Helping Syrian Refugees

BY GAVIN RABINOWITZ

LESBOS, Greece (JTA) — As the small rubber dinghy crowded with Syrians and Afghans emerged from the midnight-black sea to land on a desolate pebble beach, the first people to greet the bewildered and frightened refugees were two Israelis.

"Does anyone need a doctor?" Maje-da Kardosh, 27, a nurse from Nazareth, shouted repeatedly in Arabic as the asylum seekers scrambled ashore amid

cries of celebration and tears of relief at surviving the short but perilous crossing from Turkey to this Greek island. Her team partner, Tali Shaltiel, 31, a physician from Jerusalem, stood knee deep in the water, helping a shivering 4-year-old girl out of her wet clothes and a pair of inflatable armbands that would have provided little protection had the overloaded boat capsized at sea.

Kardosh and Shaltiel are part of a small advance group of volunteers from

IsraAid, an Israeli nongovernmental organization that is trying to provide some assistance to the hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants who are flowing into Europe.

While IsraAid has plenty of experience in disaster relief and assistance in 31 countries — from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa — this mission presents a unique challenge: The beneficiaries come from countries

that are traditionally hostile, or even officially still at war, with Israel.

But for Shaltiel, that's unimportant. "You are meeting fellow human beings," she said. "You see agony and pain, you see a need, then what does it matter where the person is from."

"In the end you hope that the human contact will bring us forward," added Shaltiel, who also volunteered for the IsraAid mission in South Sudan.

*See "Refugees" on page 22*

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### Community Service a Part of 2016 Maccabi Games

Connecticut Representative Caroline Simmons and Stamford Mayor David Martin, with Stamford Jewish Community Center CEO Eric Koehler, Jewish Family Service CEO Matt Greenberg and Bi-Cultural Day School Principal and Head of School Jackie Herman, together with the eighth grade class from Bi-Cultural Day School, completed a social service project, to benefit the JFS Kosher Food Pantry, like those that will be part of the 2016 JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest. (Photo by Lauren Rhodes)

JCC Cares, the JCC Maccabi Day of Service, will see every athlete and artist take time to participate in a project to give back to the local Stamford community. See article on page 8.

# Giving Has Never Been Simpler

BY JAMES A. COHEN

I began writing this column with the working title “Giving Has Never Been Easier.” Even though part of the purpose is to show the ease with which you can make a donation to UJF, I recognize that giving is never “easy.” With so many pressures on every family’s resources, and the number of worthy causes to which one can give growing exponentially, decisions on where to give and how much require thought and focus.

Over the course of the year, UJF has used the centerfold section of *The New Jewish Voice* to highlight



James Cohen,  
 UJF CEO

all of the ways your contributions help sustain Jewish life at home and around the world. We have shown you the elderly among us, in Ukraine, in France and in Stamford, who live day-to-day thanks to your generosity. We have shown you how many brothers and sisters in Israel wake up to a brighter future because our partners on the ground are working to secure a better way of life for millions. We have shown how your dollars help our local partner agencies make Stamford the thriving, incredible community we all love.

So many of you have already responded to these messages and have given generously. It is not too late

## Carmel . . . . . Continued from page 1

community model this, which is why we are extremely excited about this partnership with Mechon Hadar and our ability to bring this level of inspirational learning to our community,” said Carmel Academy Head of School Nora Anderson.

“We are delighted and honored to be in partnership with the Carmel Academy,” said Rabbi Ethan Tucker, *rosh yeshiva* at Mechon Hadar. “Both Mechon Hadar and Carmel Academy work daily to strengthen a vision of Torah that transcends denominational boundaries and connects all Jews to their birthright. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we need institutions that put Jewish content and community building at the center of the communal agenda. Carmel is helping to train the next generation of Jews who will lead that charge and make that vision a reality on the ground.”

The lecture series, which will be one of several partnered learning initiatives with Mechon Hadar, builds on a foundation constructed by the two institutions. Over the past several years, Mechon Hadar education fellows have visited Carmel Academy to

make an impact in 2015. If you have not already given, please consider doing so today. To make things “simpler,” UJF has created a Star of David Society. To join, simply tell us your monthly pledge and we will charge you on a monthly basis. No worries. No extra phone calls. No invoices. It really couldn’t be simpler. The important decision to help Federation, the system that helps more Jews than any other on Earth, will be implemented for you hassle free.

As this year’s campaign reaches its close, I thank each and every one of you for the support you give to UJF. You are our life’s blood. Without you, we cannot succeed. With you, we cannot fail.

help enhance and enrich their own learning, and Carmel students have visited Yeshivat Hadar’s *beit midrash* in New York City.

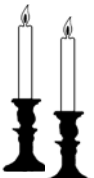
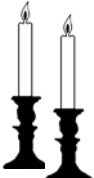
Rabbi Held is co-founder, dean and chair in Jewish thought at Mechon Hadar. He also directs the organization’s Center for Jewish Leadership and Ideas. He will launch the lecture series on Thursday, December 10, at 7:30 pm, with “Flipping Self-Worth on its Head: A Revolutionary Jewish Approach to Human Dignity and Value.” The lecture will delve into how relationships with oneself and others can be enhanced by taking ultimate worth seriously. By exploring texts on human value, Rabbi Held will construct a Jewish approach to self-worth—and ask how parents can make this approach real in their children’s lives.


The series will continue on Thursday, December 17, with “The Spiritual Life Begins With Gratitude and Culminates in Generosity” and conclude on Thursday, January 14, with “Compassion and the Heart of Jewish Spirituality.”

All lectures will be free of charge and will take place at Carmel Academy from 7:30-9 pm. For more information about each lecture and to register for one or all of the upcoming sessions, visit [www.carmelacademy.com/mechonhadar](http://www.carmelacademy.com/mechonhadar).

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

### CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES



	November 20.....	4:14 pm
	November 27.....	4:10 pm
	December 4.....	4:08 pm
	December 11.....	4:08 pm
	December 18.....	4:09 pm
	December 25.....	4:13 pm
	January 1.....	4:18 pm
	January 8.....	4:25 pm
	January 15.....	4:32 pm
	January 22.....	4:40 pm
	January 29.....	4:49 pm



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### SPECIAL LECTURES: FALL 2015

 <p>JACOBY-LUNIN HUMANITARIAN LECTURE  <b>“Donors Choose: Expanding the Possibilities of Education”</b>                  Charles Best, Founder, DonorsChoose.org  <b>Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 8 p.m.</b>                  Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts                  Co-sponsor: Open Visions Forum                  Tickets: \$45. Call 203-254-4010.</p>	 <p>ADOLPH AND RUTH SCHNURMACHER LECTURE IN JUDAIC STUDIES  <b>“Germans Who Stood Up to Hitler: The Resistance Movements of Nazi Germany”</b>                  Anne Nelson, Author, Red Orchestra  <b>Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m.</b>                  Dolan School of Business Dining Room                  Complimentary Admission                  Contact <a href="mailto:bennettcenter@fairfield.edu">bennettcenter@fairfield.edu</a> or call (203) 254-4000, ext. 2066 to reserve a seat.</p>
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## “Queering Jewish Theology”

### Temple Sinai Hosts Visiting Scholar

Temple Sinai will welcome Rabbi Dr. Jay Michaelson as visiting scholar on Friday, January 29. Rabbi Michaelson, a national voice for progressive Judaism and a longtime LGBT activist, is a contributing editor to the Daily Beast and the *Forward*, and is author of five books and more than 300 articles on religion, sexuality, law and contemplative practice. He has been included on the *Forward* 50 list of influential American Jews, and his 2011 book, “God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality,” was an Amazon best-seller and Lambda Literary Award finalist.



Rabbi Dr. Jay Michaelson

Rabbi Michaelson is a leading scholar of Queer Theory and Judaism, and marries his knowledge of the two throughout his presentations. Originally meaning strange or peculiar, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century “queer” became a derogative term used to identify those with same-sex desires. Beginning in the late-1980s, however, queer scholars and activists began to reclaim the word to establish community and assert a politicized identity. More recently, the word queer has become an umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities and is used by many who reject traditional gender identities and seek a broader, less conformist, and deliberately ambiguous alternative to LGBT.

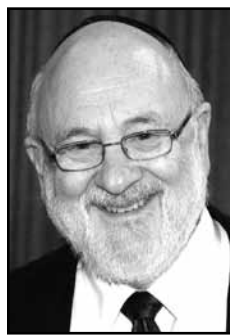
During a Shabbat congregational dinner, beginning at 6:30 pm, the topic of Rabbi Michaelson’s talk will be “After equality: Queering Jewish Theology.” He will discuss what it means to “queer” Jewish text and theology, and participants will be invited to queerly read several biblical texts on the subject of masculinity and heroism.

Following dinner, a Shabbat Experience Service, featuring Temple Sinai’s artist-in-residence, Beth Styles, and various musical guests from the community, will commence. Rabbi Michaelson will continue his presentation with his talk titled “iJudaism: Trendlines in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jewish Affiliation and Why It Might Not Be So Bad.” During this portion of the evening, he will address the decline in synagogue affiliation, what postmodern American Judaism looks like and what we can learn from it.

Both programs are open to the public. Pre-paid reservations for dinner on or before Sunday, January 24, are \$18 for adults and \$12 for children under 12; after January 24, prices go up to \$25 and \$15 respectively. Attendance at the 7:30 pm service is free of charge. To make reservations or for more information, contact Temple Sinai at 203-322-1649.

## CAMOS Welcomes Scholar in Residence

Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, executive vice president emeritus of the Orthodox Union, will visit Stamford on Friday-Saturday, December 18-19, as part of a weekend that will be sponsored by CAMOS (the Committee to Advance Modern Orthodoxy in Stamford). He will speak three times over the course of the weekend, at three different venues.



Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb

On Friday night, December 18, at 7:45 pm, Rabbi Weinreb will speak at the home of Toby Schaffer on the subject of “The Spiritual Response to a World in Crisis.”

On Shabbat morning, December 19, Rabbi Weinreb will deliver the sermon at Young Israel of Stamford on the subject of “Sliding to the Right... But In Search of What?” Services will begin at 9 am and Rabbi Weinreb will speak at about 11 am. Finally, Rabbi Weinreb will speak immediately following afternoon services at Congregation Agudath Sholom, at 4:30 pm. His topic will be “The Three Greatest Problems Facing Orthodoxy Today.”

Rabbi Weinreb is considered one of the foremost leaders in Jewish life in North America and worldwide, and combines the skills of pulpit rabbi, scholar and clinical psychologist to provide leadership to Orthodox Judaism worldwide. Rabbi Weinreb received his rabbinic ordination in 1962 from the Rabbi Jacob Joseph Yeshiva in New York and served as spiritual leader of Congregation Shomrei Emunah in Baltimore for 13 years, building the congregation from 160 to more than 400 families, before coming to the Orthodox Union. In addition, he has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Maryland. He served as a psychotherapist for mental health organizations for many years while also maintaining a private practice.

As executive vice president, Rabbi Weinreb expanded the Orthodox Union to be not only a *kashrut* organization, but to also be active in youth, synagogue services, college campuses and the political arena. He currently is the author of the weekly “Person in the Parsha” Torah commentary, in which he combines his background as a trained psychologist and a rabbinical scholar to provide insights into the *parasha* that may not be available from other sources.

“CAMOS is delighted to be sponsoring this scholar weekend with Rabbi Weinreb, who as the leader of the Orthodox Union has helped shape the Orthodox Jewish community to unparalleled heights,” said Michael Feldstein, the founder of CAMOS. “Under his guidance, the Orthodox Union has been extremely helpful to the Stamford Jewish community with its community growth initiative, and we are happy to host Rabbi Weinreb for an entire scholar weekend.”

## Deadlines for articles

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

Monday, December 28..... February  
Monday, January 25 ..... March  
Monday, February 29 ..... April

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

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How can Jewish texts help us answer some of life’s biggest questions? Self-worth, compassion, gratitude, grace and generosity are just some of the themes Rabbi Shai Held will delve into as part of this interactive lecture series.

- **Flipping Self-Worth on its Head: A Revolutionary Jewish Approach to Human Dignity and Value**

December 10, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

- **The Spiritual Life Begins With Gratitude and Culminates In Generosity**

December 17, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

- **Compassion and the Heart of Jewish Spirituality**

January 14, 2016, 7:30–9:00 p.m.



All lectures are free of charge and will be held at Carmel Academy, 270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830. For more information about each of these sessions please visit [www.carmelacademy.com/mechonhadar](http://www.carmelacademy.com/mechonhadar)

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# Comedy Night at Temple Beth El

Temple Beth El will sponsor a Comedy Night featuring two acts, both with headliner comedians, on Saturday, December 5, at 8 pm, at the synagogue.

The Stone twins, Adam and Todd (“Stone and Stone”), were semi-finalists on “Last Comic Standing” and the leads in a series of Verizon FiOS commercials. They have performed at New York Friars Club Roasts, including those of Dennis Rodman, George Takei and Padma Lakshmi. They also host a web series presented by



Stone and Stone

truTV called “Grown up, Grown down,” which accompanies the show “How to be a Grown Up.” Their “Stone and Stone Show” is the longest-running standup show at The PIT and they perform at clubs and theaters throughout New York. They have performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the New York Comedy Festival, and they also played twin villains in a web series called “Penelope Princess of Pets,” written by and starring Kristen Schaal and Kurt Braunohler.

Richie Byrne will be the second headline act. From comedy clubs to colleges to Atlantic City’s resorts, including The Tropicana Casino and Hotel, Byrne performs more than 500 shows a year. His television appearances as a comedian include Comedy Central’s “Premium Blend,” VH1’s “Stand-Up Spotlight” and “The Rosie O’Donnell Show.” As an actor, Byrne has had roles on HBO’s “The Sopranos,” “Sex In The City” and NBC’s “Law and Order.” Currently, Byrne is the warm-up act for “The Dr. Oz Show.”



Richie Byrne

The evening is open to the community and desserts will be served. The event is BYOB. The cost to attend is \$50 per person. For reservations and further information, contact the TBE office at 203-322-6901, ext. 301, or by e-mail at office@tbe.org.

## “Happily Ever After”

### Temple Sinai’s Annual Cantor’s Concert

When she was just 4 years old, Micah Morgovsky appeared in her very first musical – a community theater production of “Carousel” – and the stage was set for a lifelong passion for singing and sharing her love of music, which she has been doing as Temple Sinai’s cantor since 2008.

At Temple Sinai’s eighth annual Cantor’s Concert on Sunday, December 6, at 4 pm, Cantor Morgovsky will perform music designed to take the audience to “Happily Ever After.” “I love how music can tell a story, and I’ll weave together songs from some of my favorite Broadway shows, Gilbert and Sullivan, Disney and more for a family-friendly program that shows how each of us can create our own happiness,” said Cantor Morgovsky.

As much as she enjoys performing, Cantor Morgovsky says she enjoys singing with others even more. The hour-long program will include musical guests from the congregation and an audience sing-along, all accompanied by Alex Ruvinstein on piano.



Cantor Morgovsky will cast a magic spell when she performs in “Happily Ever After.”

Light refreshments will be included, and a community candle lighting will follow the concert in celebration of the first night of Chanukah. Concert proceeds will support music programming at Temple Sinai, including Ruach, the congregation’s ensemble of instrumentalists and singers; Kolot Sinai, Temple’s volunteer adult choir; the RUJU youth choir; musical guests and artists-in-residence; and more.

Seating is limited and tickets can be purchased in advance by calling Shelly Welfeld at Temple Sinai at 203-322-1649; additional tickets may be available at the door. The suggested donation is \$36/adult and \$18/child under age 12. Sponsors contributing \$180, \$360, \$500 and \$1,000 and up will receive added benefits, including reserved seating, a donor reception and program recognition.

The concert will be held in Temple Sinai’s social hall at 458 Lakeside Dr., Stamford. For more information, visit [www.templestamford.org](http://www.templestamford.org) or call 203-322-1649.

### ► Lecture on Issues Facing Modern Families

The next #RaisingTodaysKids lecture will be held at the Jewish Community Center’s Hoffman Auditorium on Tuesday, December 1, at 7:30 pm. Josh Levs, an award-winning broadcaster, investigative journalist and author, will present his book, “All In: How Our Work-First Culture Fails Dads, Families, and Businesses – And How We Can Fix It Together.” Levs will share his knowledge and expertise on issues facing modern families.

Prior to the lecture, those attending are invited to enjoy “beers and cheers” with Levs from 6:45-7:30 pm.

The cost to attend the lecture will be \$10 for JCC members or \$12 for non-members. For more information, contact Sandi Waldstreicher at 203-322-6541 or [swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org).

The JCC’s Early Childhood Scholar-In-Residence program is underwritten by the Charles M. Karp Memorial Fund, through the generosity of Douglas and Sharon Karp and Arnold and Lisa Karp.

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



## Party Planning Showcase

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# The Time to Get Involved is Now

## JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest

BY LUISA VILADIS

The time to sign up is now for Stamford area teens who want to compete in the JCC Maccabi Games or shine at the JCC Maccabi ArtsFest next summer. For those over the age of 18, hundreds of volunteer jobs are available.

“This is a life-changing event, not just for Jewish teens, but for the adults who make it possible,” said JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest Co-Chair Michael Gold. “It will take more than 1,000 volunteers to help plan and facilitate the

week-long event. All skills are welcome. Whatever your interests are, however much time you have, there is a place for you this summer.”

Volunteer areas include athletics, registration, hospitality, safety, transportation, water and ice, venue management, food, airport greeters and bus captains, office assistance, evening event chaperones and more.

“From August 7-12, over 1,000 Jewish teens from around the world, along with their coaches, families and other

delegation members will converge on Stamford for five days of athletic competition, community service and other social events in the 2016 Stamford JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest,” said Co-Chair Jeannie Kriftcher. “What will it take to transport, house, feed and cheer on roughly 1,500 guests? You! If history and the experiences of prior host cities teach us anything, the

2016 Stamford JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest could be the single most galvanizing event yet organized by our Jewish community.”

On Tuesday, December 8, the JCC will host a communitywide JCC Maccabi Information Night aimed at providing information to athletes, artists, volunteers, host families and supporters. The

See “Involved” on page 8

# The Power of Women

Members of the Pomegranate and Lion of Judah giving levels of United Jewish Federation gathered at the home of Alix Eben to hear from William Recant, assistant executive vice president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Recant spoke about the power of

women in the Jewish philanthropic world and how just one woman can make a difference for hundreds of Jews throughout the world.

Pomegranates give a minimum gift of \$1,800 to the annual campaign and Lions of Judah give a minimum gift of \$5,000.



L-r: Rebekah Raz, VP of UJF; Nancy Mimoun; Ellen Weber, president of UJF; Will Recant, JDC; Lorraine Kweskin, chair of Women’s Philanthropy; Alix Eben; and James Cohen, CEO of UJF.

*All are invited!*

## UJF Annual Meeting

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Photo by Lauren Cannio

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## BITS AND PIECES

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

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GROWING FAMILIES:

**Janie and Edward Friedlander** on the birth of a grandson, Eli George Friedlander.

**Michal and Eitan Gold** on the birth of a daughter, Sara Feige Yitah Gold; grandparents are **Tamar and Morris Gold**; great-grandfather is **Hazzan Sidney Rabinowitz**.

**Bob Gray** on the birth of a grandson, Noah Samuel Gray.

MAZEL TOV TO:

**Alexandra Bergman**, a recipient of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's annual National History Day Award.

**Ilan Burstein and Barbara Smith** on the engagement of their daughter, **Shira Burstein**, to **Zinovy Pravin**, son of **Faina Pravin**.

**Rabbi Intern Gerry L. Ginsburg** on his appointment as spiritual leader of Congregation Sinai of Milford/West Haven.

**Meryl Goldhammer and Stuart Stafman** on the marriage of their daughter, **Laura Stafman**, to **Matthew Kreinbihl**; grandmother is **Phyllis Brodsky**.

**Lizabeth and Paul Sachs** on the marriage of their daughter, **Monica Sachs**, to **Sean Breslin**.

**Paula Snyder and David Giver** on their marriage.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

**Georgia Baer**, daughter of **Beth and Ray Baer**; grandparents are **Betty and Sherwin Baer**.

**Zoë Jaffe-Berkowitz**, daughter of **Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz and Parry Berkowitz**; grandparents are **Sari and Alan Jaffe**.

**David Siegel**, son of **Rona and Robert Siegel**.

**Leah Tuluca**, daughter of **Inga and Luciano Tuluca**.

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



CONDOLENCES TO:

**Cantor Rafael Bokow** on the loss of his grandmother, *Rebbetzin* Margot Bokow.

**Roni Chastain and Sue Forster** on the loss of their mother, Rhoda Forster.

**Vivi and Rabbi Yisrael Deren** on the loss of their daughter-in-law, Sara Deren.

**Barbara Friedlander, and Rebecca, Sharon and Rachel Friedlander** on the loss of her husband and their father, Bruce Friedlander.

**Eric Goldberg, Fern Goldberg Rhinesmith and Michael Goldberg** on the loss of their father, Seymour Goldberg.

Family of Muriel Gottlieb.

**Richard Heimler** on the loss of his father, Arnold Heimler.

**Ellen Holzberg-Raskin and Matthew Raskin** on the loss of their mother, Irma Raskin.

**Craig Lambert** on the loss of his father, Raymond Lambert.

**Gloria Lotstein, and Jeffrey Lotstein, Richard Lotstein, Steven Lotstein and Leslie Sternburg** on the loss of her husband and their father, Ralph Lotstein.

**Jeff Popper** on the loss of his mother, Florine Popper.

**Barbara Raben, Suzanne Jacobson and Ellen Pilonen** on the loss of their mother, Adele Shulman.

**Andrea Scherban** on the loss of her mother, Janet Fightlin.

**Nancy Schiffman** on the loss of her mother, Dianne Levy.

**Sue Shapiro** on the loss of her mother, Natalie Skalka.

**Elisabeth Steinberg** on the loss of her father-in-law, Jacob Steinberg.

**Judy Dalgin Suchin** on the loss of her brother, Sidney Reznik.

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

BY CANTOR MARCIA LANE



When I first came to work here at UJF it was the week of Tapestry. I, of course, wanted to pitch in and show that I was a team player and willing to do any work, but everyone on staff said, "Just watch. Get the feel of it. It really knows how to run itself." So I sat at a registration table, greeted presenters and observed how much the Jewish community loved this annual event. This year it was my turn to run around – along with our wonderful chair, Carol Lilienthal – and *kvell* at the number and variety of people who turned out for an opportunity to learn from our amazing presenters. I loved it! Better together.

By the time we got to the end of the next week, I was already deep into the planning for Shabbat Across Stamford. This time I was looking at something new, a project that had never been done before. Together with the energetic event chair, Linda Spilka, and a host of committee members, we transformed a school auditorium and a music room into sanctuaries. We transformed a cafeteria into a Shabbat banquet and we created something unique: a time and place for all Jews, religious or secular, affiliated or not, to celebrate together. Because Shabbat is better when we are together. Barely one month after Shabbat Across Stamford, we mourned together at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the end of World War II.

Whether we celebrate with joy or com-

memorate with sadness, the core value of Judaism (and, not coincidentally, of UJF) is that we support each other through community. Jewish learning is traditionally done in *chevruta* – with a friend. We do not recommend sitting at home, trying to learn something by yourself. The Mishnah advises: Get yourself a master-teacher and acquire a learning-partner; and when you assess people, judge on the side of merit. (Mishnah 1:6) Learning is better together.

I get to do a lot of interesting projects here at UJF. One of the great joys of this job has been the work I do in partnership with lay leaders, those people in the community who see that they are part of a larger whole, and that anything worth doing in the Jewish world is worth doing together. The same is true of philanthropy. By donating to UJF, we pool our resources for the betterment of the whole community, from infants through elders, and everyone in between. We simply do more and we do better when we work together.

I look forward to seeing more than 350 people at Shabbat Across Stamford on March 4. It's going to be exciting to be at the Crowne Plaza, to *daven*, to enjoy an elegant Shabbat dinner, to listen to our outstanding speaker, soon to be revealed! (If you were at Tapestry, you already know!) On March 4, we will once more accomplish what no other community across the U.S. or Canada could manage. We will come together.

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

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

## KLEI KODESH

A MONTHLY COLUMN FROM OUR CLERGY

### Why is this Year Different than All Other Years?

BY RABBI MOSHE SHEMTOV

There is a special occasion mentioned in the Torah, which is especially pertinent this year. It's called "*Hakhel* – Assemble." In Temple times, every Jew was commanded to gather in the Temple every seventh year on the festival of Sukkot to hear from the Jewish king.

Imagine the incredible



Rabbi Moshe Shemtov

scene: From near and far – from Jerusalem to the farthest place a Jew resided, they all came. Men, women, children – even infants! Hundreds of thousands made the trip to the Temple in Jerusalem. Standing shoulder to shoulder in an all-encompassing spirit of awe and reverence, the atmosphere was charged with wonder and anticipation.

Suddenly, the king of Israel stepped out on a platform overlooking the massive assembly. He read aloud from a special Torah scroll, inspiring and moving the nation. The emotion and intensity

of the moment was reminiscent of Sinai, where the Jewish people stood as one ready to receive the Torah.

The Jewish people were inspired. They became closer to God. But even more so, they united as a people. *Hakhel* brought a spirit of love, oneness and singularity to a nation of unique individuals.

This powerful event consecrated that entire year as a "*Shnas Hakhel* – Year of Assembly"; a year dedicated to strengthening the unity of the Jewish people.

Had the Holy Temple been standing today, we'd be buying tickets to Jerusalem for *hakhel* this year! Even without

*See "Year" on page 8*



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SHABBAT ACROSS STAMFORD  
Friday, March 4, 2016 at the  
Crowne Plaza Stamford  
with guest speaker  
Ruth Messinger, President AJWS

# YLD's Fall Family Festivities

The Young Leadership Division of United Jewish Federation held a Family Day event during Sukkot. The event, which took place at the Temple Sinai Kidzone, was attended by the

YLD board and young families from the Greater Stamford community. Parents had a chance to chat while their children enjoyed crafts and the indoor playground equipment and heard a

PJ Library story from Cantor Marcia Lane, UJF's PJ Library coordinator. To highlight the Sukkot holiday, participants toured Temple Sinai's sukkah and enjoyed cotton candy.

"It is our goal to host this annual event to welcome area families, and let them know what UJF does for Jews in our own backyard and around the world," said Emily Wirgin, YLD president.



L-r: Caren Ferster Barofsky, Cecile Meunier-Skorniki, Brian Skorniki, and Rachel and Jeremy Hagar mingled while their children enjoyed story time.



L-r: UJF CEO James Cohen with YLD board members and event chairs Taly Farber and Remi Rosenberg.



Cantor Marcia Lane of UJF held a PJ Library session during the fall Family Day event. She showed Zoe Wirgin how to shake the lulav and etrog as part of her discussion about Sukkot.



Children enjoyed crafts and the Kidzone during the YLD annual Family Day.

For Information about any of these JEEP programs, contact Marcia Lane: (203)653-2668 or email [Marcia@ujf.org](mailto:Marcia@ujf.org).

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# Stamford Mayor Lauds Return of JCC Maccabi Games

BY LUISA VILADAS

At a recent press conference, Stamford Mayor David Martin and Jewish Community Center President Jeff Goldblum announced the selection of Stamford as the host city for the 2016 JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest.

Martin applauded the Jewish Community Center for its efforts to bring JCC Maccabi to Stamford next summer. The mayor, whose family has hosted JCC Maccabi athletes in the past, said, "I'm so happy that you are coming back here after a 10-year hiatus. It is quite a testament to Stamford, and quite a testament to the JCC and the Jewish community, to be able to pull this off."

In discussing the economic benefits to the city, Martin said, "People are going to come here, eat at our restaurants and be at our hotels, but for me the biggest thing is really a sense of pride for the community."

"The role of organizations like the JCC and events like JCC Maccabi," he continued, "add a lot to the community and the fulfillment of us as individuals. And we are thankful. You not only enrich yourselves, but you enrich the community by what you do, by your graciousness and by your giving. Stamford is great, not because of our shiny buildings, but because of the people who live here."

The JCC Maccabi Games and Arts Fest will bring more than 1,000 visiting athletes to Stamford from across the U.S., South America, Canada, Europe and Israel from August 7-12, along with hundreds of coaches and visitors. Approximately 300 local athletes and artists are expected to participate. JCC Maccabi Games athletes will compete in 10 different sporting events, including baseball, basketball, golf, tennis, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, table tennis and volleyball. JCC Maccabi ArtsFest will feature programs in dance, acting/improv, culinary arts, musical theater, vocal music/glee, rock band,



Stamford Mayor David Martin and Jewish Community Center President Jeff Goldblum announced the selection of Stamford as the host city for the 2016 JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest. The event will take place from August 7-12. (Photo by Lauren Rhodes)

visual arts and reporting. There will also be JCC Cares activities, during which all of the teens will participate in hands-on-community service projects throughout Stamford.

As Martin was speaking at the press conference, the entire eighth-grade class of Bi-Cultural Day School was in the JCC lobby working on a JCC Cares project, assembling dozens of personal care toiletry kits to be donated to the JFS Kosher Food Pantry.

More than 1,000 local volunteers and 400 host families will be involved in the implementation of JCC Maccabi. Jewish teens between the ages of 12 and 17 are eligible to participate, and everyone in the community is urged to get involved. To register, or for more information, contact Rachel Rothman at 203-487-0949 or rrothman@stamfordjcc.org, or visit [jccmaccabistamford.org](http://jccmaccabistamford.org).

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

## NEW AROUND TOWN

Joanna Nevins – UJF



Joanna Nevins

Joanna Nevins recently joined the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien as the office manager and executive assistant. Born and raised in Bedford, NY, and now living in Ridgefield, CT, Nevins studied biology and criminal justice at Pace University. She has worked in Jewish education and administration for several years in New York and Connecticut. "I am very passionate about the work I do to have meaning and purpose that is bigger than me. I'm very excited to be part of the UJF family, where I have received a very warm welcoming," said Nevins.

### ► JCC Hosts "J-Palooza" Battle of the Bands

The Center Women of the Jewish Community Center will host a battle of the bands on Saturday, January 9, at 9:30 pm, at the JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Taking the stage will be local rock and roll cover bands.

Refreshments will be served. Those attending must be 21 or older. General admission is \$25 per person, or \$20 per person for JCC members, which includes two drink tickets.

Those planning to attend must register online at [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org). For more information, contact [centerwomen@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:centerwomen@stamfordjcc.org) or call 203-487-0996.

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

### Involved. . . . Continued from page 5

event will be held at 7 pm at the JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford.

On Thursday, December 17, there will be a JCC Maccabi ArtsFest Workshop for teens interested in dance, acting, improv, culinary arts, musical theater, vocal music (glee), rock band, visual arts and reporting.

Tryouts for team sports will begin in January. Those interested should visit [jccmaccabistamford.org](http://jccmaccabistamford.org) for full details. Interested artists can apply online at [jccmaccabiartsfest.org](http://jccmaccabiartsfest.org).

Visit [jccmaccabistamford.org](http://jccmaccabistamford.org) for more information about all the ways to get involved in JCC Maccabi in Stamford. JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest Director Rachel Rothman can be reached at [rrothman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:rrothman@stamfordjcc.org) or 203-487-9049.

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

### Year. . . . . Continued from page 6

the Temple, the Lubavitcher rebbe of righteous memory taught that the spiritual energy still exists for us to tap into and take advantage of. This year is dedicated to bringing Jews together, and whenever Jews gather together for a good purpose during the next 12 months, it is considered a "hakhel event."

But who is the king who will inspire?

Each of us has a sphere of influence – ourselves, our family, colleagues and friends – over which we should be "hakhel kings." Our goal this year should be to help unite Jewish people together, and serve as that kingly inspiration to better our individual connection with God, and our interpersonal relationships as friends, as a community.

Each individual, as king over their own circle, can in turn inspire a nation.

It is time for us to realize that leadership potential, to take reign and become king!

It is time for us to gather our children (and even infants) for Jewish education.

It is time for us to gather and walk saluting the incredible teens in our community as they support children with special needs.

It is time to gather with our family and friends for a Shabbat service filled with song and joy (and yes, even dance)!

It is time for us to gather and dedicate time to be uplifted and inspired through Torah study!

It is time for us to gather in groups, in our own circles and utilize our kingly opportunity and inspire!

It is time for us – this hakhel, let's work together to inspire one another.

It is hakhel. It is time to unite.

*Rabbi Moshe Shemtov is the director of Chabad of Stamford.*



## PJ LIBRARY RETURNS TO THE JHS JUDAICA LIBRARY!!

Join storyteller Marcia Lane for monthly after-school story programs in the JHS Judaica Library at the JCC.

For Grades K through 2<sup>nd</sup>

Second Tuesdays

December 8, January 12 & February 9

For Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>

Third Thursdays

December 17, January 21 & February 18

4:00 to 4:45 pm

Free

Join us as we share holiday stories, songs, folktales and legends, and loads of great books from the PJ Library and the Jewish Historical Society Library. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to stay.

For more information, please call Marcia Lane at (203) 653-2668.



PJ Library programs are produced with support from Linda Spilka, Ed Spilka, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



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BETTER TOGETHER

# JFS Joins Ferguson Library “Resource Clinic” Fair

BY JODI MAXNER

Jewish Family Service, an established “player” in the training and employment field for more than 15 years, exhibited at a recent Ferguson Library “Resource Clinic” Career Fair. Supported by Friends of the Ferguson Library, the fair gathers businesses and agencies to offer job seekers the opportunity to learn which organizations provide help for them to find sustainable employment. JFS partners with many of these agencies and offers experience in employment and training services.

The JFS approach is to be a catalyst to the job seeker and help facilitate re-entry or advancement in the workforce, with the goal of enabling clients to become financially independent. JFS has experience with a mature population and provides many services that are labor intensive

and one-on-one, such as working with clients to assess their skills, establish goals, monitor their progress and follow up.

Depending on a client’s needs, motivation and available resources, services vary. They include, but are not limited to, basic job readiness/job search skills training; support services, such as assistance with housing, medical, counseling and nutrition; how to access available resources; and referrals to prospective employers.

For more information or to request assistance, contact Ilene K. Locker, JFS director of employment and training, at 203-921-4161 or [iklocker@ctjfs.org](mailto:iklocker@ctjfs.org).

*Jodi Maxner is the JFS job developer/recruiter. Jewish Family Service is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.*



*Jewish Family Service Employment and Training partnered with the Ferguson Library to help job seekers. L-r: Jodi Maxner, JFS job developer; State Senator Carlo Leone (D-Stamford), program manager for The Workplace for Veterans Affairs Program; Alice Knapp, president of The Ferguson Library; and Ilene K. Locker, JFS director of employment and training.*

# Reading Partners Continues to Grow

BY MARLYN AGATSTEIN

The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program is officially under way for the Stamford public schools’ 2015-2016 year. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Stamford community, the program continues to expand its base, responding to changes in educational curriculum and local community transitions.

This year marks the first full school year that all 12 Stamford elementary schools are participating in the Reading Partners program. Twenty-four new adult volunteers completed their training in October and are now visiting their assigned schools

once a week to encourage and promote reading skills. Judy Martin, reading specialist from Northeast Elementary School, conducted an October workshop for the new trainees and spoke about the young students’ needs. Since many of the program’s students do not have any reading time at home, the volunteers’ relationship with them continues to provide a valuable service. In addition, many of the young students are coming from ESL families and the extra attention in the area of vocabulary expansion is considered beneficial.

Reading Partners has a presence in both the

Stamford elementary schools (during the school day) and at the newly revitalized Yerwood Center (an after-school program). This year, 17 students from Westhill High School’s Interact Club and Greenwich Academy have joined the program to read with kindergarten-third grade students once a week, including eight teens who volunteered last year. The feedback from teens has been called positive; over  
*See “Reading” on page 22*

# Super..... Continued from page 1

the “Children’s Tzedakah Corner.” Food from local kosher purveyors will be available to all volunteers.

Community members are invited to be part of this event and make Super Sunday a success. Robin Fischel added, “When we ask the community to answer the call, they do. Join us and be part of that excitement.”

To become a volunteer for the Super Sunday event, or if you have any questions, call Rebekah Raz at 203-321-1373, ext. 102.

*United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien provides financial support to more than a dozen local recipient agencies as well as to Jews in need in Israel and in 79 countries throughout the world.*

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# Jewish Historical Society Searches for Pirates

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

According to Walt Disney, being a pirate is fantastic and special – “Yo Ho, Yo Ho, A Pirate’s Life for Me!” Pirates once sailed the Seven Seas in search of fame and fortune. Some were considered villains and some of them were thought of as heroes – and some of them were Jewish. The community is invited to join the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County for its December Featured Program on Sunday, December 6, at 10 am, at the Jewish Community Center, which will investigate this piece of history and geography.

“Captain Anne,” a.k.a. Dr. Anne Peskin, will discuss the life of pirates. “Venture back in time to the beginnings of Spanish exploration and arrive at the present to meet bold Jews who



Dr. Anne Peskin

were seeking treasure and adventure,” said Peskin. “On the downside, Jewish pirates, like their non-Jewish counterparts, killed people, plundered booty and even engaged in slave trade. Perhaps some famous pirates will make an appearance as well. Be on the lookout for Captain Morgan and perhaps even Jean Lafitte.”

As a lover of the water, boats and sailing, Peskin is active in the Stamford Sail and Power Squadron, which is part of the United States Power Squadron. In 1989, Peskin became the first woman in Stamford (and one of the first few in the United States) to hold the title of commander. She also served as rear commander in the national United States Power Squadron. Also interested in mathematics and

teaching at all levels, Peskin is a professor emerita who taught at City College of CUNY. In addition, Peskin has served on the Stamford Board of Education, the Planning Board and the Board of Tax Assessment Appeals.

JHS programs in the works for 2016 include speakers associated with the Mets, families dealing with adversity in their children’s lives, the history and taste of knishes, and issues of public policy and social action from a Jewish point of view. Stay tuned for further details.

For questions about the program or JHS, contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148 or elissa@de-kaplan.com. For additional information, visit the website <http://jhsfc-ct.org>, or become a Jewish Historical Society friend on Facebook.

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

## A Night of Good Spirits

On October 22, the Young Leadership Division of United Jewish Federation held “A Night of Good Spirits.” The happy hour, which took place at Six Thirteen Restaurant in Stamford, provided an environment to mingle with friends and make new acquaintances. Guests also had the opportunity to meet and greet Connecticut State Representative Caroline Simmons, who spoke about her summer visit to Israel and the time she spent in Afula, Stamford’s sister city. Simmons informed guests about the programs and centers she had the opportunity to see or learn about, which are supported by UJF directly.

For more information about the Young Leadership Division, or to hear about upcoming events, contact Sharon Franklin at 203-321-1373, ext. 109, or e-mail [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org).



Dr. Remi Rosenberg (left, YLD board member) and Dr. Todd (at right) and Stacey Palker.



L-r: Event chair and YLD board member Lori Gilbert, Connecticut State Rep. Caroline Simmons, YLD President Emily Wirgin and YLD member Dana Horowitz.



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BETTER TOGETHER

## JCC Center Women Present “Toy Stories”

Women from throughout the Stamford Jewish community will perform an original musical called “Toy Stories,” with four performances of the show: Saturday, January 30, at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, January 31, at 10 am, 1 pm and 4 pm.

The community is invited to come meet Maya, who loves toys, but just can’t decide what to buy. Lucky for her, all the toys in the toy store come alive to help her choose. Along the way, the new friends will sing, dance and learn some important lessons. Produced by The Center Women, the musical, with songs set to familiar tunes, was written by Janice Chaikelson Steinberg, with additional lyrics by Darren Molovinsky. “It’s a fun and touching show for all ages!” says Steinberg.

Admission is a suggested donation of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Program ads and sponsorship opportunities will be available for purchase in December, with all proceeds benefitting the Senior Adult Programs at the JCC. Visit [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org) for information, reservations and to purchase program ads, or e-mail [centerwomen@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:centerwomen@stamfordjcc.org).

The JCC is located at 1035 Newfield Ave., at the intersection of Vine Road, in Stamford.

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

## JFS College Consultant Leads “Race to College”

Jewish Family Service is teaming up with the Harry Bennett Branch of the Ferguson Library of Stamford to offer Race to College, three workshops designed for students currently in eighth, ninth, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades, and their parents. The sessions will take place on three Mondays: December 7, January 25 and February 29, from 6-7 pm, at the Harry Bennett Branch of the Ferguson Library, 115 Vine Rd., Stamford. The series is open to the entire community at no charge.

Race to College will review steps that may help students achieve stress-free management of the college admission process, including planning through the four years of high school; focusing on the preliminary testing and other measures to assess students’ competencies; and dealing with the timelines, sequentially and carefully planning the tasks through the application process.

Claire Friedlander, JFS college consultant, is the organizer and moderator of the annual JFS program College Ahead!, which features guest panelists in college admissions. There will be a Q&A at each session. For individual consultation for college planning, contact Friedlander at 203-921-4161 or e-mail [clairef@ctjfs.org](mailto:clairef@ctjfs.org), or visit “College Counseling” at [www.ctjfs.org](http://www.ctjfs.org).

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

# Friday Night Live with Chabad

More than 150 adults and children attended the kick-off to Friday Night Live hosted by Chabad Stamford in October. The multi-faceted Shabbat experience included *Kabbalat Shabbat*, a kids program, and a sushi and scotch *kiddush*. Friday Night Live will be offered on 10 Friday nights throughout the year. For more details, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org).



L-r: Shira Cohen, Elise Klein, Stella Cohen, Jenna Cohen, Daniella Klein and David Klein attended FNL.



Pre-Shabbat musical entertainment was provided by Jonathan Cahr (far back) before the start of *Kabbalat Shabbat*.

## FAMILY CENTRAL DECEMBER 2015 & JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2016

### FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**The Center Women of the JCC Present 'Toy Stories'**  
Saturday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 pm at the JCC; and Sunday, Jan. 31 at 10am; 1pm and 4pm at the JCC. Reservations required. Playbill ads available for purchase. Visit [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org).

**Challah Club Launch**  
For all ages. Weekly. Thursday Jan. 7, 14 & 21 from 4:45-5:45pm. \$5 per person. For further information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org)

**Chanukah Party at Harbor Point**  
Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7pm. For further information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org)

**Chanukah Wonderland and Community Concert Celebration**  
Sunday, Dec. 6. Chanukah Wonderland from 1-3pm and Concert from 3-5pm at Turn of River Middle School, 117 Vine Road. Featuring the amazing Benny Friedman. For further information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org)

**Family Day Brunch & Loaves of Love Cooking**  
Friday, Dec. 25 from 10:30am-12:30pm. For further information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org)

**Friday Night Live**  
Fridays, Dec. 11 from 4-6pm; Jan. 15 from 5:30-7pm; and Feb. 26 from 5:30-7pm at Chabad. *Kabbalat Shabbat*, special children's program and *Kiddush*. For further information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org)

**Giant Menorah Lighting**  
Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 5:30pm at Latham Park. Fairfield County's largest Menora. Donuts, apple cider, latkes and gelt for the kids. For further information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org).

**JCC Family Chanukah Party**  
Wednesday, Dec. 9 from 6-7p.m. Fee: \$12 per person, \$42 family maximum; \$10 per person, \$36 family maximum JCC members. For more information, contact Emily Eisen at [eeisen@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:eeisen@stamfordjcc.org)

### BIRTH through PRESCHOOL

**Got Shabbat! Tiny Treasures Mommy & Me**  
Birth - 30 months with a parent or caregiver. Fridays from 9:30-10:30am at Chabad (winter session begins Jan. 8). \$15 per class. (First Timers FREE). For more information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org)

**JCC Mommy & Me Class: Movin' and Groovin'**  
12-30 months with parent or caregiver. Tuesdays from 10-10:45 am. Jan. 5 - Mar 29 (no class Feb. 16). Fee. \$288 for 12 sessions / JCC members \$240. Contact Galit Roloff at 203-487-0974 or [groloff@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:groloff@stamfordjcc.org).

**Music and Movement with Rachel Bahar and Jonathan Cahr**  
Thursday, Dec. 1, 15; Jan. 5, 19; Feb. 2, 23 from 1:30- 2:15pm at Bi-Cultural Day School. Free of charge. For further information, contact Joanne Karow at 203-329-2186 ext. 1310 or [jkarow@bcds.org](mailto:jkarow@bcds.org).

**Music, Movement and Yoga, Mommy & Me Inclusion Program at the JCC**  
2- 4 years with parent present. Sunday 9:30-10am (Jan 3 - Mar 20 (no class Feb. 14). Fee: \$110 for 11 sessions / JCC members \$55. To register, contact Inclusion Coordinator Dinushka De Silva at 203-487-0946 or [ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org).

**Wonderful Ones: Mommy & Me Class at the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School**  
1-2 years. Thursdays from 9:15-10:15am (Jan. 7 - Apr. 7). Fee: \$252 for 14 sessions / JCC members \$210. Contact Sandi Waldstreicher at 203-322-6542 or [swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org).

### GRADES K-8

**BBYO**  
For Grades 8-12. See description under Grades 9-12.

**Bat Mitzvah Club & BMC Beyond**  
For girls 6th-8th Grade. Sunday Dec. 20 from 5:30-7:30pm. For further information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org)

**Chabad Kids Club - CKC**  
For K- 6th grade. Wednesdays Dec. 2, 9, 16; Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 from 4:00-6:00pm. One-on-one Judaic tutoring available - at additional cost). For further information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org)

**Chai Five Mitzvah Club**  
Wednesdays, Dec. 16; Jan. 20 from 5:00-6:30pm. Dinner included. For further information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org).

**Challah Club launch**  
For all ages! Thursday Jan. 7, 14, 21 from 4:45-5:45pm. Fee: \$5 per person. For further information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org)

**Kids Fun Night**  
For Grades K-6. Saturday, Dec. 5 from 6-8pm at the JCC. \$18 per child / JCC members \$16. For further information, contact Emily Eisen at 203-487-0973 or [oreeisen@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:oreeisen@stamfordjcc.org).

**Middle School Dodgeball Tournament**  
Saturday, Feb. 27 from 7-9pm at the JCC. Fee: \$15 per person / \$12 JCC members. Contact Brandon Yarborough at 203-487-0970 or [byarborough@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:byarborough@stamfordjcc.org).

**O-la-mi Reunion**  
Sunday, January 10 from 5-6:30pm at the JCC. Fee: \$10 per person, \$40 family maximum, to benefit O-la-mi scholarships. Contact Emily Eisen at 203-487-0973 or [eeisen@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:eeisen@stamfordjcc.org).

**PJ Library at the JHS Judaica Library at the JCC**  
Grades K-2. Second Tuesday of the month, Dec. 8; Jan 12; Feb. 9 from 4-4:45pm  
Grades 3-5. Third Thursdays of the month, Dec. 17; Jan 21; Feb. 18 from 4-4:45pm  
Parents and caregivers welcome. For further information, contact Marcia Lane at 203-321-1373 x104. Program in partnership with UJF and Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County. Free.

### GRADES 9-12

**BBYO**  
For Grades 8-12. Leviticus AZA (Boys) & Tikvah BBG (Girls). Every 2nd Monday • 7-9pm at The J. Information: contact Josh Cohen, Area Field Director, at [JCohen@bbyo.org](mailto:JCohen@bbyo.org).

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**  
For volunteers in Grades 9-12 at Chabad. Information: Malya Shmotkin at 203-329-0015 #414, [Malya@friendshipct.com](mailto:Malya@friendshipct.com) or [www.friendshipct.com](http://www.friendshipct.com)

**Jewish Student Connection**  
For Grades 9 - 12. Tuesdays at 2:15 pm at Stamford High School or Thursdays at 2:15 pm at Westhill High School. For further information, contact [rebecca@myjsc.org](mailto:rebecca@myjsc.org)



J

Supporting Lower Fairfield Jewish Life



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OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

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**International Relief**



**Jewish Families**

# Federation touches more Jewish lives than any other organization in the WORLD

In Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Community *YOUR GIFT* allows us to:

- Sustain our local JCC, Day Schools, Summer Camps and Synagogues
- Delight over 200 families with free children's books through the PJ Library
- Produce *The New Jewish Voice*, reaching more than 3,500 households
- Sponsor *Reading Partners*, tutoring 300 children in the Stamford public schools
- Support our community agencies, providing financial assistance and counseling, and delivering meals to homebound seniors
- Offer numerous community Federation programs - including Tapestry, Shabbat Across Stamford, and an annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration
- Engage teens in exploring their Jewish identity through dynamic programs

Around the world and in Israel your gift allows us to:

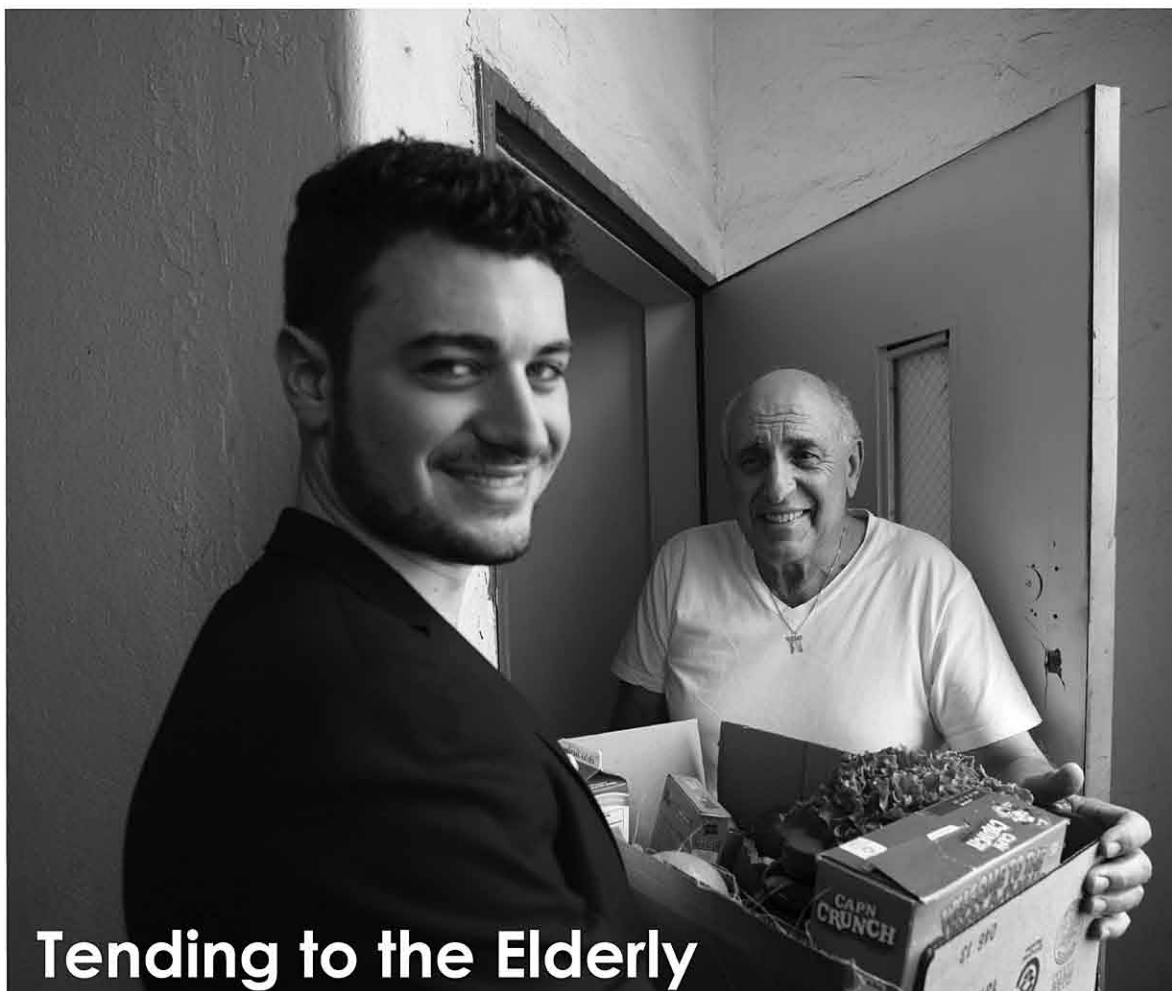
- Provide critical assistance to vulnerable Jews in the Former Soviet Union and globally in over 79 countries
- Connect young adults to their heritage and Israel through Birthright Israel
- Fund educational programs to break the cycle of poverty in Israel and around the world
- Offer relief to 168,000 elderly Jews in the Former Soviet Union
- Help over 50,000 Jews in Latin America with financial assistance
- Provide Jewish identity and renewal programs worldwide
- Help thousands of vulnerable Jews make aliyah to Israel

**If not Federation, then who?**

**Support is vital and we can't do it all without you.**

**Did you make your 2015 deductible donation yet? The campaign ends December 31st!**

**Donate Now: [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org)**



**Tending to the Elderly**

# Tea for Chapter Two

United Jewish Federation's Chapter Two attendees enjoyed high tea at the home of Barbara Muller. Chapter Two is the new UJF Women's Philanthropy program for women who are retirees, empty nesters or who just have the time and desire to get involved, learn about new things and have fun, as well. The group at Muller's home heard from Jane Weitzman, wife of shoe designer

Stuart Weitzman. She spoke about the importance of Jews giving Jewishly and supporting Jewish charities, and also sold and signed copies of her newly published book, "Art and Sole." Proceeds of the sale of the book went to benefit UJF's annual campaign.

For information on upcoming Chapter Two events, see the display ads on pages 14 and 15.



L-r: Marsha Shendell, Barbara Muller, Patti Ramras and Stephne Behrend.



L-r: Phyllis Heller, Susan Hozman and Karen Davis. (Photos by Aviva Maller)



L-r: Sue Frieden (Chapter Two chair), speaker Jane Weitzman and Barbara Muller.



Chapter Two attendees enjoyed high tea at the home of Barbara Muller.

## UJF Chapter Two Upcoming Events

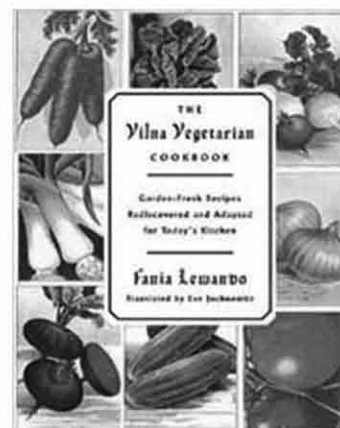


**YIVO INSTITUTE  
FOR JEWISH RESEARCH**

ידישער וויסנשאַפֿטלעכער אינסטיטוט · י"וואַ

**December 17**

Join Chapter Two for a tour of the YIVO Rare Book Room, current exhibitions and introductory talk about the new Vilna Collections Program. Hear from authors Wendy Waxman and Barbara Mazur about their recovery of *The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook* and learn the history behind the discovery of this incredible book.



**United Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

BETTER TOGETHER



CHAPTER TWO

**For more information about these programs, contact Rebekah Raz  
Email: [Rebekah@ujf.org](mailto:Rebekah@ujf.org) or call (203)321-1373 x102 or go to [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org)**

# CHAPTER TWO

January 27, 2016

# Fiddler on the Roof

Chapter Two Chairs:

Sue Frieden and Sari Jaffe

Sign Up: [www.ujf.org/fiddler](http://www.ujf.org/fiddler)  
*Hurry, space is limited!*

*Following the show,  
participants will have  
the opportunity to  
meet some of the cast  
and crew!*

Join Chapter Two as we journey to Broadway to see  
*Fiddler on the Roof*. Group will have lunch in NYC,  
followed by a matinee performance.

Transportation to and from the JCC, lunch and ticket included.

**Cost: \$150**

For information, contact:

Rebekah Raz at 203-321-1373 x.102 or [Rebekah@ujf.org](mailto:Rebekah@ujf.org)



United Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

BETTER TOGETHER



CHAPTER TWO

# Carmel Students Tap Into Their Inner Genius

## School Launches Genius Hour Program

BY JULIE LAPIN

Once a week, Carmel Academy fifth-grader Sophie Citron puts aside her math, science and Hebrew learning to explore what it takes to publish a book. Classmate Annie Mozer does the same as she delves into research about the medieval period and why people wore such strange clothing in the Middle Ages.

Citron and Mozer, along with their classmates, are taking an hour each week from traditional classroom learning to explore their own passion and creativity as part of a new Carmel Academy program called Genius Hour.

“Genius Hour has a variety of roots, but it is largely based on a concept started by Google,” said Dr. Cindy Mann, Carmel Academy’s director of general studies curriculum and professional development.

Google allows its developers to spend 20 percent of their time working on projects that interest them. The philosophy of allowing people to pursue their passions has been called extremely successful, with both Gmail and Google News stemming from this initiative.

The same principles apply at Carmel. Students from fourth through eighth grade have a set amount of time to immerse themselves in projects as they explore their personal interests, choose a topic and craft a “driving question” that will guide their inquiries. While students gain a sense of autonomy, the teachers help facilitate the projects to make sure the students stay focused. The final result is a project that can be shared with classmates and even the world, Mann said.

For fifth-grader Elie Madof, that means exploring a topic he is extremely passionate about, yet doesn’t necessarily fit into the parameters of the daily academic curriculum – sports. After working with his teacher to focus his interest, Madof’s driving question is to figure out why taller professional basketball players miss more free throws than their shorter counterparts. Who knows, perhaps his findings could be useful for the NBA, he says.

“It’s been a terrific experience for the students,” said fifth-grade teacher Toby Ring, adding that stu-



Carmel Academy fifth-graders Elie Madof, Sophie Citron and Annie Mozer pointed to the topics they are researching as part of a new program at the school called Genius Hour.

dent topics range from technology and culture to art and sports. “Because they are so interested in the topics, they are not likely to just settle for the first answer they find. It really empowers them to be an expert about something.”

For Mozer, who is researching the purpose and design of medieval clothing, she is excited to become the resident expert about her topic. “I probably still will not know everything about it, but I will know a lot about it,” she said, adding that she is currently deciding how she plans to share her research and findings with her classmates.

Citron says she plans on sharing her research on book publishing by writing a book and creating a business plan to market it – something she says she is very excited about given her passion for reading.

“Genius Hour is a lot of fun and it’s great to have extra time to do something you really want to do,” Citron said.

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

# Thankful Japanese Students Visit Carmel

At right: Carmel Academy Student Council Co-Presidents Micayla Roth, Sydney Eben and Daniella Messer (from center, l-r) met with students from the Fukushima region of Japan (names of students withheld upon request) to receive a thank-you card for the school’s response to the Japanese earthquake and tsunami five years ago. Immediately following the 2011 earthquake, Carmel’s students folded 1,000 origami cranes to give to their neighbors, the Greenwich Japanese School. The cranes, as per the Japanese tradition, symbolized Carmel’s wishes for a swift and smooth recovery. Carmel also raised and donated \$6,000 to relief efforts. Acts of chesed (kindness) are an integral part of a Carmel Academy education.



# JHSC’s Budding Physicists



Jewish High School of Connecticut sophomores Emily Sklar and Julia Arnowitz took advantage of a warm October day to go outside and conduct a series of physics experiments to investigate the relationship between time, distance and speed.

## ► PJ Library in the New Year

Last spring, PJ Library piloted a new collaboration with the Harry Rosenbaum JHS Judaica Library at the JCC. Twice a month, PJ Library coordinator and storyteller Cantor Marcia Lane picks a few of her favorite PJ Library books and presents a combination of stories read and stories told, along with the occasional song accompanied on the guitar. The storytime programs are on the second Tuesday and third Thursday of every month, from 4-4:45 pm, and are open to all. Second Tuesdays are geared for children in kindergarten, first and second grades, while the Thursday sessions are for third-sixth grades.

“I love to visit the synagogues,” said Cantor Lane, “but telling stories in the Jewish Historical Society Library is a little like being in my own ‘home’ library! And I get to know the kids in the KidsPlace programs, because they are my ‘regulars’!”

Library Manager Gail G. Trell said she loves comments that the children love the sessions. “Her storytelling is animated, enlightening and fun. She captivates with stories that touches them and involves them with music, laughter and knowledge. An amazing 45 minutes. Come once and you’ll be hooked!” said Trell.

The storytelling will continue with sessions on Tuesdays, December 8 and January 12, for kindergartners-second-graders and on Thursdays, December 17 and January 21, for third-sixth-graders.

## UJF WINTER GALA DECEMBER 12, 2015 JOURNAL AD FORM

Join us in celebrating the contributions of our outstanding lay leaders.

Place an ad in UJF’s Winter Gala Ad Journal!

Congratulations to our honorees:

### BENSON ZIMBARG LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD:

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### HARVEY A. PELTZ YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dana Horowitz & Peter Wolly

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Sue Frieden · Meryl Jaffa · Sari Jaffe · Jill Kaplan · Jane Levene · Robin Madan

### ANNUAL MEETING JOURNAL

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Visionary	\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/>	City/St/Zip: _____
Dreamer	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phone: _____
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Friend: Quarter Page	\$180	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ad Text : _____
Listing	\$72	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

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Ad Deadline: Monday, November 30th

## Math Gets High Marks at Bi-Cultural

BY DORA SALM

Going beyond the basics of traditional math lessons, Bi-Cultural Day School teachers seek to teach their students that math can be creative and fun, as well as challenging. From pre-kindergarten to eighth grade, from coding in computer literacy to building a giant, life-sized number line, math concepts have come out of the textbook in a number of ways.



*Fifth-grader Taylor Newman-White solved math equations in an order of operation/math surgery lesson created by math teacher Adrienne Robinson.*

Middle school math teacher Adrienne Robinson was looking for a way to make the theory of order of operations come alive for her fifth-grade math students. "I was really looking for a new and exciting way to teach this concept, which is so important and fundamental, but can be an abstract concept for some," Robinson said.

(Order of operations refer to a collection of rules that define which procedures to perform first in order to evaluate a given math equation.)

Robinson soon made a connection that the same skills of precision and accuracy needed for solving math expressions are similar to those necessary to perform surgery. Robinson then created a simulated operating room, complete with paper patient outlines with math equations written on them and operating tables (standard cafeteria tables); students were able to dress the part of a surgeon with disposable surgical scrubs while they solved the math equations on surgical charts (clipboards).

"The students were excited about this project – and I was, too. They really took their task seriously and focused on solving the problem with precision, just as a surgeon would," said Robinson, who was a featured speaker at the most recent Association for Middle Level Education Conference.

Fifth-grader Eli Ben-David, who participated in the order of operations lesson, took the job of math surgeon seriously. "The project was a lot of fun. We had to check and re-check our answers, because it was like we were performing surgery, except with numbers – and we got to wear scrubs!"

Like their middle school counterparts, teachers at the early childhood and elementary school levels are also taking experiential approaches to teaching math concepts. Pre-kindergarten teacher Alice Andersen taught her students the concepts of pairs in tandem with the Noah Torah portion. Children looked for common objects that come in pairs, learned poetry about pairs and then drew their own pair of socks. Kindergarten teacher Debbie Morgenthaler taught

*See "Math" on page 19*

## Chabad Kids Club

Chabad Kids Club kicked off the school year in October with an after-school program that included Hebrew school, Judaic homework help, fun lessons, and games and crafts. Chabad Kids Club integrates POGS (Parsha and Other Great Stuff), Chai Five mitzvah club, Aleph Champ Hebrew reading, and a chance to learn about our Jewish heritage, holidays, practices and customs. CKC is offered every Wednesday at Chabad between 4-6 pm for children in grades kindergarten-sixth grade.



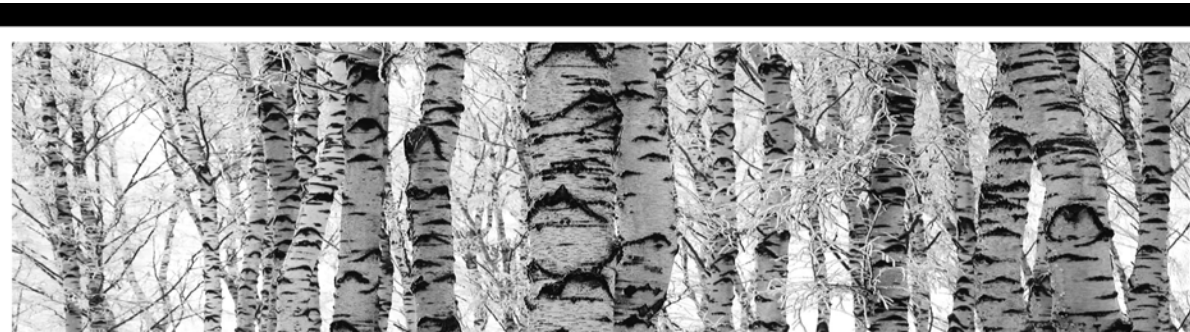
*L-r: May Simone Avidan, with Morah Tziporah Esther Schild, learned the aleph bet.*

## Bi-Cultural Presents Sixth-Grade Chag HaTanach

*Top right: On October 29, Bi-Cultural Day School presented each student of the sixth-grade class with their own Tanach (Bible) in a celebration that included song, reflection and readings from the Tanach. Students shared stories and values that they have learned from characters in each of the Tanach's three traditional subdivisions, Torah (the Five Books of Moses), Nevi'im (Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings). The students will be using their Tanachim in their Jewish studies coursework. L-r: Mira Rosovsky, Jason Busch, Ori Divon, Ben Cohen, P.J. Jelen and Daniel Janush held up their newly-received Tanachim. (Photos by Michelle Gordon)*



*L-r: Daniel Janush, Leeba Zucker and Aaron Liebskind (with Wendy Lichtenberg and Julianne Katz in the background) read a passage during Bi-Cultural's Sixth-Grade Chag HaTanach. (Photo by Michelle Gordon)*



# UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION BLACK & WHITE WINTER GALA

Featuring Guest Speaker:

**JOSHUA MALINA**

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Lorraine & David Kweskin

**HARVEY A. PELTZ YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD:**

Dana Horowitz & Peter Wolly

**VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARD:**

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**DECEMBER 12, 2015**

**7:00 PM**

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Stamford, CT

Couvert: \$150 per person

RSVP by Tuesday December 1st to

[www.ujf.org/WinterGala](http://www.ujf.org/WinterGala) or call

Sandy Golove at (203)321-1373 ext. 107

*Dietary Laws Observed.*

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

# Carmel Brings Social Studies to Life



Carmel Academy's fourth-graders brought their American Civics social studies unit to life with a visit from Connecticut Congressman Jim Himes. In a question-and-answer session, Carmel's students asked questions about the U.S. government, the workings of Congress and the job of congressional representatives. Himes' visit followed a fourth-grade trip to Philadelphia, where the students visited places such as the Constitution Center to learn more about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the individuals who helped shape this country's beginnings.

# Score for the Cure



Carmel Academy's soccer players sported pink and their school pride at the annual "Score For The Cure" soccer game in October. All proceeds from the fund-raiser were donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation to help fight breast cancer. The students raised money by selling pink Carmel Academy "Score For The Cure" t-shirts, as well as refreshments on the sidelines. Members of the student body each donated a dollar to wear jeans and pink tops to school that day.

December 2015 & January, February 2016

## SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### JFS Workshop: The Race to College

**Mondays, December 7th, January 25th and February 29th at 6:00 - 7:00 pm** at Harry Bennett Branch of Ferguson Library, 115 Vine Road, Stamford. Help for high school students and their parents navigating the college admission process. Free and open to the community. Contact Claire Friedlander, JFS College Consultant, at [clairef@ctjfs.org](mailto:clairef@ctjfs.org) or 203-921-4161.

### COUNSELING, MEDIATION & CRISIS

#### JFS For Children/ Adolescents Diagnosed With ADD/ADHD

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

#### JFS College Counseling

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

#### JFS Counseling

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

#### JFS Individuals / Families in Crisis

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

### CARING FOR SENIORS

#### JFS Caregiver Support Group

**Sundays at 10:30 am with facilitator, Rona Wall, LCSW at JFS Westport, 431 Post Road E. Fee: \$10 per session or \$50 for 6 sessions.** Do you find yourself stressed between the needs of your children and your parents? JFS will offer an open forum to provide support and help in dealing with the difficulties and stresses of caring for your loved ones. Groups will be held at the JFS Westport office, 431 Post Road E, Westport. Rona Wall, LCSW will facilitate. **For more information or to register, contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or [rkanevsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanevsky@ctjfs.org).**

#### JFS Home Companion

A program placing fully trained and vetted home companions and CNAs matched to the needs and specific circumstances of senior clients. Trained aides assist seniors with daily activities, chores, and socialization. Certified Nursing Assistants can provide personal care, toileting, and medication management. Services are provided hourly, daily or up to 24/7 at competitive rates. **Full supervision by professional JFS staff. For more information contact Isrella Knopf, Director of Senior Services at JFS at 203-921-4161 or email at [isrellak@ctjfs.org](mailto:isrellak@ctjfs.org).**

#### JFS Residential Cleaning

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

#### Jewish Senior Services

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

### DIVORCE & BEREAVEMENT

#### JFS Bereavement Support Group

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

#### Parent Education Program (PEP)

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

#### JFS Focus on K.I.D.S.

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

#### JFS New Beginnings

**Tuesdays from 7:30-8:30 pm in Stamford. Fee: \$10/session or \$50/for 6 sessions.** For adults who would like to discuss all aspects of separation and divorce, JFS will provide a support group in the JFS Stamford office, 733 Summer Street, 6th Floor. **To register, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at [rkanevsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanevsky@ctjfs.org) or call 203-921-4161.**

### SUPPORT

#### JFS Brain Fitness Program

Working with clients experiencing early stage dementia or Alzheimer's in the client's home. Each volunteer will work with an aide or family member present. **For more information about the program or to participate, please contact Matt Greenberg at 203-921-4161 or [mgreenberg@ctjfs.org](mailto:mgreenberg@ctjfs.org)**

#### JFS Kosher Food Pantry

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

#### Living with Autism

**Sundays, Nov. 15 & Dec.13 at JFS Stamford. Time and Location TBA.** Monthly group to share the joys and challenges of living with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Facilitated by Talia Ben-Joseph, MA, M.Ed, BCPC, LPC. **For more details, contact Eve Moskowitz, JFS Director of Clinical Services at 203.921.4161 or [emoskowitz@ctjfs.org](mailto:emoskowitz@ctjfs.org).**

### EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

#### JFS Computer Training Courses

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

#### JFS Life Transitions

**Wednesdays at 11:00 am.** Support group for the unemployed at Stamford JFS office. The groups will provide a forum to discuss and explore the concerns and issues related to job loss and to find alternative solutions for career satisfaction. The group is a collaborative effort between JFS Counseling and Employment & Training Departments. **For Information or to register, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or [rkanevsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanevsky@ctjfs.org).**

#### JFS Seniors2Work

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

# Friendship Day



Even in the cold, Rabbi Yehuda Jeiger, Tara Shapiro (BCDS PA co-chair), Sheri Jacobson, and BCDS eighth-graders Ashley Shapiro, Leah Jacobson and Lily Abrams came out to support the Friendship Circle. (Photo by Aviva Maller)

Despite the cold weather and flurries, close to 700 people participated in Friendship Circle's Friendship Day and Walk and helped raise more than \$76,000 to support Friendship Circle programs for individuals with special needs and their families. The day included juggling and science shows, food, crafts, rides and more. For additional information on the Friendship Circle, visit [www.FriendshipCT.com](http://www.FriendshipCT.com).



At right: Eddie Weinstein and Dovi Zucker made friends through the Friendship Circle program. (Photo by Clive Salmon)

## Tee Time for Friendship Circle's New Adult Program

BY FAYGIE LEVY

A small group of adults gathered on a recent Sunday afternoon to usher in a new year of Friendship Circle programming organized just for them.

Called Adult Circle, the newest expanded initiative of Friendship Circle Connecticut, is aimed at young adults with special needs. It targets those adults who have aged out of Friendship Circle's traditional programs, but are still looking for Friendship Circle's social and recreational outings.

Held once a month on Sunday afternoons, from 1-4 pm, those attending Adult Circle participate in a number of different activities, including baking, music and sports. The highlight of the afternoon is a field trip and activity. For the first event of the year, which was held in October, the adults headed outdoors for a little tee time.

"We went to Sterling Farms Golf



Dov Zucker and Norman McPherson from Magen Security.

Course in Stamford, and everyone got to ride on the golf carts and play a few rounds of golf," said Sarah Lipsker,

See "Tee" on page 23



The walkers – including (in center, l-r) Olivia Herman, her mother Jackie Herman and Sadie Palker – were all smiles as the walk began. (Photo by Aviva Maller)

## Math . . . . . Continued from page 17

her students the concept of patterning and sorting in a hands-on way using math manipulatives, objects designed so that a learner can understand a mathematical concept by physically touching them.

First-grade teacher Sally Olson taught her students counting skills and how to use a number line with the help of a giant number line where students physically walked the addition

problems out. "The whole lesson was extremely kinesthetic and has really helped the kids learn to count. Giving kids the freedom to move and to physically work out problems on their own is so meaningful in math and helps so much long-term," said Olson.

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

## Looking for a Mitzvah Project?

partner with

# 3 SQUARE

Approximately one out of every five children in Connecticut is either hungry or food insecure. Many of these children are chronically hungry and are not getting enough food outside of the free meal programs in their school. Women's Philanthropy of United Jewish Federation has established 3 SQUARE to improve the lives of these hungry children. 3 SQUARE provides "in need" children with a bag of food to sustain them through the weekend.

## WE NEED YOU TO COLLECT, PACK & DELIVER



If you are looking for a fun and meaningful bar/bat mitzvah project, please contact Rebekah Raz at [Rebekah@ujf.org](mailto:Rebekah@ujf.org) or call 203-321-1373 x 102 to learn more about 3 SQUARE Mitzvah Projects.



December 2015 & January, February 2016

# Senior Adult Happenings

<b>KOSHER LUNCH AT THE JCC</b> Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 12 pm. \$4 suggested donation.
<b>TRANSPORTATION TO JCC SENIOR PROGRAMS</b> Call every Monday. \$1 each way, suggested donation.
<b>BLIND AND VISUALLY-IMPAIRED ADULTS SUPPORT GROUP AT THE JCC</b> Tuesdays, Dec. 29 from 1-2 pm. Free of charge.
<b>BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING AT THE JCC</b> No appointment necessary. 1st Tuesday of the month, Dec. 1; Jan. 5; Feb. 2 from 9:45-11:15 am. Free of charge.
<b>CHANUKAH LUNCHEON</b> Tuesday, Dec. 8 from 11:30 am - 1 pm.
<b>EXERCISE YOUR BODY – CHAIR EXERCISE AT THE JCC</b> Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:15-11am. Free to all seniors.

<b>GAMES &amp; GAB AT THE JCC</b> Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 1-3 pm (drop-in). Free of charge. All are welcome.
<b>LIFE ENHANCEMENT CLASSES AT THE JCC</b> Tuesdays & Thursdays (No class Nov. 26) from 11-11:45 am Free to all seniors.
<b>LEARN TO PLAY MAH JONGG AT THE JCC</b> Thursdays, 1-3 pm. Member \$25 / Community \$35 (5 sessions).
<b>MORNING MOVIE MATINEE/GAMES at the JCC</b> Fridays at 10 am. Free of charge.
<b>NEW YEAR'S LUNCHEON</b> Tuesday, Dec. 29 from 11:30 - 1 pm. \$4 suggested donation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ALL JCC SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMS, please contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org)

## Chanukah Day of Learning at Agudath Sholom

Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky, *rosh yeshiva* at Yeshiva University, will highlight this year's Chanukah Day of Learning with a series of three classes, to be held at Congregation Agudath Sholom on Sunday, December 13, from 9 am-noon.

The program will begin at 9 am with jelly donuts and coffee, immediately after morning minyan. At 9:15 am, Rabbi Sobolofsky will give his first of three classes, on "The Laws of Lighting Chanukah Candles When One is Not Home." At 10:15 am, Rabbi Sobolofsky will deliver his second class, on "The Authority of Our Rabbis to Institute New *Mitzvot*." At 11:15 am, Rabbi Sobolofsky will deliver his final talk on "The Laws Relating to Shabbat and



Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky

Winter Issues (Snow Removal, Playing in the Snow, Heat Not Working, etc.)" Latkes will also be served throughout the morning classes.

Rabbi Sobolofsky is a graduate of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University, and is considered adept at taking complex Jewish laws and making them understandable and relevant to the layperson.

In addition to being a *rosh yeshiva* at Yeshiva University, he is the spiritual leader of Congregation Ohr Hatorah in Bergenfield, NJ.

"We are incredibly fortunate to be able to host Rabbi Sobolofsky for three separate classes this year," said See "Learning" on page 23

## Benny Friedman Headlines Chabad's Community Chanukah Celebration

BY TALY FARBBER

Benny Friedman will perform at Chabad Stamford's Community Chanukah Concert Celebration on Sunday, December 6, at the Turn of River Middle School. "Chanukah Wonderland," featuring arts, crafts, multi-media stations, storytelling and other activities, will be held from 1-3

pm. The concert, featuring Friedman and acts by the children from local Jewish day schools, as well as a "unity" song, will be held from 3-5 pm.

Every year, Chabad Stamford celebrates Chanukah by reaching out to the community through public giant menorah lightings, the Chanukah See "Friedman" on page 23

### ► JCC Chanukah Giftique and Book Fair

The Chanukah Giftique and Book Fair, hosted by The Center Women of the Jewish Community Center, will run from Monday, November 30-Monday, December 7. The Giftique, which for years has been considered one of Stamford's more popular Chanukah shops, will feature a wide selection of affordable gifts and items such as menorahs, dreidels, candles, gelt, toys, books, wrapping paper and decorations. Giftique hours will be 8:45 am-6:30 pm Monday-Thursday, and 9 am-2 pm on Friday and Sunday. For more information, call the JCC Welcome Desk at 203-322-7900 or visit [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org).

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

## Stuffing isn't Just for Thanksgiving!

BY RONNIE FEIN

Every year, sometime during the Chanukah holiday, I make a roast goose dinner for our family. The menu is always the same: goose, braised red cabbage, potato latkes, stuffing and some green vegetable or other. Apple tart for dessert.

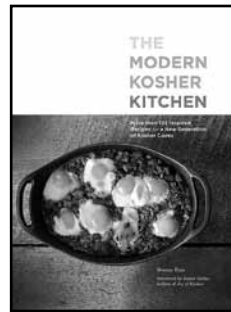
The recipes are always the same ones I always use.

Except for the stuffing. Anyone who knows me knows that at least one dish at any meal at my house will be an experiment. Stuffing is so forgiving that it is easy to vary, simply by adding a few things here and there to a basic bread stuffing.

Bread stuffing basics are easy: sauté onions, mushrooms and celery, add it to cubed bread, mix in some seasonings and stock (or eggs) and that's that. After that you can include crispy bits of sausage if you wish. Or olives, chestnuts, or raisins.

A few years ago, I decided to chop an apple into some bread stuffing. I also added chopped dried figs and raisins. The fresh, tart fruit was a terrific balance of flavor for the dried fruit (you can substitute dried apricots, dates, prunes, plums, etc.). Toasted hazelnuts gave the stuffing a nice crunch, which was a treat in the same bite as the soft-ish bread. (But you can leave out the nuts or use different ones.)

We like stuffing crispy-topped, so I bake it in a separate casserole dish. But you can stuff poultry with it, too – this recipe would be lovely not only with goose, but also turkey or chicken, so beyond Chanukah, remember this one for Shabbat or Thanksgiving or



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

any other festive occasion.

**BREAD STUFFING WITH FIGS AND HAZELNUTS**

3 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
1 onion, chopped  
2 stalks celery, chopped  
1 large granny smith apple, peeled and chopped

1 cup cut up dried figs  
½ cup raisins  
1 cup chopped hazelnuts (toasted, optional)

8 cups ½" diced bread cubes  
3 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley  
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh rosemary (or 1 tsp. crushed dried rosemary)  
2 tsp. fresh thyme leaves (or ¾ tsp. dried thyme)

1 cup chicken or vegetable stock, approx. (use 2 cups if you cook the stuffing separately from the bird)

Salt and pepper to taste  
Heat the vegetable oil in a sauté pan over medium heat. Add the onion and celery and cook for 3-4 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the apple, figs and raisins and cook another 3-4 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat and spoon the contents into a large bowl. Add the nuts, bread cubes, parsley, rosemary and thyme and toss ingredients gently. Pour in the stock and add salt and pepper to taste. If you prefer a moister stuffing, add more stock.

To cook the stuffing outside the bird, preheat the oven to 350°F, place the stuffing in a casserole, cover and cook for about 30 minutes. Remove the cover and cook for another 10-15 minutes, or until the top is crispy and browned.

Makes about 12 cups.

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

## Adult Volunteer Opportunities

### CHABAD STAMFORD

#### Betsy's Buddies Volunteers

**Weekly or bi-monthly commitments available.** Betsy's Buddies is a program looking to facilitate one-on-one visitations between volunteers and homebound members in the community, and a great opportunity for retirees and families. For more information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org).

#### Loaves of Loves Deliveries

**Every Friday after 10 am.** Help distribute Loaves of Love packages to new neighbors, friends, new moms, the sick and ANYONE who could use a "Taste of Shabbat". For more information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org).

#### FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE Adult Circle Program

**Sundays, Dec. 20, Jan. 24; Feb. 21 from 1-4 pm at The Friendship Circle Center.** Serving adults with a full range of physical, mental and cognitive needs through one-on-one friendships and social opportunities with other adults in our community. Opportunities this year will include a Vocational Readiness Program and Community Integration Employment. For more information, contact Sarah@[friendshipct.com](http://friendshipct.com).

#### JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC or The J)

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

### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS)

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

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

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

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

### UJF's READING PARTNERS

Read one-on-one with Stamford public school children. One hour a week, mornings or afternoons. 12 elementary schools and 1 community center. Training, literacy, focused workshops and support network provided. Contact Marlyn Agatstein 203-321-1373 x115 or [Readingpartners@ujf.org](mailto:Readingpartners@ujf.org)

# BCDS Students Have a Desk to Stand On

BY DORA SALM

Rather than going to class and taking a seat, many middle schoolers at Bi-Cultural Day School will now be able to go to class and take a stand.

As part of the recent grant from the JEIC (Jewish Education Innovation Challenge) for the award-winning Jewish Studies Masora program, Bi-Cultural has been able to acquire more than 30 state-of-the-art, ergonomically designed standing desk units. The classroom-friendly adjustable desks and chairs modify to the individual student's physical needs or in-class project or lesson.

Designed by furniture manufacturer HON, the standing desks include detachable worktables that can be put



At left: Seventh-grade students Ben Meyers and Zev Pinker are able to do much of their math coursework in a comfortable position at the new standing desk units at Bi-Cultural. (Photo by Dora Salm)

into small clusters or pulled apart, allowing for students to work in small groups or independently. They also allow students to physically stand at their desk, which can help with many students' concentration.

Sixth-grade student Ben Wiener, who has his math class in the classroom with the new desks, says he is really enjoying the new desk design so far. "I like the chairs a lot; they can adjust to exactly my height and seem to fit me perfectly. I like to sometimes sit on a slant, and can do that without disturbing anyone. I can really concentrate a lot more with the new setup."

Wendy Lichtenberg, who has a math class and a Masora Jewish studies class

See "Desk" on page 22

## What's On for Adults

December 2015 & January, February 2016

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Cantor's Concert

Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4pm at Temple Sinai. For more information, contact the Temple office at 203.322.1649.

#### Chabad Annual Gala

Sunday, Jan. 10 from 5-9pm at the Stamford Crowne Plaza Hotel. For more information, contact prorams@chabadstamford.org

#### JCC Parent Lecture: Healthy Marriage, Healthy Family: Staying Connected

Thursday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 pm with guest speaker Elissa Stein. Fee: \$12 per person / JCC members \$10. For information, contact Sandi Waldstreicher at 203-322-6541 or swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org

#### Mega Challah Bake 500

Open to Women 14 years and up. Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7 pm at the Hyatt Greenwich. For more information and reservations, visit [www.MegaChallahCT.com](http://www.MegaChallahCT.com)

### EDUCATION

There are numerous educational opportunities in our area. For information about adult learning in the Greater Stamford area, check out the Bi-Weekly Adult Education E-Blast from UJF or contact Cantor Marcia Lane, Director of Education and Engagement: [Marcia@ujf.org](mailto:Marcia@ujf.org) or 203-653-2668.

### OTHER PROGRAMMING

#### Crochet at the JCC

Tuesdays, 10am - 2 pm. Members \$24 / Community \$30 plus cost of materials (purchased separately). (3 sessions). Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

#### 20's and 30's and FC Alumni Shabbat Dinner Friday, Jan. 15 at 7:30pm

#### Israeli Film Series

Thursdays at 7pm at the JCC. \$5 suggested donation. Dec. 17 - The Green Prince; Jan 21 - Zero Motivation; and Feb. 18 - Ushpizin. Contact Or Berger at 203-487-0961 or [oberger@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:oberger@stamfordjcc.org)

#### Israel Folk Dancing with Leng

Thursdays at Temple Beth El. Let's dance! Connect with Israel while reaping the mental and physical benefits of dance. For other locations and schedule, call 203-912-4086, [www.ctisraelidance.com](http://www.ctisraelidance.com) or twitter: @Israeli\_Dance

#### JCC Center Women Chanukah Giftique

Tuesday, Dec. 1 - Wednesday, Dec. 9 (Monday through Thursday from 8:45am-6:30pm and Friday and Sunday from 9am-2pm) at the JCC. Visit [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org) or call 203-322-7900 for more information.

#### The Center Women of the JCC Present 'Toy Stories'

Saturday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 pm at the JCC and Sunday, Jan. 31 at 10am, 1pm and 4pm at the JCC. Reservations required. Playbill ads available for purchase. Visit [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org).

#### J-PALOOZA at The J

Saturday, Jan. 9 at 9:30 pm. Must be 21 or older. For more information, contact [centerwomen@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:centerwomen@stamfordjcc.org) or 203-487-0996.

#### JCC Membership Open House

Sunday, Jan. 10 from 10:30am-2pm. For more information, Ilene Kirschner-Madwed at 203-322-0945.

#### JHS Book Talk - December

Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 10am at the JCC. *The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person* by Harold S. Kushner. Presenter: Rabbi Jay TelRav. The story of Job, who lost everything. The author examines the Biblical text and the questions raised by Job's experiences. For further information, call Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148

### OTHER PROGRAMMING

#### JHS Book Talk - January

Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 10am at the JCC. *A Poetry Dialogue*. Presenters: Richard 'RJ' Schwartz and Or Berger. A discussion and analysis of Israeli poets David Grossman, Hayim Bialik, Yehuda Amichai and others. For further information, call Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148

#### JHS Book Talk - February

Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 10am at the JCC. *The Loves of Judith* by Meir Shalev. Presenter: Joan Kranz. A tale of one beguiling woman, three men who love her and one son, whose lives come together and come apart, set in a small village in pre-Israel Palestine of the 1930s. For further information, call Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148

#### JHS December Program - Yo Ho, Yo Ho, A Pirate's Life for Me!

Sunday, Dec. 6 at 10am at the Halloween Yacht Club, 10 Seaview Avenue, Stamford. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served at the beginning of the program. For further information, call Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148

#### JWC Chanukah Package Party

For Women. Wednesday, Dec. 9. Meet, mingle & nibble at 7:15pm. Program starts at 8pm. Bring a wrapped gift (worth \$10 or more) to benefit "Loaves of Love" at the home of Alix Eben.

#### JWC Trip to the Ohel

Wednesday, Jan. 6 from 9:15am-1pm. Special trip in honor of Leah Shemtov's birthday! Visit to the Lubavitcher Rebee's gravesite for a day of prayer and introspection, inspiration and brunch.

#### Judaica Needlework - The Keshet Chapter of the Pomegranate

Guild of Judaica Needlework  
Second Sunday of each month, Dec. 13, Jan. 10 & Feb. 14 from 10am-12pm at the JCC. For information, contact [keshetpg@gmail.com](mailto:keshetpg@gmail.com) or visit [www.pomegranateguild.org](http://www.pomegranateguild.org).

#### Mah Jongg at the JCC

Thursdays, 1-3 pm. 5 sessions. \$35 / \$25 JCC. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org)

#### Mah Jongg at Temple Sinai

Mondays, 6:30-9pm. No fee but bring your own mah jongg card. For more information contact the Temple office at 203-322-1649.

#### Parenting Club

Open to all. Monday, Dec. 1 from 9:15-10:15am at Chabad. For more information, contact [prorams@chabadstamford.org](mailto:prorams@chabadstamford.org)

#### Neshama Yoga™ at the JCC

Fridays, Jan. 22-April 15 (no class Feb. 12) from 9-10:30am. 14 sessions. Members \$216 / Community \$252. For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or [nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org).

#### Shal-Om Yoga

Wednesdays at 6pm at Temple Beth El. Fee: \$20. Please contact Pamela Tinkham, MSW, LCSW, RYT for more information at [pamelatinkham@gmail.com](mailto:pamelatinkham@gmail.com) or visit [www.YogaPsychHealth.com](http://www.YogaPsychHealth.com).

#### #RaisingToday's Kids Lecture with Josh Levs

Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 pm in the Hoffman Auditorium at The J. Join us for beers and cheers with Josh Levs before the lecture, 6:45 - 7:30 p.m. JCC Members \$10/ Community \$12. For more information, please contact Sandi Waldstreicher at 203.322.6541 or [swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org).

#### Yud Shevat Fabrengen

Open to All. Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 8pm. Spend time with, connect and share on a spiritual level. For more information, contact [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org)

#### "NEW" Zentangle with Cantor Micah Morgovsky

Wednesdays, Jan. 6, 13, 20; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24 from 6:30-8pm at Temple Sinai. Fee: \$36 per session or \$236 for the full 7-week course. Fee includes all materials. Zentangle is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing repetitive patterns. Almost anyone can create beautiful art with Zentangle. The process increases focus and creativity, provides artistic satisfaction and an increased sense of personal well-being. Zentangle can be enjoyed by everyone, regardless of skills, interests or artistic training. Join Cantor Micah for this exciting 7-week course. For further information, contact the Temple office at 203-322-1649.

# Reading

Continued from page 9

the years, several teens have mentioned that their Reading Partner experience has encouraged them to become teach-

ers. The after-school program at the Yerwood Center is available to both teen and adult volunteers who want

to read with students later in the day.

The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program continues to recruit people who desire to impart their love of reading to children in grades kindergarten-three. The commitment is once a week, for one hour,

during the school year. For more information, contact Marlyn Agatstein, director of Reading Partners, at 203-321-1373, ext. 115.

*Reading Partners is a program of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.*

# Desk

Continued from page 21

twice a day with the new desks, has also found success with the new desk structures. "I like how the desks allow you to actually stand up during class, and if the teacher is moving around the room, you can turn with them and be able to follow them around the room. ...Before the new desks, the desks felt too small and cramped, but now you can adjust the seat height and be able to move without distracting the teacher or anyone else in the class," said Lichtenberg.

Rabbi Yehuda Jeiger, associate principal, who with Michal Smart, associate principal of Judaic studies, developed the Masora path within the middle school Jewish Studies Department, has found that the standing desks add an additional dimension to student engagement and focus. (The Masora program is a customized, interactive and experiential method of education that Bi-Cultural created to meet students' needs for an interactive, experiential Jewish studies program. Last spring, the JEIC

awarded and recognized Bi-Cultural as a thought-leader and visionary for the specialized program.)

"I have found that the Masora students really love their new standing desks. My students are able to focus and more actively engage in lessons when they stand; it gets their blood rushing and their thoughts moving. We are so grateful to the JEIC and the Mayburg Foundation for helping us bring this innovation to our BCDS Masora Program and to the school," said Rabbi Jeiger. "We are so excited to be able to move the school forward in such an exciting way."

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



*New 2015 Reading Partners completed their training program. Back row: Jerry Leichter, Irma Paull, Jan Fuechsel, Rita Barkan and Steve Simon. Middle row: Cynthia Huppert, Risa Pollack, Lenore Cooper, May Fausing, Susan Doshi, Janet Schneider and Millie Sobel. Seated: Jeanne Hersh, Marion Cohen and Sue Katz.*

# Refugees

Continued from page 1

But she does acknowledge that for the Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans and Pakistanis – who make up the vast majority of those arriving – having Israelis as a first contact in Europe can be unexpected and unnerving. "We try to find a balance," Shaltiel said. "On the one hand, we are wearing IsraAid shirts and speaking most of the time in Hebrew to each other. But, ultimately, you just want people to get help, you don't want to put up barriers to that."

Plus, in reality, even though the Israelis are wearing bright blue Stars of David on their shirts, most of the refugees don't even notice amid the chaos and tumult of emotions of the landing beaches, said Kardosh, who does most of the communicating with them in Arabic.

Among those who recognize the T-shirts, most have a positive response – although some are resistant. One man who was receiving treatment from Shaltiel kept asking Kardosh, "Tell me the truth, is she a Jew?"

"I tried to ignore him, but he persisted. Eventually I said to him, 'She is here to help you, what does it matter who she is?'" Kardosh said. "After about 10 minutes he came back and offered Tali a biscuit and apologized."

Another issue for IsraAid has been finding Arabic-speaking personnel who can communicate with the refugees. That's particularly important for the second part of IsraAid's mission, which is providing psychological first-aid to those who have experienced trauma.

One IsraAid volunteer social worker spent a day providing support to the family of a 5-year-old girl who drowned



*Tali Shaltiel, an Israeli physician, carried a Syrian child from a dinghy that arrived at a beach on the Greek island of Lesbos. (Photo by Boaz Arad/IsraAid)*

on the crossing. Another team was on the island of Rhodes assisting survivors from a boat that sank, killing 34, including 15 infants and children.

"We are working in complicated conditions and our Arabic speakers have that experience of working in difficult situations," said Naama Gorodischer, IsraAid's global programs manager.

Still, it's a challenge for those who have never done field work before.

"Usually I'm dressed in heels and a skirt with my regular shift and going to the gym four times a week," said Kardosh, who is also a lecturer at the Schoenbrunn Nursing School at Tel Aviv University.

"Now I'm here," she said, pointing at the beach strewn with deflated dinghies, hundreds of life jackets, lost shoes and trash – the debris of thousands of journeys.

At the moment, the main aim of the team is to assess the needs of the

refugees and find gaps in the services provided by the overwhelmed Greek authorities and other volunteer groups. IsraAid plans to expand the medical teams and eventually establish a mobile clinic that will provide emergency care for new arrivals on the beaches. It will also expand the psycho-social help to bases in the registration and refugee camps that have been set up.

The NGO also has volunteers providing assistance on the Croatia-Hungary border. Eventually, IsraAid plans to be in final-destination countries, like Germany, where they hope to help with refugee rehabilitation. "The aim is to have a presence as an organization along the entire journey," Gorodischer said.

On the beach in Lesbos, the work goes beyond the medical. When she is finished dealing with the hypothermia, dehydration, wounds and illnesses of the travelers, Shaltiel gathers some of the refugees to explain their situation to them. Most have only a vague idea of which country they are in, or that they are on an island and not the mainland. None realize that their landing spot is still a grueling 40-mile walk from the registration camps.

"It's safer to stay here during the night and start your walk in the morning," she tells them, giving them a map made by the IsraAid team with instructions written in Arabic.

The volunteers look to assist in anyway they can. "The situation is chaotic, you don't always know what you need in the beginning, so we keep looking for ways to help, to see what's needed," said Boaz Arad, a volunteer who was documenting IsraAid activities and also organizing the logistics and transportation.

After finding hundreds of people sleeping in the open along the road, IsraAid volunteers bought sleeping bags to distribute to families with children. They were also waiting for a shipment of donated baby carriers from Israel.

The American Jewish Committee said it was increasing funding to IsraAid, which is also supported by other American Jewish groups and the Israeli government. "During this holiest period of the Jewish year, we are proud to assist... in offering vital help to Syrians who fled the horrific war in their homeland and seek a new start," said AJC Executive Director David Harris.

For Shaltiel, the sight of tens of thousands of refugees walking across Europe was especially poignant. "When we say 'Never again,' it is also an obligation to do something," she said. "Apparently I can't stop the war in Syria, but I can do something."

# Correction

In the November issue of *The New Jewish Voice*, the phone number listed in the ad for The Abraham Joshua Heschel School was incorrect. The correct phone number is 212-784-1234. See the correct ad on page 6. *The New Jewish Voice* apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

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# PJ Library Sponsors Teacher Workshop



On October 20, teachers from a diverse group of preschools and from the Reading Partners program came together to learn with Dr. Laurie Noe, an early childhood educator and reading specialist. Topics ranged from the simple (how do I hold the book?) to the sublime (what is your “cycle of intentional teaching” when you read a particular picture book?) and back. Participants shared stories of fidgety preschoolers and non-English speaking students, and everyone agreed the session taught them some valuable tools.

## Tee . . . . . Continued from page 19

Adult Circle coordinator. “It was an awesome day and everyone had fun getting out on the green. We are looking forward to even more amazing events in the months ahead!”

The next two Adult Circle programs are scheduled for Sunday, December 20, and Sunday, January 24. For more information or to register, call 203-329-0015, ext. 131.

## Learning . . . . . Continued from page 20

Michael Feldstein, who is organizing the program along with Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein. “His breadth of knowledge and his presentation style will definitely be appreciated by those who attend his classes. This is a rare opportunity

to hear a tremendous Torah scholar right here in Stamford.”

There is no cost for attending the program. To register, visit the Congregation Agudath Sholom website at [www.agudathsholom.org](http://www.agudathsholom.org).

## Friedman . . . . . Continued from page 20

Wonderland in the downtown Stamford area and, as of last year, Community Chanukah Concert Celebrations. Families, children and adults, dignitaries and community leaders have enjoyed the giant menorah lighting in Latham Park, which is usually accompanied by food and drink. Chanukah Wonderland celebrates the holiday with Chanukah shows, meeting Judah Maccabee, arts and crafts, storytelling, Lego menorah building, food, refreshments and more.

Last year’s Community Chanukah Concert Celebration, featuring 8<sup>th</sup> Day, drew 650 adults and children from across Stamford and surrounding areas.

“The Community Chanukah Concert Celebration is an opportunity for the entire Jewish community of Stamford to come together and sing, dance and celebrate as we ‘light up the night’ together,” says Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad Stamford.

Friedman is an American Chasidic Jewish singer. Professionally trained in voice, he arrived on the contemporary Jewish religious music scene with his first album in 2009. His biggest hit to date is “Yesh Tikvah” (“There is Hope”).

For more information about the concert, contact [programs@chabad-stamford.org](mailto:programs@chabad-stamford.org).

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*Attendees of Chai Society are members of the Young Leadership Division who are committed to a minimum tax deductible contribution of \$180 per household to the 2015 Better Together UJF Campaign.*

For more information, contact Rebekah Raz at 203.321.1373 x102 or [Rebekah@ujf.org](mailto:Rebekah@ujf.org) • [www.ujf.org/chaisociety15](http://www.ujf.org/chaisociety15)



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