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- 5 Temple Sinai's scholar-in-residence will discuss music's role in worship services.
- 8 The Judaic studies spring term courses and upcoming Lunch and Learn lectures at UConn Stamford are announced.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

Young Jews Socialize in Stamford Area

According to an article in *The Advocate*, Stamford Downtown now has more 20-something residents living in its area than any other city in the state (except UConn at Storrs and Yale University in New Haven). Local organizations are recognizing this and increasing opportunities for young Jews to meet and socialize.

◆ On Saturdays, January 25 and February 22, JTT, Jewish Twenties and Thirties, will partner with The Center for Jewish Arts and Literacy at Beit Chaverim Synagogue in Westport to host the Westport Radical Jewish Culture Festival. Rabbi Greg Wall, currently the rabbinic leader of the synagogue, is a critically acclaimed

saxophonist and producer who founded the Center for Jewish Arts and Literacy. The concert series will feature performers who have been called "some of the most influential musicians of the current generation of creative Jewish artists." Their work has been released on John Zorn's Tzadik record label. JTT is a program of Jewish Family Service. For additional information about JTT and to join the mailing list, contact Leah Schechter at LSchechter@ctjfs.org.

◆ Chabad Stamford will also sponsor a variety of events. On Sunday, February 23, from 1-3:30 pm, 20s and 30s will gather for a Loaves of Love Cooking Marathon. See "Young" on page 8

Impact Areas: UJF Introduces Donor Choice in 2014

BY REBEKAH RAZ

In November, the UJF Board of Directors adopted a new mechanism to provide more donor choice beginning in 2014. The "Better Together" 2014 campaign will include "Impact Areas" to which donors can apply their gift. If they wish, donors who pledge \$200 or more may specify to which Impact Area(s) they would like their donation to be applied. Donors may still make a general gift, or divide their dollars amongst the general campaign and the Impact Areas.

David Fogel, chair of the Modalities Alignment Committee (MAC) that led the six-month research and development process that culminated in the board's

vote, noted, "We were very careful to propose a change that allowed donors to have a greater voice, while maintaining the core values and principles of a federated organization. The model we have developed allows donors to identify the areas about which they are most passionate, while maintaining UJF's role in distributing those funds to the entire Jewish community, both here and abroad, as needs demand."

In 2014, UJF is "soft launching" the new mechanism. Fogel said, "By soft-launching these changes in 2014, we can adjust the model as needed, so that by January 1, 2015, a tried and tested See "Choice" on page 2

Global Service Fellow Leading Recovery in the Philippines

BY JDC STAFF

For Adam Steinberg – the 28-year-old doctor and Melbourne native who is one of JDC's two 2014 Ralph I. Goldman Fellows in International Service – his year-long tour of JDC's work around the globe is a bona fide game-changer.

"It is making me try to be a better Jew, a better person, a better doctor, a better humanitarian, a better global citizen and a better leader," Steinberg said of the fellowship, which is run through

JDC Entwine. "All those elements really speak to the essence of what the fellowship is."

The Goldman Fellowship (shared with Steinberg this year by Sara Reef) is considered Entwine's premier leadership opportunity – a paid, professional opportunity to live and work in several overseas locations where JDC is active. Though he intended to begin his time abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia, Steinberg's plans changed when the

See "Philippines" on page 4

AJC's David Harris to Speak At Temple Beth El

AJC Executive Director David Harris will address the Fairfield and Westchester County communities at Temple Beth El in Stamford on Thursday, March 13, at 7:30 pm. The event is free and open to the entire community.

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman said, "As longtime supporters of AJC, we at Beth El are honored to be hosting one of the foremost Jewish leaders of our generation for



David Harris, AJC executive director

this important lecture."

In a recent address to the World Affairs Council, titled "Hope vs. Fear: A Changing Global Landscape," Harris focused on conveying the threat from Iran's nuclear program amidst the interim nuclear deal with Tehran, the rapidly changing situation in Syria and the political crisis in Egypt. "These are a sampling of the issues that See "Harris" on page 6

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Our Youngest Super Hero Volunteers Thank You!

L-r: Wesley Levine, Jordan Wolly, Brooke Wolly, Daliah Cohen, Sam Resnick-Reimer and Miri Young joined the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien in thanking the nearly 200 volunteers and 540 donors who raised \$340,000 at UJF's annual Super Sunday fund-raiser on December 8 at the Stamford JCC. More than 3,000 calls were made by community volunteers. By 12:50 pm, when the photo was taken, donors had already pledged \$134, 890. UJF thanked all who answered the call to support Jews in the local community, in Israel and in 79 countries around the world. (Photo by Aviva Maller)

See centerfold (pages 12-13) for more photos and acknowledgments.



President's Message

With Pew Report, Context is Everything

By SHOSHANA DWECK

In December, my son was called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah, overlooking Machtsh Ramon, the Ramon Crater. A machtesh is unusual in part because it is formed over time by erosion rather than a cataclysmic event. As a prelude to the ceremony, we spent time following in King David's footsteps, from boyhood in Beit Lechem through Hebron, the Valley of Elah where he slew Goliath, to Ein Gedi, and back to the City of David excavations. We used the land of Israel, the Bible, Malcolm Gladwell's book "David and Goliath," archaeology and world history as our sometimes conflicting guides, to learn how David the boy matured into giant slayer, warrior, and king.

Interpreting and reconciling disparate data sources requires an understanding of context. New archaeological finds support and clarify aspects of the biblical history, and the experts adjust to accommodate new facts. It was a privilege to see this



Shoshana Dweck, UJF president

through the eyes of a boy on the cusp of Jewish adulthood, who in both his Jewish and secular lives is moving from the certainties of childhood into a growing awareness of adulthood's uncertainties. The context of Joshua becoming a bar mitzvah seemed to enhance the point that context is essential to our understanding of the world, and that by our actions we have the opportunity to adjust the context, create new meaning and shape our future.

Jewish America spent the last quarter of 2013 processing the Pew Research Center's Portrait of Jewish Americans. The first reactions seemed visceral, a steady drumbeat of negativity, fear and alarmism. Then came more nuanced analyses, the recognition that the survey raised as many questions as it answered. Now we are seeing additional analyses of the data behind the report as sociologists and others dig deeper and draw from its information inspiration for the future. Some, such as Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, call upon us to be "audacious" and rise to the challenge and opportunity. Similarly, Dr. Steven M. Cohen, a prominent sociologist, notes that "we have the ability

to change the situation individually and as a community - for now and for the future."

We can't really know King David, we can only draw conclusions from historical and religious records and the archaeological contexts. Machtsh Ramon can show us how it was shaped by the forces of nature over time, but it cannot tell us the impact of future geological events. Like the Pew Report, neither can give us a complete picture of the past or the future. The Pew Report is a snapshot of where American Jews are today, shaped by the myriad forces of recent and distant history in the context of current political and social realities. What it can do is help us understand who we are, and decide what steps to take to strengthen the Jewish community. But, only we, together, can take the actions necessary to take those steps, and be a part of shaping the Jewish future.

Please join us in the conversation. Thanks to a grant from Stephne and Kerrin Behrend, the graduates of the Behrend Institute and other leaders of our community will have a chance to meet with Dr. Steven M. Cohen to better understand the Pew Report and its implications in the context of our community.

Apply Now for JFS Jewish Camp Scholarships

By IRIS MORRISON

Applications for the Jewish Family Service-Ben and Joan Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Program for summer 2014 are now available. The deadline for completed applications is March 19. All information is kept strictly confidential.

JFS understands that many households are finding they have only limited funds to send their children to a Jewish summer camp program. Even though there has been some improvement in these economic times, tightened budgets may still limit families' priorities and extras such as summer camp may fall by the wayside.

Through the JFS camp scholarship program, financial assistance is once again available for eligible families from the Greater Stamford, New Canaan, Darien, Westport, Weston, Wilton and Norwalk area who are looking for a Jewish summer experience for their children.

The Ben and Joan Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Fund, established by them for this purpose, continues to provide the funding for the program. United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and the Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation also support this program, increasing the number of scholarships JFS is able to award. Other charitable individuals, who understand the impact of this Jewish experience, have also contributed to the camp scholarship program. As a result of their generosity, 45 children were able to attend Jewish summer camp last year. The demand for funds is considered very strong.

To quote one of JFS' recipients, "Thank you so much for the generous camp scholarship. I am so excited for another summer of Jewish and Israeli

culture and activities. I look forward to seeing my good camp friends that I made last summer. Without this scholarship, I would not be able to go to camp for another amazing summer. I really appreciate your generosity." It is well-documented that attendance at Jewish camps helps to strengthen youngsters' Jewish identity and involvement in Jewish communities, now and into the future.

For those who are interested in applying, your child or children must be entering first grade or above in September 2014 and plan to attend a Jewish day or sleep-away camp, and the family must demonstrate financial

Choice Continued from page 1

model can be put into place." For 2014, donors will have the option to apply their gifts to the following Impact Areas:

- ◆ Sustaining the programs and work of UJF (e.g. The New Jewish Voice, Tapestry, Yom Hashoah.)
- ◆ Partnering with local agencies, i.e. agencies UJF supports that help meet local needs.
- ◆ Global Jewry, supporting Jews worldwide.

Donors may still give a traditional, completely unrestricted gift. In 2014, as part of the "soft-launch," donors will have the opportunity to further specify their Global Jewry gift by applying it to Israel, worldwide, or projects specifically in UJF's sister region, Afula/Gilboa. The MAC Committee, UJF staff and the board will monitor the new plan over the course of the year and make any necessary adjustments. In 2015, donors will be able to specify further amongst local priorities as well. Additionally, new allocations

need. Applications for the Jewish Family Service - Ben and Joan Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Program for the coming summer are now available. To obtain an application, call Maria McNulty at 203-921-4161.

Anyone wishing to help support the Camp Scholarship Program should contact Matt Greenberg, executive director, at 203-921-4161 or e-mail mgreenberg@ctjfs.org

Iris Morrison is associate executive director of Jewish Family Service.

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

and granting procedures will be drafted to begin in 2015.

UJF's CEO James Cohen said he is very excited about this important change and the significance it will have for donors. He noted, "While other plans have been tried in the past, the Impact Areas we are launching are the most comprehensive attempt ever undertaken by UJF to give donors a chance to prioritize how their generous gifts are utilized. Our goal is to make Jewish philanthropy more meaningful to our donors. By doing so, they will hopefully feel a stronger connection to the organization and see its 21st century relevance."

"UJF's decision was not taken in a vacuum," notes UJF President Shoshana Dweck. "The MAC Committee, the board and Implementation Teams established by the board spent months analyzing trends in U.S. philanthropy, studied models implemented by other federated organizations and worked closely with a consultant, Jim Cohen traveled to Seattle, WA, to learn first-hand about changes made in that community. By adapting to the realities of modern philanthropy, and by responding to what many of our donors have been telling us, we are confident that these changes will prove highly successful over time for UJF."

See "Evening" on page 7

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COMMUNITY NEWS

An Evening with JFS Four Community Leaders to be Honored



L-r: Young Leadership Award recipient Adam Batkin; and Mitzvah Award recipients Alison Wachstein, Ed Smith and Edith Samers.

By IRIS MORRISON

On Sunday, March 30, at An Evening with JFS, Jewish Family Service will continue a tradition by presenting the 35th annual Mitzvah Awards to Edith Samers, Ed Smith and Alison Wachstein and the ninth annual Young Leadership Award to Adam Batkin. This year's event, to be held at Temple Beth El in Stamford, at 5:30 pm, is being co-chaired by Meryl Japha and Janet Welkovich.

Samers came to Stamford in 1959. Since then, she has served on committees and boards of innumerable organizations, and frequently taken on leadership positions as well. These organizations include the League of Women Voters; the Stamford education system; UConn Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies; Hadassah; United Jewish Federation, where she served as executive VP for six years; the American Jewish Committee for Fairfield County; Jewish Family Service (VP, board, Executive Committee and chairing committees); and AIPAC. She, along with her late husband, Bernard Samers, was a founding member of Chavurat Aytz Chayim. She is currently vice president of the non-profit Jewish television station Shalom TV.

Born and raised in Stamford, Smith's list of leadership positions and service over many years include serving on the boards of United Way of Western Connecticut, Congregation Agudath Sholom and UJF. He was president and treasurer at Chavurat Aytz Chayim, raised funds in Stamford for Israel Bonds and UJA, is active in AIPAC, and has managed the Federation database as a volunteer for 14 years. Smith volunteered at Corporate Angel Network at the Westchester County Airport for 10 years, organizing free flights on corporate jets for cancer patients. He was the longtime co-owner of Stamford's Syl-May Pharmacy.

Samers and Smith have been married for 11 years. Wachstein has been volunteering since she moved to Weston 34 years ago by supporting many philanthropies, including the Michael J. Fox Foundation and the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America. Her volunteer work includes many years with UJA/Federation Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk. She has served on the boards of Temple Israel, Connecticut Professional Photographer's Association, the Fairfield/Westchester Chapter of the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America and Weston

JCC to Honor Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher Soiree Under the Stars

By LUISA VILADAS

According to Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher, "The Jewish Community Center is the heart and soul of our Jewish community." For their commitment and connection to the JCC, the Kriftchers will be honored at the organization's spring gala on Saturday, March 1, at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich, beginning at 7:30 pm. The gala's theme is "Soiree Under the Stars." Carla Bick and Rebecca Iseinstein are serving as event co-chairs; Jeff Goldblum, Peter Gray and Jeannie Kasindorf as journal co-chairs.

"The JCC is where we raised our family," said Brian, "where we made our closest friendships, where we've been inspired by fellow community leaders, and the place that has strengthened our passion for our Jewish heritage and continuity."

"Jeannie and Brian are passionate, kind and generous supporters of the Stamford JCC," said Center President Richard Vogel. "The example they set for all of us is nothing short of remarkable. I am humbled to work with them for the good of the JCC and the Jewish community, honored to call them my friends, and delighted to join the community in honoring them."

The Kriftcher's connection to the JCC began when their daughters attended the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School. Jeannie served as vice president and president of the Nursery School parents' association and co-chaired the school's annual fund-raiser for two years.

Jeannie co-chaired the JCC's annual spring gala for three years. An executive officer of The Center Women board, she organized Center Women events for the Jewish Arts and Film Festival of Fairfield County, chaired the Chanukah Giftique for several years and co-chaired last year's spring fund-raiser. She was a cast member in all three Center Women theatrical productions, serves on the JCC's POSH (Providers of Senior Happiness) committee and, for the last two years, has co-chaired the JCC's Tzahal Shalom program.

Elsewhere in the community, Jeannie serves on the Executive Board at Bi-Cultural Day School and co-chaired Bi-Cultural's fund-raising dinner in 2011 and 2012. Last year, she co-chaired Westhill High School's after-prom celebration.

For her commitment and dedication to the JCC, in 2009, Jeannie received the JCC's highest honor, the Harold E. Hoffman Humanitarian Award (renamed the Harold and Hyacinthe Hoffman Humanitarian Award in 2013).

Brian is the immediate past president (2009-2012) of the JCC's Board of Directors, on which he has served since 2003. He co-chaired the 2003 community Mitzvah Day with Jeannie, and he served as fund-raising chair for the JCC Maccabi Games in Stamford in 2006.

Following a successful Wall Street career, Brian left a firm he helped found to teach and coach kids basketball. "I'm not sure what I would be doing now if not for coaching Stamford's basketball teams for the JCC Maccabi Games," he said.

In 2008, together with a friend, Brian founded the Stamford Peace Basketball Club, which uses basketball to positively influence and enhance opportunities for



Stamford residents Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher will be honored at the Jewish Community Center's zeh bazeh, all Israel is responsible for one another."

local inner city youth. Brian is also in his fourth season as head coach of St. Luke's School boys' varsity basketball team.

The Kriftchers are members of Congregation Agudath Sholom and Temple Beth El.

"We hope that the entire community will join us in honoring the Kriftchers," said JCC CEO Eric Koehler. "The gala is our biggest fund-raising event of the year, and we are thrilled to show our gratitude to Jeannie and Brian for living the Jewish value of Kol Yisrael arevum at the Jewish Community Center's zeh bazeh, all Israel is responsible for one another."

Reservations to the gala must be received by Monday, February 17, and journal tributes by Wednesday, February 5. For more information, visit stamfordjcc.org or contact Shannon Jacobs at 203-487-0965 or sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org.

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

Deadlines for articles

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

- Monday, January 27 March
- Monday, February 24 April
- Monday, March 24 May

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

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Home of the Brave

When Southbury Said No to the Nazis

BY CAMILLE A. KRAMER

Rabbi Eric Polokoff, of B'nai Israel of Southbury; Reverend Shannon Rye Wall, pastor of the South Britain Congregational Church; Ed Edelson, Southbury's first selectman; and local filmmaker Scott Sniffen will speak on Sunday, February 9, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's February Featured Program. The showing of the 38-minute documentary "Home of the Brave: When Southbury Said No to the Nazis," and the panel discussion of its creation and the story behind, it is free and open to the public. It will be held at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, starting at 1:30 pm, with refreshments at 1 pm. The event is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center's Jewish Arts and Film Festival.

The film about the stand Southbury, CT, took in 1937 against the Nazis was born out of an Interfaith Thanksgiving celebration in 2011. All four of the speakers were instrumental in the film's creation. In pre-World War II years, while European heads of states were trying to appease the Nazis, so, too, in the United States, editorials promoted allowing the German-American Bund, the U.S. wing of the Nazi party, to set up camps around the country. Southbury, then a farming community of 1,200 people, without even one synagogue, sensed the inherent dangers to all residents, Jews as well as non-Jews. They took a stand against the Nazi sympathizers establishing a German-American Bund camp in the Kettletown section of town.

In 1937, First Selectman Edward Coer pushed for the adoption of town zoning regulations that would prohibit any paramilitary or military training that was not conducted by the U.S. government within town borders. While waiting for the regulations to be adopted, the town officials slowed down construction by enforcing the state's "blue laws" prohibiting Sunday labor and charging two Bund members with violations. With their plans disrupted, the Bund chose to sell the property and



A still from the film "Home of the Brave: When Southbury Said No to the Nazis."

leave town. The turn of events made national headlines.

To create the film, Sniffen drew upon old town newspaper articles, newsreels, personal documents, interviews and local historians. When the film aired on November 18, 2012, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the event, nearly as many people attended as were in the entire population of Southbury three-quarters of a century earlier. The audience included at least one original resident, as well as many descendants of the original participants. The film received a standing ovation.

Lester Sharlach, founder and former president of JHSFC, formerly SJHS, said, "This largely unknown and compelling story with a Stamford connection was brought to my attention by my son, Brian, who read about the film in the local Redding paper and knew about the filmmaker from the Connecticut Film Festival."

Optional registration online is available at <https://jhsfcfbefeaturedprogram.eventbrite.com> by clicking on "sign up with e-mail."

Anyone with questions about the pro-

gram should contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148 or orelissa@de-kaplan.com or visit JHSFC's website <http://jhsfc.org/programs.html>.

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

JDC's Annual Symposium

BY LINDA G. SPILKA

JDC (the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) held its annual day symposium in October at Congregation Shearith Israel in New York City, bringing together donors, ambassadors, community representatives, rabbis and JDC staff. The day included a facilitated discussion and self-exploration of personal views, Jewish values, time and funds allotted toward humanitarian causes, whether Jewish or not.

Haiti's crises and resettlement were used as an example of the JDC's rescue and relief efforts in this discussion. Donors who have traveled on missions with the JDC described their support of specific communities, including Buenos Aires, Siberia, Israel, Belarus and communities within war-torn Syria.

Attendees learned of relief efforts to homebound Jews in Minsk, antisemitic

concerns throughout South America and Eastern Europe, and about strategies for improving employment amongst diverse Israeli populations.

Two U.S. adolescents spoke about their experiences at a summer camp in Hungary, the Ronald S. Lauder/JDC Szarvas Camp, where at least 1,200 Jewish kids gather from around the globe to learn about their various forms of Jewish identity, whether cultural or observant. One participant verbalized: "...it comes down to just one thing...the Jewish people's intimate knowledge of suffering and loss. There is no way as Jews we can stand by and allow it to happen to others."

Rabbi Brad Hirschfeld, of CLAL, also stated: "There is a seamlessness between being a Jew and being human." Other rabbis who spoke at the symposium were Rabbi Michael Paley, of UJA-Federation, and Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, host at Congregation Shearith Israel.

Philippines Continued from page 1

devastating Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines and JDC mobilized to respond.

Steinberg was part of JDC's initial crisis evaluation team, which also included Danny Pins, a development and employment expert; and Mike Attison, an emergency field medic and disaster relief expert who has been part of JDC's work in Haiti and Japan.

Steinberg said he's proud of the partnerships for sustainable development he's been able to help cement while working with JDC in the most devastated parts of the Philippines. JDC's work in the country is focused on education, psychosocial support, livelihood recovery, public health and disaster preparedness. He plans to stay in the Philippines at least into the spring.

"What this has taught me about playing an active role in the JDC world and the Jewish world and the world I want to be a part of, is that there is something important about responding immediately," he said. "For me, there's always been this want to be part of something very hands-on very quickly."

Steinberg said the responses he's received from Filipinos have been heartwarming and moving.

"People are amazed here that people outside of the Philippines care about the Philippines," he said. "I'm proud to be that face for them, to show them

that the world and the Jewish people care about places that are vulnerable and sometimes forgotten."

JDC Entwine Managing Director Naomi Sage said Steinberg embodies the "selflessness, passion, and can-do spirit" that are key components of any successful Goldman Fellow. "Adam has devoted countless hours of energy as a volunteer leader within Australia's Jewish youth movements, and now brings his passion for Jewish life and professional expertise as a physician to the global arena," she said. "He is a rising star who will no doubt make a difference in the Jewish world."

The Goldman Fellowship and the broader engagement work of JDC Entwine is considered critical to defining JDC's second century.

"It is a very unique way of engaging our generation, and there's no doubt these kinds of experiences cultivate something special our generation connects to," Steinberg said. "The challenge is to continue to create meaningful opportunities and continue to translate them into meaningful leadership and advocacy experiences."

JDC's Typhoon Haiyan recovery and rebuilding efforts—developed in consultation with local authorities, the Filipino Jewish community, and its global partners—are concentrated on the islands of Cebu, Bohol and Panay, whose impoverished, already vulnerable populations were deeply impacted by the disaster.

The Voice of the Congregation

Temple Sinai's Scholar-in-Residence, Merri Lovinger Arian

The sound, the feel and the look of Judaism is changing. The leaders of the Reform movement recognize that, in order for Judaism to remain relevant in the ever-changing lives of Jews around the world, worship must change as well. And, in turn, if Jewish worship is changing, so must Jewish music. Worshippers understand and feel the importance of music in the prayer service. While opinions vary about the melodies they prefer, and the style of music they expect to hear in the sanctuary, many would agree that music is central to the prayer life of the congregation. On Friday, February 14, Merri Lovinger Arian, a leader and innovator in the realm of Jewish music and worship, will join Temple Sinai as scholar-in-residence for Shabbat evening services at 7:30 pm.

In the past, the role of the worshipper during services was mainly passive. The Classical Reform era positioned the congregation as audience merely observing a sacred rite, simply listening to the sacred melodies. But today, many congregants want to be actively involved in the ritual; they want to sing the liturgy and feel a sense of ownership and connection to the tradition.

Singing can empower the congregation. In synagogues across the country, musical Shabbatot have become some of the most popular services offered. Youth choirs, volunteer choirs and sanctuary musicians regularly add their voices to Shabbat worship. Cantors and prayer leaders introduce and teach new



Merri Lovinger Arian

music during services, and encourage the congregation to sing along. Whether weekly or monthly, these musical worship experiences seek to engage and empower the congregation. Every congregant need not possess a trained voice or the ability to read music; when presented well, each worshipper can be a full participant in these musical prayer experiences.

Arian has been called the definitive voice of participatory singing in worship, and all are welcome to attend services with her at Temple Sinai that evening. Arian serves on the faculty of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. She teaches both cantorial and rabbinic students, offering courses in music education, conducting, congregational singing, worship and contemporary congregational repertoire.

Arian is frequently invited as an artist-in-residence in congregations across the country. She has also served as a music consultant to a number of congregations, exploring with the clergy team ways to enhance the worship in their congregation. She sang with Debbie Friedman, z"l, in Carnegie Hall and has performed and led music programs for HUC-JIR, the URJ and Jewish Women's Archives, among others.

Arian holds an M.A. in teaching, a B.F.A. in music education, and a certificate in music therapy. She edited "R'fuah Sh'leimah: Songs of Healing."

Her recordings include N'efesh: Songs for the Soul," a CD for S2K and "NFTY in Harmony," an album with an accom-

panying songbook of original choral arrangements. Arian can also be found on YouTube.

"A Serious Look At Humor"

Annual Chevre Kadisha Dinner

Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff, professor of Judaic studies at Stern College for Women, will be this year's featured speaker at the annual Chevre Kadisha dinner, to be held at Congregation Agudath Sholom on Thursday, February 6, at 6 pm. His topic will be "A Serious Look at Humor: The Source for Jewish Laughter."

"The annual Chevre Kadisha dinner has attracted more than 150 people every year since its inception," said Michael Feldstein, who is on the Dinner Committee. "It recognizes all of the Chevre Kadisha members, who selflessly serve our community and perform the important mitzvah of making sure those who pass away are provided a proper Jewish burial." There are approximately two dozen local Chevre Kadisha volunteers, both men and women.

Sharon Feldstein and Sandi Waldstreich are this year's dinner co-chairs. Phyllis Shapiro will be in charge of invitations and flowers.

Rabbi Hajioff received an economics degree from Manchester University in England. After working for MTV and moonlighting as a Jewish stand-up



Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff, professor of Judaic studies at Stern College for Women

comedian, Rabbi Hajioff traveled to Jerusalem to study Torah and returned to London to establish the Jewish Learning Exchange, an educational center for Jews who did not grow up observant. He received his rabbinical ordination from Ohr Sameach in Monsey, NY. In addition to his position as a professor of Jewish studies at Stern College for Women, he works for New York state helping Jewish teens and young adult drug addicts. He also is the educational director of the Jewish Enrichment Center, a follow-up program to Birthright Israel.

The cost of attending the dinner is \$36 a person. Sponsorships are also available at \$180 and can be made in memory of a loved one or in honor of an individual or a family.

Invitations to the dinner were mailed in January. Anyone interested in attending the dinner should contact Sharon Feldstein at 203-327-1672, or at sharonfeldstein@gmail.com. Reservations must be received by Thursday, January 30, in order to guarantee a seat at the dinner.

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BITS AND PIECES

By SANDY GOLOVE

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



Leah and Hersh Batkin on the birth of a son.

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

Avra and Seamus Dolan on the birth of a son, Harlow Sean Dolan; grandmother is **Sheila Romanowitz**.

Hani and Daniel Lowenstein on the birth of a son, Meir Nechamya; grandparents are **Hadassah and Senator Joseph Lieberman**.

Jessica and Elie Niedober on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Sherry and Bennet Kfare, Jean Niedober and Irwin Niedober**; great-grandmother is **Marilyn Niedober**.

Kira and Evan Schuckman on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Ilyse and Dean Schuckman**.

Tzachie and Chaya Shalev on the birth of a daughter.

Rachel and Michael Weinstein on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Rivka and Rabbi David Walk and Debbie Walk**.

Lauren and Joe Zalis on the birth of a son and daughter; grandparents are **Sherry and Allen Rosenthal**. MAZEL TOV TO:

Rivkah and Rabbi Elan Adler on the engagement of their daughter, **Ariella Adler**, to **Aharon Mendlowitz**, of Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel.

Stephane and Kerrin Behrend on the engagement of their daughter, **Michelle Behrend**, to **Cameron Krewson**.

Rosett Hendizadeh on the marriage of her daughter, **Pegah Hendizadeh**, to **Steven Rosenthal**.

Kathy and Howard Kraus on the marriage of their daughter, **Alexis Kraus**, to **Marc Sternberg**.

Laura Markowitz and Stewart Casper on the engagement of their daughter, **Stacey Casper**, to **Daniel Warshaw**, son of **Martha Warshaw and Steven Warshaw**.

Lee Neufeld on the marriage of her granddaughter, **Danielle Neufeld**, to **Steven Ehrenfeld**.

Alexandra Ortiz-Schwartz, daughter of **Elizabeth and Clifford Ortiz-Schwartz**, is one of the winners of Moving Traditions' One Moon, One Wall, One People contest.

Susan and Marc Peyser on the engagement of their daughter, **Amanda Peyser**, to **Zach Fox**.

Susan and Marc Peyser on the marriage of their son, **Jason Peyser**, to **Beth Shedden**.

Kathy and Tom Rubin, Karen Lewkowitz and Monte Miller, and Robert Shpuntoff on the engagement of their children, **Neil Ruben and Hilana Lewkowitz-Shpuntoff**.

Naomi Hersh and Bernard Shapiro on the engagement of their daughter, **Rebecca Sarah Shapiro**, to **Rabbi Jeremy Brunn Ruberg**, son of **Miriam Brunn Ruberg and Rabbi Archie Ruberg**, of Norfolk, VA.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH: **Carolyn Melanie Breakstone**, daughter of **Julie and Warren Breakstone**; grandparents are **Eileen and Bob Breakstone**.

Mia Brenner, daughter of **Claudia and Terry Brenner**.

Joshua David Dweck, son of **Shoshana Dweck and Jay Dweck**.

Bailee Esposito, daughter of **Claudia Lubin**.

Noah Fincher, son of **Nancy and Evan Finchler**; grandmother is **Roselyn Finchler**.

Aaron Goldblum, son of **Risa and Jeffrey Goldblum**; grandparents are **Lorraine and Morton Bauman and Ann and Alex Goldblum**.

Alex Kaplan, son of **Jane and Dean Kaplan**.

Joshua Labkoff, son of **Steven Labkoff**.

Amber Mandel, daughter of **Shira and Roland Mandel**.

Carly Marinstein, daughter of **Cynthia and Jeff Marinstein**.

Rebeca Morgenthaler, daughter of **Deborah and Walter Morgenthaler**. **Samantha Jessica Nack**, daughter of **Robin Novak Nack and Irwin Nack**; grandparents are **Barbara and Larry Novak**. **Hudson Price**, son of **Caren and Glenn Price**.

Leora Shapiro, daughter of **Esty and Yitz Shapiro**; grandparents are **Lillian and Sandy Shapiro**.

Jordan Soifer, son of **Louise and Ami Soifer**; grandparents are **Debbie and Ben-Zion Soifer and Joyce and Denis Kaplan**.

Mara Teich, daughter of **Jill and Mark Teich**.

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Sabrina Trabish, daughter of **Sheila and Steven Trabish**. CONDOLENCES TO:

Andre Aflalo on the loss of his father, **Albert Aflalo**.

David Arditti on the loss of his father, **Ralph Arditti**.

Dan Cassel on the loss of his brother, **Ezra Cassel**.

Alan Cohen on the loss of his mother, **Shirley Cohen**.

Helen Donner on the loss of her mother, **Shirley Kleiner**.

Cindy Farber on the loss of her husband; **Daniel and Jonathan Farber** on the loss of their father; **Philip Farber** on the loss of his brother; and **Arnold Farber** on the loss of his son, **Richard Farber**.

Lauren Friedman, Terry Hess and Kevin Wichter on the loss of their father, **Michael Wichter**.

Leah Haber on the loss of her husband, and **Alice Janush** on the loss of her father, **Eddie Haber**.

David Hochman on the loss of his father, **Stanley Hochman**.

Ben Kirschenbaum on the loss of his mother, **Harriet Kirschenbaum**.

Rabbinic Pastor David Daniel Klipper on the loss of his mother, **Leonore Miller**.

Susan Kostin on the loss of her father, **Seymour Finkelstein**.

Ira Lederman on the loss of his father, **Jack Lederman**.

Doug Lubliner on the loss of his father, **Paul Lubliner**.

Harold Orlow on the loss of his mother; and **Jason and Alyssa Orlow** on the loss of their grandmother, **Phyllis Orlow**.

Rhonna W. Rogol on the loss of her father, **Leonard Weber**.

Joan Ross on the loss of her mother, **Norma Ross**.

Josh Sperber on the loss of his grandfather, **David Borochov**.

Danielle Thau on the loss of her grandmother, **Edna Stahl**.

David Weinstein on the loss of his wife; **Sherri Rosenthal and Jeff Weinstein** on the loss of their mother; and **Lauren Zalis** on the loss of her grandmother, **Miriam Weinstein**.

Howard Wolfe on the loss of his aunt, **Janice Wolfe**.

NEW AROUND TOWN

Saul Skolnick, Congregation Agudath Sholom

Congregation Agudath Sholom welcomed Saul Skolnick as its director of synagogue operations. Skolnick attended Yeshiva University, where he received his bachelor's degree in sociology and his associate's degree in Judaic studies. While at YU, Skolnick was captain of the fencing team and, during his year in Israel, practiced with the Hebrew University fencing team in Jerusalem.

Skolnick's previous careers were in real estate consulting and business analysis, which led to leadership roles as the executive director of Young Israel of West Hempstead, Shelter Rock Jewish Center and Lincoln Square Synagogue. "Saul excels in engaging people through his empathy, wisdom and humor," said Rabbi Daniel Cohen. "As the new director of synagogue operations at CAS, Saul brings with him a wealth of knowledge, business acumen and technical abilities. Saul has an open-door policy and welcomes all thoughts and suggestions."

In his spare time, Skolnick enjoys walking on the boardwalk with his wife, checking out the local garage sales and buying and selling antiques on eBay. He has been married to Shelley for 30 years. They have two children, Yosef and Chavi, and a baby granddaughter.



Saul Skolnick

Harris..... Continued from page 1

David will address on March 13, though given the dynamism of these and other international issues today, it is likely that more issues will arise and be addressed. We anticipate that this will be a major speech," said AJC Westchester Regional Director Scott Richman.

Harris has been the executive director of AJC since 1990. He travels the globe meeting with world leaders to advance the well-being of Israel, combat antisemitism, monitor the condition of Jewish communities, and promote intergroup and interreligious understanding.

"As the global advocates for the Jewish people, with offices around the globe, AJC has ongoing relationships with leaders from 114 countries around the globe," explains AJC Regional President Stuart Ginsberg. "David sits at the center of this vast network and is an extraordinary spokesperson for the Jewish people."

In early March, Harris plans to visit sites in Europe and Central Asia. His address at Temple Beth El is well-timed for a report on this trip.

AJC, established in 1906 by a small group of American Jews concerned about pogroms aimed at Russian Jews, determined that the best way to protect Jewish populations in danger would be to work toward a world in which

all peoples were accorded respect and dignity. More than 100 years later, AJC's global diplomacy and legislative advocacy leverage its relationships with leaders who influence policy. AJC believes that it is well-positioned to respond to global challenges confronting the well-being of the Jewish people and threatening democratic values worldwide. Its key areas of focus are working toward the elimination of antisemitism; promoting shared democratic values; supporting Israel's quest for peace and security; advocating for energy independence; and strengthening Jewish life.

AJC's international headquarters is in Manhattan, and it maintains 22 regional offices around the United States, including one in Westchester, NY, which also conducts programming in Fairfield County, CT. Some 175,000 individuals support this work. AJC has been described by *The New York Times* as "the dean of American Jewish organizations," and was touted as "the most effective, most influential, and most respected of American Jewish organizations" by former French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

For more information about AJC Westchester and the program, visit its website - www.ajc.org/westchester - or contact its office at 914-948-5585.

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Tapestry Celebrates 10th Anniversary

On November 23, 300 people attended 21 educational classes at the 10th Annual Tapestry, a "Community Celebration of Adult Jewish Learning." Tapestry is a joint program of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and the Stamford Jewish Community Center, in partnership with the Stamford Board of Rabbis and other area Jewish organizations.

The evening began with a *Havdalah* service led by local cantors. Rabbi Molly

Karp, UJF's adult education coordinator, spoke about the meaning of *Havdalah*. After the classes, a dessert reception, catered by Abigail Kurtz and Cara Neumann of Stamford Treats, brought the 10th anniversary celebration to a "sweet" end.

Save the date - Saturday, November 22, for the next Tapestry. Those interested in serving on the Tapestry Committee should contact Rebekah Raz at Rebekah@ujf.org.



L-r: Cantors **Micha Morgovsky** (Temple Sinai), **Asa Fradkin** (Temple Sholom, Greenwich) and **George Mordechai** (Temple Beth El) led the community *Havdalah* service. (Photos by **Liat Feller**)



Facing the camera: **Gail Trell, Michal Smart and Barbra Ashkenas**.



L-r: **Paula Snyder and David Klein**, BBYO volunteer advisors, and **Adam Batkin**, Tapestry co-chair



UJF President **Shoshana Dweck** and Rabbi **Ely Krimshy**, of Young Israel of Stamford, at dessert reception



Jewish Family Service CEO **Matt Greenberg** with Rabbi **Ron Fish**, of Congregation Beth El, Norwalk



Rabbi **Jay TelRaw** of Temple Sinai spoke with a student after class.



L-r: **Carol Lilienthal** and **Rhonda Ginsberg**, Tapestry co-chairs

Evening..... Continued from page 3

Women's League. As a professional photographer, Wachstein does pro bono photography for innumerable non-profits in Fairfield County.

Adam Batkin was raised in Fairfield County attending Jewish day school and graduating from Brandeis University. After five years in Glasgow, Scotland, where his wife attended veterinary school, Batkin returned to Stamford to resume his career as a software developer for AQR Capital Management, a Hedge Fund in Greenwich. JFS' Young Leadership Award recipient has volunteered as the co-chair of Tapestry (UJF Stamford) for the past two years, is a member of the Stamford Chevre Kadisha and a current JFS board member, and helps Jewish

organizations and synagogues around Stamford and Greenwich with technology issues.

An Evening with JFS will feature a dinner, served at stations, and the agency's sixth annual auction, chaired by Sandy Speter.

"The proceeds of An Evening with JFS and the auction are essential to ensure that funds are available for the agency to continue to provide quality services to all those in need," said Welkovich.

To attend An Evening with JFS or donate an item for the auction, contact Iris Morrison at 203-921-4161 or e-mail at Imorrison@ctjfs.org.

Iris Morrison is the JFS associate executive director.



Dr. Paul Franks, professor at Yale University



Steve Danzer with Rabbi Nicole Wilson-Spiro

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

New Spring Term Courses – UConn Judaic Studies

Also Lunch and Learn Lectures

BY REBECCA ISENSTEIN

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn Stamford will offer a wide selection of courses and programs for the Spring 2014 semester, spanning many areas of Judaic culture, literature and history. These undergraduate credit courses are open to the community and began on January 21. Seniors age 62 or older and Connecticut residents can attend undergraduate classes on a not-for-academic-credit basis (audit basis) for a nominal fee of \$15 per semester.

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, Center director, will teach a course on "Literature and Civilization of the Jewish People" (Thursdays, 2:35-5:15 pm), a study of the major ideas, personalities and literary works of the Judaic traditions from the Bible to modern Israel. The course will consist of readings from some of the major texts of Judaic genius, examining the historical context in which they were produced and the major ideas that they reflect.

Dr. Fred Roden will offer "Introduction to Holocaust Literature" (Tuesdays, 5:30-8:10 pm). Course topics include the notion of survival and survivors,

altruism, rescue, resistance and humanitarianism; readings will include diary, memoir, poetry, and fiction. Also, political science professor Dr. Jeffrey Lefebvre will offer "Middle East Politics" (Tuesdays/Thursdays, 1:10-2:35 pm). For information on enrolling, contact the Office of the Registrar at 203-251-8555.

In addition, the Center will again host its Lunch and Learn Lecture Series in the spring of 2014, featuring UConn professors at each of four lectures beginning Thursday, March 6, at noon. Dr. Sebastian Wogenstein, professor of German at UConn (Storrs), will deliver the first lecture, "Nightfall: German Jewish Literature in the Early 20th Century." The second lecture on Thursday, March 27, will feature one of UConn Stamford's newest professors, Dr. Gregory Pierrot, who will discuss "Black Revolution and the Israeli



Dr. Gregory Pierrot, newly instated professor of English at UConn Stamford, specializes in African American literature.



Professor of German at UConn, Dr. Sebastian Wogenstein focuses on German-Jewish literature and the intersection between literature and human rights.

Model: John A. Williams' Sons of Darkness, Sons of Light (1969)." In the third lecture on Thursday, April 3, Dr. Sondra Melzer, professor at both UConn Stamford and Sacred Heart University, will focus on "Reflections on Roth and Nemesis, His Farewell to Writing." Lastly, Aschkenasy will close the series on Thursday, May 1, with her lecture, "The Afterlife of a Biblical Figure: King Saul in Hebraic and English Literary Traditions."

The Center will sponsor a Yom Hashoah lecture, together with the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Center and the UConn Stamford Program Committee, titled "Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Women and Families in Nazi Germany" with Dr. Marion Kaplan, professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies

See "UConn" on page 15

Partnerships Offer Individually Unique Programs for JTT Community

BY LEAH SCHECHTER

In September 2013, the Jewish Twenties and Thirties Steering Committee, which has evolved over the past five years, decided to take a different approach to the traditional grants program implemented at the group's inception. As of the fall, the group has been working to build partnerships with other local agencies and businesses to offer events that are each programmatically unique, yet considered meaningful and enjoyable where those in their 20s and 30s can both meet each

other as well as engage with their Jewish community. This approach is already said to be bearing fruit.

There will be several upcoming programs this year where JTT of Jewish Family Service will work in partnership with UJF of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and UJA/Federation Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk and a recent program was presented in partnership with UJA Greenwich.

At a JTT dinner in Stamford in December, Jeannie Smith, daughter of the late Polish rescuer Irene Gut

OpDyke, spoke. Smith shared her mother's heroic story of standing up to Nazi persecution and hatred. OpDyke, who died on May 18, 2003, garnered international recognition for her actions that saved Jews during the Holocaust while she worked for a high-ranking German official. Her story was recently told on Broadway in the nationally acclaimed play "Irena's Vow" starring Tovah Feldshuh. OpDyke's book "In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer" (Random House) chronicles her life during World War II. OpDyke was named one of the Righteous Among the Nations by the Israeli Holocaust Commission. Smith said that she believes the story brings a message of faith, love and hope that good can triumph over evil – that one person can make a difference.

Rachel Aaron, JTT Steering Committee member, said, "Listening to the story of Jeannie Smith's mother was such an incredible and different story of survival from the Holocaust. This was a unique event for JTT, which provided refreshments and time to socialize, as well as an opportunity for engaging conversations that connected to Jewish identity and community."

JTT will partner with the Center for Jewish Arts and Literacy at Beit Chaverim Synagogue in Westport to host the Westport Radical Jewish Culture Festival. Rabbi Greg Wall, currently the rabbinic leader of the synagogue, is a critically acclaimed saxophonist and producer who founded the Center for Jewish Arts and Literacy. The concert series will take place on Saturdays, January 25 and February 22, and will featured performers who have been called some of the most influential musicians of the current generation of creative Jewish artists. Their work has been released on John Zorn's Tzadik record label.

"Partnerships like these are enabling the Jewish Twenties and Thirties to offer the kinds of programs right here in Fairfield County that young Jewish professionals are able to access in larger cities like New York City," said Matt Greenberg, CEO of JFS. For additional information about the Jewish Twenties and Thirties and to join the mailing list, contact Leah Schechter at LSchechter@ctjfs.org.

Leah Schechter is the singles outreach coordinator of Jewish Family Service.

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

Young. Continued from page 1

From kneading dough to peeling vegetables, to cooking and baking and packing it all up, the event is considered a time to give to those who need it most: the challah and chicken soup are included in the "Shabbat 2 Go" packages. The event is co-sponsored by JTT, a program of Jewish Family Service, and includes lunch. Then, on Friday, March 28, at 7 pm, there will be a Shabbat dinner for 20s and 30s with song and inspiration at the Shemtov home, 10 Brandt Rd., Stamford. For additional information or to join the Chabad 20s and 30s mailing list, contact Leah Shemtov at morahleah@chabadstamford.org.

◆ Temple Beth El also organizes a variety of events over the year for the Young Jewish Professionals at TBE group. Members socialize with a monthly Happy Hour at local bars and periodically at events like their Lag B'Omer bonfire event. Join the Facebook page "Fairfield County YJP at TBE" to be notified about upcoming events or contact Steve Lander execdir@tbe.org for more information or to join the e-mail list.

Lessons for Peace in Middle East

Vatican Official Speaks at UConn Judaic Studies

BY REBECCA ISENSTEIN

The Most Reverend Monsignor David M. Jaeger, a justice on the Vatican's highest court the Roman Rota, spoke to overflowing crowds at his recent visit to UConn Stamford for the 2013 Louis J. Kuriansky Annual Conference, which was hosted by the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies. An interfaith crowd of more than 250 people were in attendance to hear his keynote address, "My Twenty Years Negotiating between the Vatican and Israel: Lessons for Peace in the Land."

During his keynote address, Msgr. Jaeger recounted his many years as the Vatican's chief liaison with the state of Israel. He spoke about the sensitive issues of protecting the Christian Holy places and at the same time respecting Israel's autonomy and its laws. In particular, he recounted an incident in 2002 when Palestinian militants had fled into the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and were holed up there with regular citizens and monks that they were holding hostage. The Israel Defense Force had respected the Christian holy sites and not followed the militants onto Church property. Msgr. Jaeger was responsible for the difficult and tense negotiations to end the stand-off. In the end, the hostages were unharmed and the majority of

the militants were exiled to the Gaza Strip and Europe.

After the keynote, Msgr. Jaeger was joined by Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, Rev. Kate Heichler and Dr. James Jones for a discussion on "The Role of Religion in a Secular Society." Students also had a chance to speak informally with Msgr. Jaeger during a "Lunch and Conversation" session the following day.

Msgr. Jaeger revealed a humanistic approach to the many issues raised by students regarding some of the laws of the Catholic Church and emphasized that compassionate treatment of situations and practices that are outside the strict law should be preferred over strict adherence to doctrine. He also highlighted the importance of interfaith conversations and insisted that the three Abrahamic religions share ideas and attitudes that focus on love and compassion.

For more information about the conference or other programs of the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies, contact the Center at stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu or 203-251-9525.

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies is a recipient agency of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and is also supported by donations from the community.



Prelate Auditor Monsignor David Jaeger (seated), with Kuriansky trustees Sary and Ed Backer, Advisory Board Chair Nina Lotstein, professor and Center Director Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy and UConn Stamford Campus Director Sharon White.



Prelate Auditor Monsignor David Jaeger (seated) talked with UConn Stamford students.

► Superbowl Shabbat Dinner

Chabad House Stamford will host a "Superbowl Shabbat Dinner" on Friday evening, January 31, beginning at 7 pm, at Chabad of Stamford, 770 High Ridge Rd. The Shabbat event will feature a talk from Mark Kligman, a sports agent who is also an observant Jew. Dinner will include four courses catered by Stamford's Chef Jeremy Slen. Shabbat services and an optional "kids dinner" will begin at 6 pm. A program for children will begin at 7:30 pm.

Kligman, who grew up in a secular Jewish home in Stamford and attended Stamford public schools, is both a litigation attorney and a baseball sports agent, currently representing 60 major league and minor league players, including Carlos Ruiz of the Phillies, Mike Zagurski of the Indians, Rob Scahill of the Rockies and Brian Burres of the Giants. Kligman will relate some of his experiences as an observant Jew working in the sports industry and answer questions.

The fee for the dinner and program is \$36 per adult and \$15 per child, with a maximum of \$100 per family. Sponsorship of \$180 includes admission for one family. A discounted "early bird" price is available for those who register by Friday, January 24.

To make reservations or for more information, visit www.chabadhousestamford.org, or e-mail Leah Shemtov at Morahleah@chabadstamford.org, or call 203-3CHABAD, ext. 418.

► JFS College Ahead! Program on March 13

Jewish Family Service will gather college admissions deans at the Stamford Jewish Community Center on Thursday, March 13, at 7:30 pm, to present the annual College Ahead! program to area parents and teens. Families are asked to save the date for the program, considered an important resource for those interested in learning about the college planning process. JFS College Ahead! is co-sponsored by JFS and the Stamford JCC. Everyone in the community is invited to attend at no cost.

Panelists scheduled to appear are Greg Zaiser, vice president of admission and financial planning, Elon University, NC; Stefano Papaleo, director of undergraduate admission, Lynn University, FL; Mary Ellen Anderson, director of admissions, Indiana University, IN; and Catherine Capolupo, vice president of enrollment management at Roger Williams University, RI.

For more information, contact Claire Friedlander, JFS college consultant, at 203-921-4161 or e-mail ClaireF@ctjfs.org.

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“What Every Woman Should Know”

Women’s Health Program at JCC

The Center Women of the JCC, in partnership with Stamford Hospital and the Stamford Chapter of Hadassah, will offer a women’s health program at the Stamford JCC on Wednesday, February 5, from 8:30 am-1 pm.

Presentations will begin at 9:30 am with the panel discussion “Where did I put my keys?” Addressing memory issues that can plague anyone at any age, guest speakers Allison Ostroff, M.D., and Louise D. Resor, M.D., will offer advice and exercises to keep

the brain in shape. Ostroff specializes in geriatric and internal medicine at Greenwich Medical Group, and Resor is a neurology specialist with Fairfield County Neurology.

“What *should* I eat? Food decisions that we face every day” will be the topic of the second panel discussion at 10:45 am. Helping to solve this perennial dilemma will be panelists Katherine Takayasu, M.D., integrative medicine and women’s health at the Center for Integrative Medicine and Wellness; Jessica Yep, M.S.,

R.D., director of Nutrition Consultants; and Jamie Lee McIntyre, M.S., R.D. CD-N, dietician from Grade A ShopRite.

Brunch will be served at 11:45 am, free of charge to those who pre-register.

Throughout the day, a variety of health screenings and massages will be available. Health-related vendors will be on-site. Mammograms will be available from Stamford Hospital’s Mobile Wellness Center.

See “Woman” on page 15

For February & March 2014 FAMILY CENTRAL

All events listed are open to the entire community in addition to members. You will be welcomed.

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

- CHABAD**
- **FAMILY TRIP TO BROOKLYN.** Sunday, Mar. 2, 9 am – 4 pm. Visit authentic Matzah bakery, Judaica store and kosher candy store. Explore Jewish Children’s Museum. Enjoy NY pizza.
 - **FAMILY PURIM EXTRAVAGANZA.** Sunday, Mar. 16, 11:45 – 1:45 pm. \$10 p/person max \$45 family. Come in costume. Royal Festivities. Palace Tour. Boxed Lunch. Queen’s jewelry making. Mordechai’s Megillah with slide show.
- JCC**
- **MATZAH BALL.** Saturday, Feb. 8, 7-9 pm. For fathers and daughters. Walk the pink carpet like a star. Photo booth. Hollywood Glitz. \$45 per couple (\$36 members) plus \$5 p/ additional child. For info, contact Virginia (203) 487-0973 or vclark@stamfordjcc.org
 - **PURIM CARNIVAL.** “Under the Big Top”. Sunday, Mar. 9, 1 – 4 pm. Circus performances, games, food and prizes. Admission free. Purchase tickets/bracelets. Volunteers needed.
- TEMPLE BETH EL PURM CARNIVAL.** Sunday, Mar. 16, 11 am. Come in costume. Bounce house, slide, games, and prizes. Admission free. Purchase bracelet for games/activities.
- JFS: COLLEGE AHEAD.** Thursday, Mar. 13, 7:30 pm. At the Stamford JCC. Join Claire Friedlander, JFS College Consultant and panel of college deans of admission for advice about the college admissions process. For more info, contact Claire at claire@cjfs.org or (203) 921-4161.

YOUNG KIDS WITH PARENT/CAREGIVER

- JCC FAMILYPLACE PURIM PARTY.** Ages 1 – 8. Wednesday, Mar. 12, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Wear a super hero costume. Sing along Sup along evening with guest entertainer Amy Rogell. Pizza served. \$12 p/person / \$9 JCC members. (After Mar 4: \$14/\$11)
- TEMPLE SINAI**
- **Tot Shabbat.** Birth to age 7. Friday, Feb. 14, 5 pm & Saturday, Mar. 8, 9 am. Dancing, singing, praying and playing. With Rabbi TelRav and Cantor Morgovsky. Learn about Shabbat and holidays. Free.
- TEMPLE BETH EL**
- **Torah for Tots.** Age 5 & under. A fun interactive service with stories, prayers and songs. Saturday Mar. 22, 11:15 am. Led by Matly Roxx. Free.
 - **Tot Kabbalat Shabbat.** Age 5 & under. Older siblings welcome. Service with music, stories and song led by Cantor George Mordecai and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman. Light Shabbat dinner for kids. Friday, Feb. 7 & Mar. 14, 5:30 pm. Free.
- CHABAD**
- Tiny Treasures.** Birth to 30 months. Warm Jewish atmosphere. Connect with other moms. Fee: \$15 per class. First class free. Wednesdays (not 2/19), 9:15 - 10:15 am. And celebrate Shabbat on Fridays (not 2/21), 10 - 10:45 am. “Got Shabbat?”
- BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL**
- Mommy, Daddy, Music and Me.** For toddlers. With Jonathan Cahr and Rachel Bahar. Wednesdays, Feb. 12 & 26, Mar. 12 (with costumes for Purim) & 26. Music, movement, nursery rhymes, Jewish songs and story telling. Free.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- Friendship Circle:** Teen friends and social and Judaic programs for children with special needs. Contact Malya Shmotkin (203) 329-0015 #414 or Malya@FriendshipCT.com
- JCC**
- **Jump Start:** Therapeutic classes for ages 2 - 4. Language, social and motor skills encouraged. Safe, fun, accepting environment. Contact Sue McGraw (203) 487-0966.
 - **R&R (Relax & Recreate)** Social group for grades 6-8. Fun, structured, safe environment. Build social skills and relationships. Wednesdays, 3:30 pm; Sundays, 1:30 pm. Feb 5, 19, 23, March 5, 19, 23, 30. Fee: \$250 / \$200 JCC members for 10 sessions. Transportation from public schools available. Contact Dinushka De Silva at (203) 487-0946 or ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org.

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

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

UJF Launches Cardozo Legal Affinity Group

UJF launched the Cardozo affinity group on November 18 at the law offices of Wiggan and Dana. The Cardozo Society is comprised of members of the legal community, including lawyers, professors, judges and others, and provides educational, leadership and networking opportunities with the objective of benefiting both the local and global Jewish communities.

The evening included a presentation on the “Law of War” and featured Marc D. Stern, a leading expert in legal advocacy issues and in the new field of lawfare. Stern is currently general counsel for the AJC.

For more information about upcoming Cardozo Society programs, contact Rebekah Raz at Rebekah@ujf.org.



Cardozo Society Co-Chairs Rob Hoff and Michael Wirgin with speaker Marc D. Stern.



UJF board member Dan Benjamin with Caitlin Trow.

Temple Beth El Hosts Temple Rock Café “Dueling Pianos” Promises Great Show

Temple Rock Café will celebrate its seventh year on Saturday, February 1, at Temple Beth El, from 7:30 pm-midnight. An annual tradition on Super Bowl weekend every year, Temple Rock Café will feature cocktails, dinner, a silent auction and live auction, and a show.

Scott Krowitz, co-chair of the evening, said, “I am very excited about our entertainment this year. Each year, the committee comes up with an exciting

program. This year we are very pleased to present “Dueling Pianos” featuring a very entertaining program provided by ‘Keys to the City Piano Bar’ in New Haven. The show is unique because of the extremely talented entertainers who interact with the audience to create an unforgettable evening. Once the show starts, it is non-stop energy and lots of laughs. The performers and talented musicians take requests for songs and sing your favorite ‘80s, ‘90s and current tunes as they play along on two pianos and create

skits and contests to involve the guests to be a part of the show.”

David Wolff, co-chair of the event, stated that “on auction this year will be over 100 items featuring exotic trips, restaurant and store gift certificates, once in a lifetime experiences, and much more.”

The community is welcome to attend. Those attending are asked to make reservations as soon as possible on www.tbe.org. For more information, contact the TBE office at 203-322-6901, ext. 301.

An Act of Kindness

David’s Treasure Tree Toy Drive

BY MALERIE YOLEN COHEN

In early December, members of social-action and fund-raising organization UJF Women’s Philanthropy, in conjunction with Hadassah, Bi-Cultural Day School and Carmel Academy, brought multiple boxes full of toys (collected via toy drives) to Stamford Hospital to restock David’s Treasure Tree, named for David Kanarek, son of Robin Bennett Kanarek, who died of leukemia at the age of 15.

Bi-Cultural graduate Robin Kanarek addressed almost 30 volunteers – representatives of UJF Women’s Philanthropy and Hadassah, as well as current BCDS and Carmel Academy students – explaining the origins and importance of the toy closet. “When David was being treated at Yale New Haven Hospital, he was in severe pain and as a distraction, was introduced to their ‘Toy Armoire,’” said Kanarek. “The armoire doors opened and I will never forget his reaction. Total joy. For a little while, he forgot he was sick – for the first time in two months I saw him smile.”

See “Kindness” on page 14



A note taped at the Treasure Tree from Bi-Cultural students.



A note taped at the Treasure Tree from Carmel students.

A course developed by the Shalom Hartman Institute, iEngage reframes and gives new focus to the discussion about the enduring significance of the State of Israel for contemporary Jews worldwide. The course facilitates the exploration of key questions such as why should American Jews care about Israel? What values should a Jewish state embody? How can Israel create and maintain a Jewish democracy? How should a Jewish state exercise military power ethically? Each iEngage unit includes a video lecture by Rabbi Donniel Hartman, followed by a discussion facilitated by a local rabbi and Matan Samovsky, the JCC Israeli Shaliach.

Sundays, 9:30 - 11:30 am.
Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Mar. 2, Mar. 9, Mar. 23 and Mar. 30

\$50 for the series of 6 or \$10 per session.
 For more information or to register, contact Rabbi Molly Karp, Adult Education Coordinator at UJF, at rabbikarp@ujf.org. The course is cosponsored with the JCC, and includes a continental breakfast.

Topics will include:
February 2: Religion and Peoplehood
February 9: Explore the Foundation
March 2: Sovereignty and Identity
March 9: Power and Powerlessness
March 23: Values Nation
March 30: Religious Pluralism and Human Rights

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

Super Sunday Raises \$340,000

The United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien held its annual Super Sunday fund-raiser on December 8 in Stamford. Keeping up the high standard of last year's Super Sunday, this year's Super Sunday raised \$340,000, a slight increase from last year, receiving 540 pledges. More than 3,000 calls were made by community volunteers to community members asking for a contribution to UJF. In addition, 120 children brought in their own UJF *tzedakah* cups to the "Children's *Tzedakah* Corner" and raised

\$1,754. Teens were also involved on Super Sunday and raised \$4,300 by calling their own friends from the Teen Calling Room. Super Sunday was chaired by Dr. Nimrod and Rachel Dayan. "Nearly 200 volunteers from all Jewish backgrounds worked together for the sole purpose of making Super Sunday a success," said Rachel. "We asked the community to answer the call and we are so proud that they did." UJF is a Jewish non-profit that supports Jews in the local community, Israel and 79 countries all over the world.



L-r: Rebecca Dayan, Maya Jubas and Rina Marlowe made phone calls on Super Sunday. (Photo by UJF staff)



It's a family affair – Gary and Nancy Schulman. (Photo by Aviva Maller)



Nathaniel Yaghoubian got a Super Hero goodie after giving *tzedakah* at the Children's *Tzedakah* Corner. (Photo by Aviva Maller)



Just a bunch of clowns! Lorraine Kweskin and Gail Trel. (Photo by Aviva Maller)



L-r: The Dayan family – Nimrod and Rachel, Super Sunday chairs, and Rebecca, AJ and Max Dayan. (Photo by UJF staff)



Shaina Lubliner and Alex Bergman made phone calls on Super Sunday. (Photo by Liat Feller)



Mia Weinstein kept a tally of the agency incentive. (Photo by Aviva Maller)



Eliezer Silverman in action. (Photo by UJF staff)



Ricky Arbron in action. (Photo by UJF staff)



Len Mark (Photo by Aviva Maller)



Alan Freeman (Photo by Aviva Maller)



Alix Field Eben and Seth Young (Photo by Aviva Maller)



The members of the Bi-Cultural Day School team. (Photo by Aviva Maller)



At left: Lolly Socaransky showing off the Super Hero mask she made with PJ Library. Everyone is a Super Hero on Super Sunday! (Photo by Aviva Maller)



Malerie Yolen Cohen (Photo by Aviva Maller)



Caroline Temlock-Teichman (Photo by Aviva Maller)



The balloon master, Andrew Moss, and his model, Meital Jeiger. (Photo by Aviva Maller)



David and Sophie Brand gave *tzedakah* at the Children's *Tzedakah* Corner. (Photo by Aviva Maller)



L-r: It's a family affair – Shira, Ofer, Liad and Gili Vadel (Photo by Aviva Maller)



Making phone calls! Peter Lilienthal, Ricky Arbron, Julie Tsirlin and Cheryl Bader Goldblum. (Photo by Aviva Maller)



Even the mayor came to Super Sunday! L-r: Jeff Goldberg, development associate; Liam Raz, a junior volunteer; Rebekah Raz, associate VP; Shoshana Dweck, UJF president; Mayor David Martin; Rachel Dayan, SS chair; Jim Cohen, UJF CEO; and Anat Chavkin, associate VP. (Photo by Aviva Maller)

Thank you to the teens who made phone calls on Super Sunday!

Over 40 teens participated in closing 72 pledges, and raising \$4303 from friends and family.

Super Sunday's Teen Room was extremely helpful for teens, it taught us how we can help give back in our own Jewish community. Getting the youth together proved to us it is more fun to help together, and when we all come together it makes a huge difference. - Rachel Steinmetz

Helping out during Super Sunday, left me with a feeling of accomplishment and purpose, knowing that I, among other teens in Fairfield County, had an impact on the broader Jewish community. - Elishva Cohen

A special thank you to Eileen & Fred Springer for their generous Teen Room matching gift!

Congratulations to the agency incentive prize winners!

First Prize with 47 volunteers

Second Prize with 60% more volunteers than last year's Super Sunday

Third Prize winner of the random drawing

Thank you to all who participated in the Kids' Tzedakah Challenge!

120 children took part in the *Tzedakah* Corner, raising \$1754!

Congratulations to Mrs. Miller's 6th grade class (BCDS) for raising \$370.76, and winning the Kids' Tzedakah Challenge PIZZA PARTY!

THANKS!

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THANKS! To Our Super Sunday Photographers

Aviva Maller and Liat Feller

for making Super Sunday a grand success! We raised over \$340,000 in one day!

Over 120 volunteers, 40 teens and 120 children participated in Super Sunday.

Thank you to all who pledged on Super Sunday. Your generous contribution helped UJF continue to fulfill its mission of building and strengthening the Jewish community and meeting needs at home, in Israel and around the world. We can do this work best when we work together, and that is why, with your help, our Federation and our community is Better Together. Thank you on behalf of our community and all those people you have helped.

Mazel tov and job well done!
UJF Board & Staff
Rachel & Nimrod Dayan
2013 Co-Chairs

Six Area Day Schools Compete in Math Tournament

BY MARA DRESNER

On December 16, Bi-Cultural Day School hosted seventh and eighth grade students from Carmel Academy, SAR Middle School, Westchester Day School, Manhattan Day School and Park East for the CIJE (Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education) Math Tournament.

CIJE's mission is "to enrich... the secular studies education in Jewish day schools throughout the United States, to better help the children face the challenges of the 21st century," explained Judy Lebovits, vice president and director of CIJE, which serves as a network for 148 schools throughout the country.

While the program was a competition, the success of the tournament went beyond the awarding of prizes. "This tournament was a wonderful opportunity for six tri-state area day schools to compete against each other in this high-level math experience. I am incredibly proud of our students' collaborative and supportive behavior of each other and of their peers," said BCDS Head of School Jacqueline Herman.

"The excitement and joy in the students' eyes when they are participating in this and answering questions and connecting with fellow students makes it all worthwhile," said Linda Goldberg, CIJE math and science coordinator. "I happened to be at the door when one of the schools came in.... You could see the excitement of the kids just seeing each other." She said that some of the students were reconnecting, having met at other places, such as camps.

"They're all superstars," said Goldberg. "This gives them a chance to shine and for everyone to show the special gifts



BCDS teacher Emily Tully (far left) and Head of School Jacqueline Herman (far right) posed with students after a multi-school math event hosted at BCDS.

that [God] gave them."

More than just a competition, she called the gathering "a learning experience."

"When the students get together, they are so excited meeting students from another school who are like them," added Lebovits. "I want to express my gratitude to Jackie and the whole Bi-Cultural staff for hosting us."

An event such as this helps students "work together to solve problems. It puts memorization at the bottom of the totem pole, and puts reasoning skills, inquiry skills, independent study and creativity at the top," said Lebovits.

The BCDS students had been preparing for the competition and showed both their knowledge and their camaraderie at the event, supporting both their fellow classmates and their peers from

other schools. The students "shined" in what Goldberg called a "friendly competition."

The BCDS eighth-grade boys were awarded a first-place prize, while the eighth-grade girls were just one point away from a trophy.

"This was an amazing event, and I am so proud of all of our seventh and eighth grade students who participated. All of the students worked hard and achieved amazing results," said Herman. "BCDS was delighted to host this amazing tournament. My thanks to everyone involved and especially to fifth grade teacher Emily Tully for all her hard work in bringing this special event to our wonderful school." Tully is also the advisor for the school's E2K math team, an extracurricular activity for seventh- and eighth-graders. The E2K team took first place in the 2013 CIJE International Math Competition.

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

Carmel Academy Students Restock Food Bank Shelves

Carmel Academy's fourth-grade students visited the Stamford-based food bank just days before Thanksgiving with more than 200 pounds of food donations, as well as close to \$150 they had collected. The students unloaded the food and helped stock the shelves. The community project reflects Carmel Academy's educational philosophy, which is designed to prepare students to take their place as members of their community and citizens of the world. L-R: Maya Fogel, Aronah Swartz, Isaac Malkin and Adam Israel.



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

Kindness. Continued from page 11

David died in 2000, and the Kanareks moved to London "in extreme grief." But Robin never forgot about the toy closet that allowed David to forget his pain for a little while. With a long history of working at Stamford Hospital (as a candy stripper in the 1970s and a diabetes educator in the 1990s), Robin sought to bring the same kind of joy to sick and frightened children on the hospital's pediatric ward. "To honor David, we decided to call the toy closet 'David's Treasure Tree,'" said Kanarek, "because David loved treasure hunts and his favorite book was Shel Silverstein's 'The Giving Tree.'"

Just one hour after David's Treasure Tree opened in November 2004, Robin

was told that a sick child and his parents were terrified by the prospect of surgery and hospitalization. "A nurse took him to DTT, opened the doors," she said, "and he had the same, totally joyous look on his face that I'd seen on David's up at Yale."

UJF Women's Philanthropy, Hadassah, Carmel Academy and Bi-Cultural Day School Toy Drives resulted in a David's Treasure Tree filled with dolls, trucks, Legos, puzzles, crafts, card games, books and board games.

The Treasure Tree has expanded to the ER, Tully Center and the Pediatric Unit on Atlantic Street, and unwrapped toys are welcomed throughout the year.



David's Treasure Tree is full again thanks to all the women, students, teachers and parents who took part in this project.

Young Doctors in Training at Carmel Academy

BY JULIE LAPIN

"I found the femur," exclaimed Carmel Academy third-grader Sam MacDonald, as he looks up from the frog he is dissecting to alert his peers that he successfully identified an important bone in the skeletal system.

Dr. Surekha Shenoy, a Darien-based pediatrician who leads the class, immediately leans over to see the discovery and says, "That's exactly what the femur looks like in your thigh. Now, where do you think the tibia is?" as she helps him maneuver a small scalpel to take a closer look.

Each Wednesday, a group of Carmel Academy second- and third-graders gather to take part in Global Doctors in Training, a hands-on afterschool enrichment class that teaches about the skeletal, digestive and respiratory system through dissections.

Taught by Shenoy and a trained lab assistant, the eight-week afterschool class gives the students project-based, real-life applications to learning about the key systems of the human body. Over the course of the program, the students dissect grasshoppers, earthworms, frogs and a small shark.

"It's interesting, it's cool and it's fun. And sometimes it's a little disgusting!" said third-grader and Stamford resident Evan Roth. "I feel like a mixture of a scientist and a doctor."

"It really makes me feel a lot like a scientist because we are doing what they do," agreed classmate and Stamford resident Sam MacDonald.

What makes the class even more unique is that Carmel's students are learning simultaneously with a group of young school children in Haiti. After spend-



Carmel Academy's second- and third-graders gathered around Darien pediatrician Dr. Surekha Shenoy as they made a discovery while dissecting a frog. The hands-on Global Doctors in Training afterschool class teaches young students about the body's various systems. L-R: Lily Braun (Stamford), Shenoy, Evan Roth (Stamford) and Daniel Diaz (Rye).

ing the class and lab working on their own, the two classes connect via video technology to discuss their hypothesis, observations and conclusions.

Their worlds are different. The students in Haiti live in an orphanage and have little access to the advanced learning tools that the students at Carmel have every

day. Yet, the young students' common love of learning and their innate curiosity transcend their differences. All the children enthusiastically discuss their findings and pepper Shenoy with questions. A translator helps the children communicate.

The program, one of more than 15 afterschool offerings at Carmel, was founded by Level Up Learning - a Greenwich-based organization whose goal is to inspire young global citizenship through shared STEM-based classes.

Amy McCooe, co-founder of Level Up, said she was inspired to start the educational organization after observing what inspires her four children's learning. "Project-based learning with real world applications tend to result in the love of learning," she said. "Exposing children to these concepts at a young age gives them a roadmap to follow as they continue to become passionate about these subjects."

The class not only reinforces high-level scientific topics, but also introduces the importance of globalization and collaborative learning, McCooe said.

"Learning is an iterative process, and I believe where one idea is good, the next idea may be even better," she said. "It's great to have one perspective, but it is better to have more than one perspective. By having a partner school, the children have a chance to learn from one another."

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

Politics in Action at Carmel Academy



Jim Himes, who represents Connecticut's 4th District in the U.S. House of Representatives, visited Carmel Academy in November, where he spent an hour with the fourth- and fifth-graders discussing the many steps and people that enable a bill to progress from idea to law. Carmel's fourth grade students came up with two of their own proposed bills - putting a tax on sugar and lowering the voting age to 16, and presented their bills to Himes. A highlight of the visit was when Himes, using parliamentary language, argued both sides of a debate about the student proposed sugar bill as if he were a representative from both Connecticut and Florida. Above: Himes listened to student Daniel Loren.

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

Woman. Continued from page 10

Appointments for mammograms are recommended. Call 203-276-PINK. Free JCC fitness classes will also be offered throughout the day.

Admission to all events is free of charge, but pre-registration for brunch is required.

To register, visit stamfordjcc.org, register in person at the JCC Welcome Desk, or call 203-322-7900.

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

UConn. Continued from page 8

at New York University. The lecture will take place on Thursday, April 8, at 7 pm, in the MPR (Room 1.08) and is free to the community. To register for any of the above programs, for more information, or to join the Center's mailing list and receive updates on courses and program offerings, contact the Center's office at 203-251-9525 or stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu.

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies is a recipient agency of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, and is also supported by donations from the community.

United Jewish Federation
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

BETTER TOGETHER

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Contact Danielle Alexander at Danielle@ujf.org or 203-321-1373 ext. 104 for more information and Tribefest subsidies.

United Jewish Federation
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

BETTER TOGETHER

Joyful Thanksgivukkah Celebration at BCDS

With Chanukah and Thanksgiving not set to coincide again for another 77,000 years, BCDS celebrated with a schoolwide event on November 27, featuring carnival games, doughnut-eating contests, an assembly featuring the BCDS choir and more.

"Thanksgivukkah offered a perfect dovetailing of our Jewish and American heritages, a most appropriate celebration for a school named Bi-Cultural Day School," said Director of Judaic Studies Michal Smart, who conceived of and organized the day's activities.

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

At right: Founding Principal Walter Shuchatowitz attended the celebration and enjoyed spending time with the first-graders.



At left: Second-graders Matan Siegel, Harrison Browne and Isaac Reicin showed off their Thanksgivukkah "Gobble Tov!" T-shirts.



Eighth-grade students came in early to set up the carnival games, including the doughnut-eating contest.

Read All About It! BCDS Launches First Student Newspaper

BY MARA DRESNER

Today's top story? Bi-Cultural Day School has launched its first newspaper! It started with a conversation between sixth-grader Kaila Rosovsky and Head of School Jacqueline Herman.

"I got the idea for a student newspaper during the summer," Rosovsky said. "I thought that students should know what's going on around the school. A student newspaper is a good way to do that."

It was then added as an elective for middle-school students this fall.

"I was an editor of my college newspaper and knew what a great experience this could be, so I offered to be the faculty advisor," said school librarian Dora Salm, who shares the role with Judaic studies teacher Sarah Hochman. "We thought that we would have a few kids sign up. Surprisingly, on the first day, we had 18 students show up!"

The students discussed different names for the paper. Salm created an online poll for voting and The BCDS Times came out as the winner.

See "Read" on page 18



The staff of The BCDS Times works hard to produce the school's new online publication.

Friends of IDF Surprise Carmel's Head of School

Soldier Son Visits from Israel

When Carmel Academy's Head of School Nora Anderson stood in front of a packed audience at the Westchester/CT Chapter's Friends of the Israel Defense Forces Annual Gala, she had no idea that she was about to get a surprise of a lifetime.

Anderson, whose son, Noam, is currently serving in an IDF infantry combat unit, was asked to speak as a mother of a "lone soldier." She delivered the speech, expounding about the challenges of soldiers who don't have family in Israel.

"I cannot describe how hard it is for lone soldier families to be away from our children during their IDF service... and how much we miss them," Anderson told the group of more than 200 people. "While most soldiers get to go home every few weekends, Noam and his friends have made their 'homes' away from their parents."

"From the time he was in eighth grade, his dream was to serve in the IDF," Anderson said of Noam, who is a 2007 Carmel Academy alumnus. "His rationale, what is right do we in the Diaspora have to visit Israel as often as we wish and not share the responsibility of guarding her.... In his young mind, serving alongside Israelis was the one way he felt he could truly and meaningfully safeguard and support Israel."

She thanked Friends of the IDF for supporting lone soldiers with housing, host families and funds so that they can return home each year to visit their families.

The evening's master of ceremonies, comedian and Carmel parent Joel Chasnoff, joined Anderson on stage at the conclusion her speech. He told both her and the audience that there would be a surprise visit with Noam, via Skype. After some alleged technical difficulties, Chasnoff blurted out, "Don't worry, Noam is coming." And, indeed he did - appearing on stage to the surprise of his parents and the audience.

Dressed in his IDF uniform, Noam delivered a speech



Carmel Academy alumnus and soldier Noam spoke with Carmel Academy students about his experiences in the IDF.

Reading Partners Read Aloud

Reading Partners participated in the 28th Annual Read Aloud Day in Bridgeport. The event, sponsored by the School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport, brings together enough volunteers to read to every single

See "Partners" on page 23



The following Stamford Reading Partners volunteered at Bridgeport's Hallen School and are pictured here in Hallen's library (l-r): Ena Sarkar, Marilyn Agatstein (director of Reading Partners), Asha Gupte, Don Sheetz, Johana Nugteren and Sani Camner.



Carmel Academy Head of School Nora Anderson with her son, Noam, a Carmel alumnus who is currently serving in the Israel Defense Forces.

to the crowd about his decision to join the Israeli army and how the FIDF Lone Soldier program has helped support him over this past year. Noam said he has known since September that the FIDF was planning to bring him home to visit his family, but kept the secret.

He spent his few days at home on official duty, speaking to groups about his decision to serve in the IDF and his experiences doing this job. The day before returning to Israel, Noam visited Carmel Academy, the school that he says sparked his love and commitment to Israel. He visited classrooms, talked to students about life in the army and answered questions. A few highlights included first-graders delivering the blessing *Avenu Sh'Bashamayim* (blessing for the state of Israel) and the second-graders gathering to sing "Hatikvah" (the Israeli national anthem) with him.

"It was a proud day for Carmel Academy as many of Noam's former teachers - several of them Israeli - were able to thank him for his service to a country that the school community holds so dear," said Seth Young, Carmel Academy's associate head of school.

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

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- Pew Study expert Steven Cohen
- Culinary historian Michael Twitty
- Danya Rutenberg, A Top 50 Most Influential Female Rabbi
- Rachel Rosenthal of the Drisha Institute
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Join hundreds of Jews of all ages and backgrounds for a four-day festival celebrating the rich diversity of Jewish culture, life and learning through art, music, text study, film, hands-on workshops, performances and more.

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Experience the power and impact of the Lion of Judah. Join the Lions in New York to hear from world-class speakers, celebrate our philanthropy and change the world. Register now for the International Lion of Judah Conference at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square, September 7-10, 2014.

For more information, please contact Anat Chavkin at 203.321.1373 x108 or anat@ujf.org.

Fordham Environmental Science Professor Speaks at JHSC

On December 19, Steven Stoll, associate professor at Fordham University, was a guest lecturer in the Advanced Placement environmental science class at the Jewish High School of Connecticut. He delivered an historical perspective on climate change, the political landscape of reducing emissions, and ideas on what an individual can do to make a positive impact on the slowing of global warming.

According to Stoll, "Global warming is not a matter of changing lightbulbs

or even driving an electric car, though these certainly save energy and lower emissions. It is more a matter of changing the way industrial society operates and that is a political problem. I think that 350.org is the best organization of its kind, but any environmental organization (Sierra Club, World Wildlife Fund, Green Party) would be better than sitting home and worrying about the weather."

Stoll is listed among the "100 Top Young Historians" by History News Network, George Mason University

(2010), and has published four books and numerous articles. His book, "U.S. Environmentalism Since 1945, A Brief History with Documents," is used as a supplemental text for environmental science classes across the country. "I study the ways people think about resources, capital and how what we call 'The Economy' functions within the larger economy of Earth. I call myself an environmental historian, but my work is related to geography, social ecology and the political theory of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries,"

explained Stoll.

Junior Joel Castle said, "I acquired new knowledge of the environment, while losing some of my old stigmas about climate change. I discovered that climate change is a social issue, and needs to be treated with activism and community involvement."

Junior Batsheva Labowe-Stoll added, "These rising temperatures are a threat to our current world and getting involved politically, by voting or policy changing, truly makes a difference in this pressing issue."

Game On!

More than 300 people attended the annual Bi-Cultural Day School auction on November 17 at Temple Beth El in Stamford. The evening's theme was "Game On!" and included riffs on classic game shows, such as "Let's Make a Deal," "Deal or No Deal" and "Jeopardy!" Live and silent auctions were held, and, for the first time, all bidding for the silent auction was done

via mobile devices. The crowd enjoyed the "Brain Challenge Game" show, part of the fun provided by Hollywood Entertainment. Jennifer Fuchs, Maria Reicin and Robyn Winarsky chaired the fund-raising event, which they said was "highly successful."

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



L-r: Auction Co-Chairs Jenny Fuchs and Maria Reicin, BCDS President Bob Zitter, Head of School Jacqueline Herman, Auction Co-Chair Robyn Winarsky and Director of Development Eve Nachman took a quick break during the festivities.

Alumni parent Alan Kalter, who many people know as the announcer on the "Late Show with David Letterman," served as auctioneer with a little help from BCDS eighth-graders.



Glenn Reicin was one of many winning bidders during the live auction.

J.E.E.P. Class

Born Too Late? Jewish Literature Between the Bible and the Mishnah

10 Wednesday evening classes • 8 - 9pm
January 8, 15, 29, February 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2
\$120 for the series for those not enrolled in Tanakh B'Shanah

Written between 300 BCE and 70 CE, the 13 works of Jewish literature referred to as the Apocrypha were written in the land of Israel in Hebrew or Aramaic, except for two which were written in Greek, most likely in Alexandria. While not included in the Hebrew Bible, these books were preserved in various Christian Bibles. This course will provide an overview of these books, and a taste of some of the most important of them. Beginning with a brief history of the return of some Jews from the Babylonian Exile and the continuing dispersion of many Jews, we will read selections of these books that were written as responses to the Dispersion, the wake of Alexander the Great, the Romans and Herod the Great, and on through the Second Jewish Revolt. The Book of Judith, the Books of Maccabees and more will be explored.

No previous knowledge is needed. Taught by Rabbi Molly Karp at the Stamford JCC.

The required text for this course is *The New Oxford Annotated Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version Fourth Edition* by Michael D. Coogan (Editor), Marc Z. Brettler (Editor) & PHEME PERKINS (Editor).

To register or with questions, email rabbikarp@ujf.org.



Read Continued from page 16

The students meet weekly to produce the online paper.

"We have a lively editorial meeting with everyone brainstorming and coming up with article ideas. The kids then use the rest of our meeting time for writing, researching, editing and fine-tuning their articles and pieces. Outside of our meeting, they also have to find time to schedule and conduct interviews and attend events if necessary for their assignments," said Salm.

Topics and columns include community events affecting students and faculty, sports, opinion pieces, arts and entertainment, fashion, a student or teacher of the week, and even comics and a word search. Recent features included articles about the BCDS Thanksgiving celebration, the annual auction, cross country events and a preview of winter basketball.

"I signed up for the school newspaper so that I could use my writing abilities and to show people that I'm a good writer," said sixth-grader Noah Weinberg. "My favorite part about having a weekly column is that you can write something new each time."

The students use WordPress to upload the content. In just a couple of weeks, the paper had more than 2,800 page views.

The columns have been especially popular with the students. "I love being able to express my love of fashion through writing and to be able to share beauty with the world," said sixth-grader Rina Marlowe.

Salm said the paper offers numerous benefits to the students.

"They're learning the basics of journalism, summarizing their ideas, creating punchy headlines and capturing dynamic photos. I can't think of any other activity in which students learn the art of interviewing people, oftentimes adults and teachers, negotiating and meeting deadlines, and taking all the information they have collected to create a cohesive article. There is also something so gratifying and exciting about seeing your name 'in print,'" she said. "The BCDS Times is an innovative project. For a school our size to put out such a quality product, with so much depth, in such a short amount of time, speaks volumes about our kids' initiative, talent and drive. I am so proud of them!"

Read the latest issue at www.bcdstimes.com.

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

Friendship Circle Outreach Expands

Now for Adults with Special Needs

BY LINDA SPILKA

The Friendship Circle has traditionally been a program oriented toward providing respite to children with special needs and their families. Recently, the Friendship Circle took a first step toward broadening its outreach in the community with a program for adults with special needs. The Friendship Circle is always striving to fill needs in the community and saw it had an opportunity to expand its programming to adults with special needs. The Friendship Circle has identified more than 40 adults, between the ages of 18 and 75, with varied cognitive, physical and mental disabilities who could benefit from such a program. For many of these adults, socialization can be tough and they don't necessarily have a "commu-

nity" that they can feel a part of. With that in mind, the Friendship Circle decided to pilot a bowling event.

Chani Teldon said, "The event was something quite magical. Some of the participants were autistic, others had neurological issues. The Friendship Circle staff, under the supervision and direction of Mrs. Malya Shmotkin, energetically prepared for the event and greeted all participants at Rip Van Winkle, in Norwalk. Typical adults from neighboring communities volunteered, providing hands on assistance and socialization."

The evening commenced with a brief *Havdalah* service led by Rabbi Yisroel Deren and accompanied by his wife, Vivi Deren. Isaiah Rothstein, youth leader at Young Israel of Stam-



Rabbi Yisroel Deren led the Havdalah service with Isaiah Rothstein while the participants sang along.

ford, provided his musical expertise. For many of the young adults with special needs and their parents, as well as older adults with challenges, this was a first experience.

There were many shared moments. Each special-needs friend approached the game in his and her own style; a careful touch, a caress and trial lifting of this or that bowling ball made all the difference. Several jumped up and down repeatedly after throwing a ball toward pins and many celebrated with "high fives" or a personalized dance. "Many of these special friends have limited means of communication," said Teldon. "Parents engaged with their special-needs children with patience and tenderness. Their children reciprocated with detained eye contact, or a gentle facial stroke, a treasured childhood dynamic."

Friendship Circle is primarily a focus

for teens from the Jewish community who volunteer their time to children with special needs and their families. It is the only program within the community that offers these kinds of opportunities and learning experiences to teens. The adults written about in this article have outgrown the ongoing experience of such a paired "buddy." A professional volunteer, who engaged in the bowling event, said, "I was able to fully appreciate a very different, courageous, humbling and heartwarming world of engagement."

The event was sponsored by Miriam and Gideon Pell honoring the memory of Gideon's late father, David Jacob Pell.

For more information about Friendship Circle in Stamford, contact Malya Shmotkin, director of Friendship Circle, at malya@friendshipct.com or 203-329-0015, ext. 414.



Dovi Zucker loves to bowl!

Near East's Oldest, Largest Wine Cellar Unearthed

BY SEAN SAVAGE
JNS.org

A team of archeologists has found what it describes as the "oldest and largest palatial wine cellar" ever discovered in the Near East, in the process unearthing "some festive and even psychedelic surprises" about the Bronze Age.

The cellar was discovered in a ruined palace near the sprawling Canaanite city in northern Israel called Tel Kabri. The site itself dates back to around 1,700 B.C.E. and is located near Israel's modern-day winemaking region in the Galilee and Golan Heights.

"We found at least 40 large one-meter tall jugs that all hold at least 50 liters of wine, totaling 2,000 liters," Dr. Andrew Koh of Brandeis University, one of the leading archeologists on the discovery, told JNS.org.

Koh, an expert in archeological chemistry and classical studies, said the team, which also included Dr. Eric Cline for George Washington University and Assaf Yasur-Landau from the University of Haifa, chemically analyzed each of the jugs. They found that the jugs contained traces of tartaric acid and syringic acid, both common in wine. But they included several other ingredients.

"Not only did they have wine, they also had a craftsmanship to them. This is not just your normal wine; there is some degree of uniqueness to them," Koh said.

Part of this uniqueness included wine fortified with honey, mint, cinnamon bark, juniper berries, and even special cedar tree resins – possibly giving the wine some psychotropic properties. This is similar to medicinal wine found in ancient Egypt.



The ancient wine jugs unearthed at Tel Kabri in Israel. Archeologists describe the discovery as the "oldest and largest palatial wine cellar" ever found in the Near East. (Photo by Brandeis University)

Koh said that for the most part, the wine and ingredients were locally sourced. "The wine, the honey and the various botanical ingredients all look like they come from the Galilee and Golan region, with the resin oils coming from the famous cedar trees in nearby Lebanon," he said.

The earliest-known wine production dates back nearly 7,000 to 8,000 years in modern-day Iran and Georgia. Archeologists have uncovered numerous ancient wineries in the Middle East and Mediterranean region.

Koh said that what makes this find unique, other than its size, is that it provides a "completely different glimpse into ancient feasting and drinking. The find gives us an insight in the cultural and economic aspects of near eastern Canaanite culture in the Middle Bronze Age. For instance the palace, in this case, acted very much like a large household," he said.

See "Wine" on page 23

Calling All PJ Library Parents!

Send us pictures of your family reading PJ Library books!

Sammi and Grant Bradley

Selected pictures will be displayed in the newspaper and all pictures will be on our Stamford PJ Library Facebook page. Email a hi-res jpeg as an attachment to Danielle@ujf.org.

Samson, Eve and Gabrielle Poland

Your photo could be here!

JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES AND SONGS

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien
BETTER TOGETHER

www.facebook.com/StamfordPJLibrary

New Initiative to Improve American Jews' Hebrew Literacy

BY JULIE WIENER

NEW YORK (JTA) – For the first three-and-one-half weeks of the summer, one group of 5-year-olds at Ramah Day Camp in Nyack, NY, was “very quiet” as the children went about the typical camp activities, according to Amy Skopp Cooper, the camp’s director. But in the fourth week, the talking started – in Israeli-accented Hebrew. By the end of the summer, evaluations revealed that most of the 20 children – all

of whom had started out as Hebrew novices – “had gone up multiple levels” in their Hebrew proficiency, Cooper said.

The campers were participants in a pilot Hebrew immersion program at the Jewish day camp 25 miles north of Manhattan. And if leaders of a new group promoting Hebrew literacy have their way, those campers will soon be joined by many others.

The Hebrew Language Council of North America,

which held its inaugural conference in November in New Jersey, aims to make Hebrew a more central part of American Jewish culture. Established by a partnership among several organizations including the World Zionist Organization and the Israeli Ministry of Education, the council is launching as growing numbers of Jewish educational programs are rethinking their approach to teaching Hebrew

See “Hebrew” on page 22

What's On for Adults February & March 2014

You are invited to attend all programs listed regardless of your membership status. See contact info below for more info, to confirm programs and to register.

OPEN EVENTS

JCC

- **SPRING GALA:** “Soiree Under The Stars.” **Saturday Mar. 1.** At Hyatt Regency, Greenwich. Honoring Jeannie & Brian Kriftcher. Cocktails, dinner, dancing and silent / live auction. See article page 3.
- **WOMEN'S HEALTH PROGRAM** **Wednesday, Feb. 5,** 8:30 am - 1 pm. Includes presentations about memory issues and nutrition. Health screenings, massages and free fitness classes available. See article for details.
- **SYLVIA PLOTKIN MEMORIAL MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT.** **Wednesday Mar. 26,** 9:30 am. Friendly competition. Serious Fun. Or join bridge, scrabble or canasta game. For reservations or info, contact Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.
- **METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART TOUR.** **Monday, Mar. 31.** Guided tour of museum highlights. Fee: \$60 /\$55 JCC member includes admission, fees & transportation. Departs JCC at 8 am. For reservations or info, contact Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.
- **MAH JONGG LESSONS.** All levels. **Thursdays,** 1 – 3 p.m. Contact Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org to schedule lessons. Fee: \$35/\$25 JCC member for 5 sessions.
- **LEARN TO CROCHET.** **Tuesdays to Mar. 25** (not 2/4, 2/11, 3/18) 1 - 2 pm. In 4 sessions learn to crochet a scarf or hat. With Madeline Field. Contact Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org. Fee: \$42 / \$32 JCC members for 4 sessions, plus cost of materials
- **NESHAMA YOGA** **Fridays Jan. 24 – Apr. 11.** (not 2/14), 9 – 10:30 am. A fusion of Kundalini Yoga and Jewish spirituality. Led by Jackie Tepper Robinov. Fee \$231/\$198 JCC members for 11 sessions.

TEMPLE BETH EL

- **TEMPLE ROCK CAFÉ** **Saturday, Feb. 1,** 7:30 pm to midnight. Cocktails, dinner, silent / live auction and a great show with Dueling Pianos. See article. Make reservations www.tbe.org. For more info, (203) 322-6901 x 301.
- **PURIM FOR ADULTS.** **Saturday Mar 15,** 7 pm. Adult Megillah reading followed by scotch tasting with Ron Zussman.
- **SHAL-OHM YOGA** **Thursdays,** 5:30 - 6:45 pm Gentle sequence led by Pamela Tinkham with chanting by Cantor Mordecai. All levels welcome/ chair yoga optional. Fee: \$12 p/session / \$10 Member
- **ISRAELI FOLK DANCING: Thursdays.** **Beginners:** 6:45 - 7:30 pm. **Open Session:** 7:30 - 10:00 pm. Fee: \$12/\$10 TBE Member. For info, contact Leng at (203) 912 4086 or leng@ctisraelidance.com

TEMPLE SINAI

- **RUACH SERVICE.** **Friday, Feb. 21.** Musical ensemble of singers and instrumentalists.
- **COOKING CLUB.** **Thursdays, Feb. 13 & Mar. 20,** 6:30 – 9 pm. Join chefs Betsy Stone and Randy Skigen for a holiday odyssey of Jewish cooking. Fee: \$36 per session.
- **MAH JONGG GAMES.** **Mondays** 6:30 – 9 pm & **Wednesdays** 1 – 4 pm. No Fee.

CHABAD

- **ROYAL PURIM GALA.** **Saturday Mar. 15,** 8:15 pm. Megillah reading followed by live music, dancing, entertainment and hors d'oeuvres. \$10 max \$45 family.
- **BOWLING & PIZZA.** For Men Only. **Thursday, Feb. 13,** 8 pm. At AMF Bowling, Norwalk. \$45 p/person.

AGUDATH SHOLOM

CONCERT with Cantor Rafael Bokow and the Bagels. Relaxed evening of Jewish, Israeli & Mexican music. **Saturday Feb. 8,** 8 pm. Fee: \$10.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

AN EVENING WITH JFS, at Temple Beth El, **Sunday, Mar. 30,** 5 pm. Laid back dinner and silent and live auction. Awards presented to Edith Samers & Ed Smith, Alison Wachstein and Adam Batkin. See article for details.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSIC OF THE YIDDISH THEATER Featuring Doris And Elliot Weiss. At Temple Beth El. **Sunday, Mar. 23,** 10:30 am.

ADULT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

UJF'S READING PARTNERS

Read one-on-one with Stamford public school children. One hour a week, either mornings or afternoons. At 11 elementary schools and 2 community centers. Training, literacy focused workshops and support network provided. Contact: Marlyn Agatstein (203) 321-1373 x 115 or Readingpartners@ujf.org.

JCC

- **KOSHER LUNCH PROGRAM FOR SENIORS.** Help set up and serve lunch on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Contact Connie: (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org
- **PURIM CARNIVAL.** Volunteers needed on Sunday Mar. 9, 1 – 4 pm. Contact Virginia Clark (203) 487-0973 or vclark@stamfordjcc.org.

JFS DRIVERS NEEDED

Deliver food from Kosher Food Pantry to individuals. Contact Rebekah Kanefsky: (203) 921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org

JHS (JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

- **Harry Rosenbaum Judaica Library.** At the JCC. Cover 2 hour slot (or more) once a week. Training provided. Call (203) 487-0957.
- **Help protect the pieces of our Jewish history:** Help Jewish organizations retain their history and documents/info about early settlers. Call (203)359-2196.

HADASSAH TEA@2

Every other Tuesday, 2 - 3 pm. In the family lounge, Oncology floor, Stamford Hospital. Volunteers bake desserts, 'schlep' and set up and/or serve tea to patients, family members and staff. For info, contact Connie: ccirilofreeman@gmail.com

SINGLES & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

CHABAD FOR 20s AND 30s

- **Loaves of Love Cooking Marathon.** From kneading dough to peeling potatoes to cooking to packing. Bake challah and make chicken soup for those who need it most. **Sunday, Feb. 23,** 1-3:30 pm. At Chabad.
- **Shabbat Dinner.** Enjoy a four-course meal; be uplifted by Shabbat songs, and inspired by the shared words of Torah. **Friday, Mar. 28,** 7 pm. At the Shemtov Home, 10 Brandt Road. Free.

JEWISH TWENTIES AND THIRTIES

Westport Radical Jewish Culture Festival. **Saturdays, Jan. 25 & Feb. 22.** At Beit Chaverim Synagogue in Westport. Concerts will feature influential Jewish musicians from John Zorn's Tzadik record label. See article for more info or contact Leah Schechter: LSchechter@ctjfs.org

SENIORS

JCC SOCIAL SENIOR PROGRAMS

- Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** at the JCC
- **Tuesdays & Thursdays:** Chair Exercise: 10:15 – 11 am. Senior Life Enhancement Classes: 11 – 11:45 am. Topics cover local to international events, health and wellness, Jewish history, unique personal stories etc.
- **Fridays:** Morning Movie: 10 am. Discussions about Israel with Matan Samovsky: 11:30 am.
- **Kosher Lunch** each day, 12 - 1 pm. Birthday luncheons: Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25.
- **Thursdays:** Fun and Games, 1 - 3 pm. Mah Jongg, Scrabble, Bridge, Pokeno etc. All welcome. Transportation available for Stamford residents. No prior sign up necessary except 2 day advance reservation required for lunch and transportation. Free except suggested donation for lunch (\$3) and transportation (\$1 each way). For info: Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

JCC RETIRED MEN'S CLUB

Meets **Mondays** at the JCC. 10 – 11 am: fellowship, humor, and vibrant discussions (members only) 11 am - 1 pm: speaker and kosher lunch (community welcome). Bridge game after lunch. Reserve lunch (soup & sandwich) 2 days before, \$3 suggested donation. Fee: \$50 p/ year (members free). For info: Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org



ADULT EDUCATION

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2014

You are invited to attend all classes listed regardless of your membership status. See contact info below for more info, to confirm programs and to register.

UJF

Born too Late. Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishna. **Wednesdays through Apr. 2** (not 2/19), 8 – 9 pm. With Rabbi Molly Karp. At the JCC. Overview/explore 13 works of Jewish literature (the Apocrypha) written 300 BCE to 70 AD and preserved in various Christian bibles. From the return of some Jews from the Babylonian exile through Alexander the Great, the Romans and Herod the Great and the Second Jewish Revolt. Fee \$120. See separate ad for more details.

Engage. A discussion about the enduring significance of the State of Israel for contemporary Jews worldwide. The course, developed by the Shalom Hartman Institute, explores key questions such as why should American Jews care about Israel? What values should a Jewish state embody? Each class includes a video lecture by Rabbi Donnie Hartman, followed by a discussion facilitated by rotating local rabbis. **Sundays, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Mar. 2 - Mar. 30,** 9:30 – 11:30 am. At the JCC (Cosponsor). Fee: \$18 per session/\$50 series of 6. Includes breakfast. See separate ad for weekly topics and registration info.

UCONN JUDAIC STUDIES

Spring Lunch & Learn Series. **Thursdays,** noon - 1:30 pm. In the MPR (Room 108). Cost: \$50 p/person, including lunch for the 4 lectures.

- Mar. 6 – Nightfall: German Literature in the early 20th century” by Dr. Sebastian Wogenstein.
- Mar. 27 – “Black Revolution and the Israeli Model. John A. Williams’ Sons of Darkness, Sons of Light (1969)” By Dr. Gregory Pierrot. For April 3 and May 1 lectures and for more details, see the article.

Spring Courses. Open to CT residents at least age 62 to audit the classes for \$15. Classes start Jan. 21. See article for more details.

- Juds/Heb 1101 – Literature And Civilization Of The Jewish People; Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy; **Thursdays, 2:35-5:15 pm**
- Eng 3629 – Introduction To Holocaust Literature; Dr. Fred Roden; **Tuesdays, 5:30-8:10 pm**
- Pols 2998 - Middle East Politics; Dr. Jeffrey Lefebvre; **Tues/Thurs, 1:10pm-2:35 pm**

TEMPLE SINAI

Shabbat Speaker: Barbara Kavadias, Acting Executive Director, ARZA, The Reform Israel Fund. **Friday, Jan. 31,** 7:30 pm. Topic: The role ARZA plays in both Israeli and American Jewish life, Liberal Judaism in Israel, and why it is important for liberal Jews to visit and support Israel.

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

Scholar-In-Residence: Merri Lovinger Arian. **Friday, Feb. 14,** 7:30 pm. The Power Of Music Within Worship. See article for more details.

AGUDATH SHOLOM

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

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

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

HADASSAH

Book Club. **Wednesday, Feb. 26,** 7 pm: “Once We Were Brothers” by Ronald Balson. For location and more info, contact rhonda.greif@gmail.com or (203) 829-9341

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

UJF Jewish Education & Engagement Program (203) 321-1373 www.ujf.org rabbikarp@ujf.org	Temple Beth El 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford (203) 322-6901, ext. 306 education@tbe.org www.tbe.org	Chabad 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford (203) 3-CHABAD, ext. 418 morahleah@chabadstamford.org	Congregation Agudath Sholom 301 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford (203) 358-2200 www.agudathsholom.org	UConn Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies 1 University Place, Stamford (203) 251-9525 www.stamford.uconn.edu/cjmes stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu
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VOICES AND VIEWS

At the U.S. Supreme Court with Justice Kagan

NORINE F. KRASNOGOR
How do I best describe being part of an event, held in the august chambers of the U.S. Supreme Court, where the Pursuit of Justice Award was presented to Justice Elena Kagan on December 16, 2013? (The award was presented to her by the American Association of

Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, of which I am a member.) Where do I begin? As a glorious chapter in American Jewish history and jurisprudence? As a link to my, my sister's and daughter's becoming lawyers? Or hearing Justice Kagan, whose Hebrew name is Leah, identified with the fourth of our tradition's matri-

archs? All occurred to me as I watched Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg present the award to Justice Kagan, the third sitting Jewish Justice at the Court today.

Justice Ginsberg shared anecdotes about Justice Kagan with us immediately following the justice's known accomplishments, i.e. first woman dean of Harvard Law School and first woman solicitor general of the U.S. I did not know (but am not surprised) that as a bat mitzvah at the Modern Orthodox Lincoln Square Synagogue, she argued with the rabbi about where she believed her place should be as she read the week's portion and comment. But I did not expect how deeply interested and moved the justice would be by the meaning of the art award presented to her. The painting had, in Hebrew, the names of the four matriarchs with the four cups of wine symbolizing the seder and Justice Kagan as the fourth woman, Justice. Also evoked was Miriam, recognized by our tradition as having ensured Jewish continuity after we left Egypt.

When I told Justice Kagan that her confirmation response to a question about how she spent Christmas resonated with many of us, she laughingly suggested it would be the way she will be remembered. As you may recall, and I paraphrase, she said that, although she did not specifically remember, she probably went out for Chinese dinner and a movie as Jews often do.

Another historic anecdote, which stunned me, recited by Justice Ginsberg, was that some of the sitting justices turned their chairs around so that their backs would face Justice Louis Brandeis when he spoke.

We Jews have come a long way in a country that, periodically, opened its doors to our grandparents and parents, paving the way for our generation to stand on their shoulders and reap the rewards of their hard work and sacrifices. Yet it is the generational return to the profound models of our matriarchs and patriarchs that ensure our continuing vitality and values.

TEEN VOICES
My Jewish Identity

BY DORON FELLER
The Jewish experience in Stamford is one that is certainly unique. Stamford is home to a multitude of synagogues and Jewish youth groups, which cater to all levels of belief and observance. On a personal level, the community in Stamford has helped to shape my Jewish identity and make me the person I am. I am currently a sophomore at Stamford High School and attend the Jewish Student Connection club there. Every week students, both Jewish and not, meet after school for an hour of fun and engaging Jewish education. For me, JSC is a way to further my previous education at Bi-Cultural Day School.

identities and expand our knowledge of Judaism. From a personal standpoint, I always look forward to and appreciate the time spent by everyone involved in our JSC club.

Having grown up with a fair knowledge of Judaism and my roots, JSC is an invaluable resource in keeping my Jewish Identity strong and thriving. I am who I am today because of the opportunities that the community has provided me.

Hebrew.....

and as signs emerge of low Hebrew literacy among American Jews.

"Judaism is not just a religion, it's a people," said Arnee Winshall, CEO of Hebrew at the Center, one of the groups involved in starting the council. "We talk a lot about 'am Yisrael' [the people of Israel], and a language is part of what distinguishes a people."

Many Jewish educators consider Hebrew a core feature of Jewish identity building. But according to the Pew Research Center's recent study of American Jewry, just 52 percent of American Jews know the Hebrew alphabet and only 10 percent can carry on a conversation in Hebrew. Even among those who attended yeshiva or Jewish day school, the numbers are scarcely better, with only one-third saying they can converse in Hebrew. The number rises to 64 percent for those with 10 years or more of day school education.

Experts variously attribute the low numbers to poor teaching, lack of clarity about why Hebrew language acquisition is important and the few opportunities to speak Hebrew in American Jewish life. "We know many if not most day schools claim to be interested in [conversational] Hebrew proficiency, but the reality is they face limited time and unless you're really committed, it's not easy," said Jonathan Woocher, president of the Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah and a longtime CEO of the now-shuttered Jewish Education Service of North America.

Day school directors face a "dilemma about where to put the emphasis and resources and how to deal with the fact that except for Israelis, there isn't a community of active Hebrew speakers in America," Woocher said.

The emergence in the past six years of publicly funded Hebrew charter schools may help change the equation. There are now 10 such schools in the United States teaching Hebrew language and Jewish culture, but like all public schools they are prohibited from teaching Jewish religion. The schools are "forcing us to up our game," said Rabbi Andrew Davids, head of Beit Rabban, a small, nondenominational Jewish day school in Manhattan now revamping its Hebrew curriculum.

Davids said four Beit Rabban families transferred their children to a new Hebrew charter school in New York

..... Continued from page 20



Campers at Ramah Day Camp in Nyack, NY, participated in a pilot Hebrew immersion program. (Photo by Ramah Day Camp)

City's Harlem neighborhood this year. And while he recognizes his school can never compete with the free tuition of a charter school, Davids said he wants to make sure his school can offer a Hebrew program as good as the charter school. "We don't want Hebrew to be the reason they leave," Davids said.

The new council joins a number of Hebrew teaching efforts that have been percolating for the past decade. In addition to Ramah Nyack, several other Jewish camps have experimented with Hebrew immersion. In Chicago, a program called Moadon Kol Chadash (New Voice Lounge) offers Hebrew-immersion Jewish preschool. And seven suburban public high schools, with support from the Jewish nonprofit Shorashim, are offering Hebrew-language courses.

Hebrew at the Center, or HATC, a 6-year-old organization that recently partnered with Middlebury College in Vermont to create the Middlebury-HATC Institute for the Advancement of Hebrew Language, has helped train teachers for many of the programs. The Middlebury-HATC Institute is launching master's and doctoral programs to train Hebrew teachers and support scholarly research.

Until now, Winshall said, most Hebrew

teachers in the United States have had little formal training and many Jewish day schools recruit local Israelis with little expertise in teaching language.

The Hebrew Language Council is planning to sponsor an annual three-day Hebrew language and Israeli culture conference; form a professional association for Hebrew teachers in North America; convene an online forum for sharing information about various Hebrew programs; and raise money for Hebrew education initiatives.

"We have to bring under one umbrella all the people who care about Hebrew," said Simcha Leibovich, the World Zionist Organization representative in North America.

While Winshall knows of no studies showing the impact of Hebrew literacy on Jewish identity, she said there is significant research on how language mastery influences a sense of connection to the culture in which that language is spoken. "When I spent a year-and-a-half in Israel, I had a different experience than my other American friends there who couldn't speak Hebrew or could only function at the lowest level," Winshall said. "I was invited to different things because people said they didn't want to always worry about speaking English."

Taglit-Birthright Generates \$825 Million for Israeli Economy

(JNS.org) – The Taglit-Birthright Israel program has contributed more than \$825 million to the Israeli economy over its 14-year existence, according to a new study released by the global accounting firm Ernst and Young.

According to the report, the largest portion of the total was from "direct contributions such as travel, admissions and tour guides in Israel," amounting to \$565 million. Other indirect contributions came from local spending and other areas such as extensions and return trips, totaling \$260 million.

"For years, we have conducted research showing our program's effectiveness in promoting Jewish continuity. With this study, we validate the important contribution we make to the Israeli economy," Taglit-Birthright

Chief Executive Officer Gidi Mark said in a statement.

Founded in 2000 as a joint venture between the Israeli government, the Jewish Agency and American donors, Taglit Birthright has brought more than 350,000 young Jews from 54 countries to Israel on 10-day tours.

▶ BIRTHRIGHT BROKE RECORD AS 1,600 PARTICIPANTS ARRIVED IN ONE DAY

(JNS.org) – The Taglit-Birthright Israel program broke its own record with 39 groups, totaling 1,600 Jewish young adults from across the globe, landing at Ben-Gurion International Airport on December 30.

Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Landau and Taglit-Birthright CEO Gidi Mark attended a ceremony for the trip participants, who came from Australia,

Argentina, Russia, the United States, Germany, and Canada, Israel Hayom reported. The participants joined the list of more than 350,000 young adults from 64 countries to have taken the free 10-day trips to Israel.

▶ NETANYAHU TO BIRTHRIGHT PARTICIPANTS: ISRAEL IS YOUR HOME (Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org) – Some 3,000 young Jewish adults from seven countries gathered on January 14 at the International

Convention Center in Jerusalem for the mega-event of the Taglit-Birthright Israel program.

Birthright brings young Jews from around the world to Israel on free 10-day trips. At the January 14 event, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Birthright participants to make Israel their home. "My message to you is short: This is your country. Come back again and again. Welcome home," Netanyahu said.



At right: Taglit-Birthright Israel trip participants met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. (Photo by Taglit-Birthright Israel)

Wine.....

The palace itself stood for more than 300 years and covered an area that encompassed 1.5 acres and was two stories high. In previous years, excavators also discovered a banquet hall that could hold more than 500 people.

Koh said that the jugs of wine likely belonged to a king or ruling elite, and that they would be used to throw a large communal party for family and local elites. "It looks like they would all be having a really good time there," Koh joked.

As for how the wine would taste, Koh speculated that it might be similar to the Greek wine Retina, which has been pro-

duced for thousands of years in Greece and uses pine resins as a preservative.

These ancient drinks have also been recreated. The popular Delaware-based beer brewery Dogfish Head is famous for recreating ancient beers based on chemical analysis from archaeological sites, including from the tomb of King Midas. JNS.org asked Koh if his team would be interested in a similar endeavor.

"Yes, we would very much be willing to collaborate with anybody," he said. "As an archeologist, I am curious by nature, I would definitely volunteer to be the first to try it."

Partners.....

pre-kindergarten through sixth-grade in Bridgeport; that's a total of 622 classrooms in 32 schools. Reading aloud can serve a "vital role" in the progression of literacy skills. Reach Out and Read, a non-profit organization based in Boston,

reports that, "Reading aloud is widely recognized as the single most important activity leading to literacy acquisition."

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

February & March 2014

SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

JFS COUNSELING, MEDIATION & CRISIS

For Children/ Adolescents Diagnosed With ADD/ADHD. Finding Your Focus. Wednesday afternoons. 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 info, contact Eve Moskowicz, at 203-921-4161 or emoskowicz@ctjfs.org

Community and Family Mediation Services. Use third party mediator to help families and individuals resolve conflict. Nominal fees - available on a sliding scale. Resolve conflicts such as an unsatisfactory purchase or repair, landlord dispute, neighbor conflicts, issues with children, marital partners and divorce. Contact Eve Moskowicz, (203) 921-4161 or emoskowicz@ctjfs.org

Counseling: Qualified, licensed professionals provide counseling and psychotherapy to individuals, children, adolescents, families, couples and groups. Affordable fees, based on income, no one is "turned away". Insurance accepted. Contact JFS (203) 921-4161

Individuals / Families in Crisis: Comprehensive services. Assistance with basic necessities, housing, medical, social, legal and financial matters. Fees based on ability to pay. Contact Rita Halpert, JFS (203) 921-4161 #118 or rhalpert@ctjfs.org

Kosher Food Pantry: Non-perishable staples for those in need. Donations welcomed. Call JFS (203) 921-4161

JFS CARING FOR SENIORS

JFS Counseling At-Home for Seniors: A therapeutic, counseling program to serve older community members in their homes. A skilled social worker will help explore a variety of issues, such as adjustments to living independently, improving social interaction, separation from family members and emotional issues. Service can be billed to Medicare. Strictly confidential. For info, contact Eve Moskowicz at emoskowicz@ctjfs.org or 203-921-4161, ext 122.

JFS Home Companions & Certified Nursing Assistants: Trained aides assist seniors with daily activities, chores, and socialization. Services provided hourly, daily or up to 24/7. Contact JFS Home Companion (203) 921-4161.

JFS Residential Cleaning Service: 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. Contact Jodi Maxner (203) 921-4161 or jmaxner@ctjfs.org.

JCC CARING FOR SENIORS

Additional listings on ADULTS WHATS ON page under SENIORS.

JCC Support for Blind and Visually Impaired Adults. Thursday Mar. 20. A guest speaker will talk on topics relevant to vision loss. At the JCC. Reservations required. 1 – 2:30 pm. For info, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman: cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org or 203-487-0983

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

JFS: Jewish Family Service: 203-921-4161; Stamford office: 733 Summer Street, Suite 602; Westport office: 431 Post Road East, Suite 11. www.ctjfs.org
JCC: Jewish Community Center 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford (203) 322-7900 www.stamfordjcc.org

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