



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

JCC Book and Author Conversation Explores the Italian Holocaust

(Courtesy of the JCC) The Stamford JCC's Center for Arts & Culture and the Jewish Book Council are pleased to host author Lisa Scottoline for a Virtual Book & Author Conversation about her book *Eternal* on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:30 pm.

The conversation will be moderated by Beverly Stein, a Vice President of United Jewish Federation.

Scottoline has been researching the Italian Holocaust since her undergraduate days when she took an intimate year-long seminar at the University of Pennsylvania led by Phillip Roth. She was inspired to write about fascism and the Holocaust in Italy especially as that story remains untold in popular fiction.

Eternal is the culmination of a lifetime of #1 bestselling author Lisa Scottoline's work. Scottoline offers a sweeping and shattering epic of historical fiction fueled by shocking true events, the tale of a love triangle that unfolds in the heart of Rome...in

the creeping shadow of fascism.

Elisabetta, Marco and Sandro grow up as best friends despite their differences. Elisabetta dreams of becoming a novelist; Marco is the brash and athletic son of professional cyclist and Sandro is a kind-hearted Jewish mathematics prodigy. Their friendship blossoms to love, with Sandro and Marco both hoping to win Elisabetta's heart. As antisemitism takes root and World War II erupts, they realize Mussolini was only the beginning. The Nazis invade Rome, and with their occupation come more atrocities against the city's Jews, culminating in a final horrific betrayal. Unfolding over decades, *Eternal* is a tale of loyalty and loss, family and food, love and war, all set in one of the world's most beautiful cities at its darkest moment.

Lisa Scottoline is the *New York Times* **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



Lisa Scottoline
(PHOTOCOURTESY OF THE JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL)

Creating A Caring Soul

(Courtesy of UJF) *Creating A Caring Soul*, a three-part series presented by United Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), kicked off on January 19th with a moving presentation by Brad Aronson, author of *Humankind: Changing the World One Small Act at a Time*. Brad's book begins as he learns that his wife has an aggressive form of leukemia. The kindness he experienced from friends, neighbors and family was so integral to his family's managing this crisis that he began to collect stories and examples of how simple acts of kindness can change another person's life. Brad spoke for about 20 minutes and then took questions from the virtual audience.

This series, chaired by JCRC

Committee Member, Nancy Schulman, is designed to give the community different perspectives on how they can be even better community members. The second



Elisa Udaskin

off on January 19th with a moving presentation by Brad Aronson, author of *Humankind: Changing the World One Small Act at a Time*. Brad's book begins as he learns that his wife has an aggressive form of leukemia. The kindness he experienced from friends, neighbors and family was so integral to his family's managing this crisis that he began to collect stories and examples of how simple acts of kindness can change another person's life. Brad spoke for about 20 minutes and then took questions from the virtual audience.

in the series, *Be A Mensch: Unleash Your Power to be Kind and Help Others* by Elisa Udaskin will be presented on ZOOM on February 28th and the concluding presentation will be March 21st with a discussion by Dale Atkins and Amanda Salzhauer about *The Kindness Advantage: Cultivating Compassionate and Connected Children*.

Each of the presentations stands on its own, so if you missed the first one, you can still fully appreciate the remaining

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

5 Candle Lighting

14 Bits & Pieces

19 Life & Legacy

20 International News

21 PJ Library

23 Voices and Views



Third and fifth grade students from Temple Sinai's religious school spent a mid-December Sunday learning about Israel with two visiting emissaries Idan and Lital (center) who are here as part of United Jewish Federation's delegation through the Jewish Agency for Israel. (See story on page 17).



From UJF's Chief Executive Officer

A Race to the Finish

BY DIANE SLOYER

I ask people for money, not for myself, but for those in need. Some people say, "I could never ask people for money." But when you are asking one Jew to help another Jew, this becomes an awe-inspiring task driven by the Jewish values of chesed

(loving kindness), charity (tzedakah), and tikun olam (repairing the world).

With Federation's 2021 Annual Campaign in the books, I am proud to share that we surpassed our goal of 1.4 million dollars. And this is thanks to each and everyone one of you who donated. Because we are community, and this is what we



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

do! With two days to go, we thought we might fall short but our community came together in shared generosity!

Federations have always been there for emergencies around the globe: The economic crises in Argentina and Venezuela; natural disasters in Puerto Rico, the Philippines and in our own backyard with Hurricanes Sandy and Henri; and the recent fires in Colorado.

From hurricanes to rockets, from flooding to earthquakes, the Jewish Federation raises the dollars necessary to help communities hit by devastation and despair.

We also gather our Jewish community together during times when our voices must

be heard. From supporting Israel to standing up to antisemitism on our high school and college campuses, we rally against hate, we come together, we stand strong.

We will never abandon and never forget the Holocaust survivors. Because Holocaust survivors suffered unimaginable horrors in their youth, they require increased care as they age. We must continue to give Holocaust survivors the dignity they deserve. We'll always be here — with social programs, meals, housing and more. Whether in Connecticut, Israel, or the former Soviet Union, we'll offer critical care and companionship if it's needed. And we'll make sure their stories are never forgotten.

No one else will plan the rescue, the relief, the lobbying for funds, the advocacy, the security campaigns. Only Jewish Federation.

In 2021 UJF hired a regional security advisor, Michael Shanbrom, and seven area institutions received state and federal security funds, thanks to the efforts of Jewish Federations Association of CT (JFACT).

You have the power to change the equation.

You can make sure one less Jewish child goes hungry in the Former Soviet Union.

You can make sure one less Holocaust survivor lacks homelike care and medicines.

You can make sure one less child misses out on PJ library books or a Birthright trip.

You can make sure one less person is excluded by the Jewish community.

So, stand up for what you believe in. Get involved, volunteer, be a donor and make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. Help build and strengthen our Jewish community. And save the world. One person at a time.

UJF President's Message

Excerpts from President David Gordon's Address at UJF's Annual Meeting

BY DAVID GORDON

The United Jewish Federation Bylaws require that "The President shall state his or her visions and goals of the Federation... at each annual meeting of the Members." Two years ago, I stood in front of you and laid out my vision and goals for my two-year term. At that time, I could not have envisioned

that I would become the "Covid-President" and would have to deal with all the unique challenges that the pandemic has presented. However, accompanying these challenges were unique opportunities, and I am proud of all we have been able to accomplish.

Two years ago, I set as one goal the strengthening of the long-term viability of our community synagogues and institutions – and this we have done and are continuing to do. UJF has led 11 local institutions through a successful year-one of the Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY program and to date we have collectively secured 300 letters of intent representing an estimated 10+ million dollars in legacy gifts coming to all of our institutions.

I set as a second goal the strengthening of the security of our Jewish community, and this we have done and are continuing to do. This past year, in conjunction with three other Federations in Connecticut, UJF contracted with the Secure Community Network or SCN and hired a Regional Security Advisor, Michael Shanbrom. In addition, with Federation's assistance, in 2021, our local Jewish agencies received over \$400,000 in State and Federation security grants, and with Mike's help, we are gearing



UJF President David Gordon

up for the 2022 process.

The third goal I set forth was to strengthen the fabric of our community by breaking down barriers amongst us, getting us out of our silos and working together as a unified community. As to this goal, we have made some progress, but still have a way to go – primarily because we haven't been able to gather together as a community in person due to

Covid. Perhaps it is because I have not yet accomplished this goal, that I have been "left back" to complete my work and asked to take another year as your President, as you will see when you look down at the slate of nominees for this evening.

So, what are my visions and goals for 2022? Well, I don't want to be left back again, so you can be sure that working toward UNITY and collaboration in our community is highest on my list. As you know, UJF is unique in that we are not a typical membership organization and we don't affiliate with a particular religious movement. So how do we come together, respect our differences, and work toward a unified Jewish community? This is an ongoing challenge. On a leadership level we have been running Federation's President's Council, which has enabled our community leaders to begin dialogues about common concerns and get to know each other as community members and neighbors. On a communal level, we will work toward unity and collaboration through community events such as Shabbat Across Stamford, a Yom HaShoah commemoration, learning events such as Tapestry, if possible a community trip to Israel, and more. We are too small

a community to survive being so divided. We MUST find a way to work together and support each other. **As the organization of and for the Jewish Community, in good times, and in bad, UJF is there for the Jewish community – everyone, the whole Jewish community, regardless of age, regardless of political affiliation, regardless of their views on Israel or involvement with religion: and the whole Jewish community must be there for UJF.** While every other organization raises money for itself, we raise funds not only for community-building, but to help the other Jewish organizations in our community survive and thrive. That is what LIFE & LEGACY is about. That is what the Secure Community Network is about. That is what our emergency COVID campaign was about. And we are there not just for our own Jewish community, but for the broader Jewish community in the US and abroad. That is what our emergency campaigns have been about for worldwide Jewry including Ethiopian Jewry, Israel, Argentinian Jewry, and others.

So what else is on the plate for 2022? As many of you know, in the past year there has been a large influx of Jewish individuals and families into our community. Recognizing this as an opportunity, I am very proud to say that UJF reinstated its Young Leadership or NextGen Division which appointed a steering committee and is under the professional guidance of Mel Vorm. NextGen has already had a couple of very successful programs, and we are looking forward to 2022 as a year of a flourishing NextGen which will be the training grounds for our future leadership.

UJF is also in the middle of formulating a strategic plan for the next 3-5 years.

With appreciated cooperation from all our community organizations, over 1000 community members took a short survey to provide data for the strategic plan, and we are now in the interviewing stage with individuals and focus groups to help us understand what the community wants UJF to be and to do. The strategic plan will help guide us forward.

There are so many other things that UJF has done over the past year and will continue to do moving forward, such as our Jewish Community Relations Council (the JCRC) which has been extremely active in reaching out to the broader Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community as well as to Connecticut as a whole; PJ Library programming for children, a new PJ Grandparents group, and Affinity Group programming for medical professionals, lawyers, business professional, and Boomers; the New Jewish Voice newspaper, Reading Partners, Dignity Grows, 3Square, etc. All of these programs, as well as many new programs of our recipient agencies which would not exist but for UJF's funding have been made possible through your generous donations and through legacy gifts.

And with G-d's help and your help, (and I am sincere in saying that we really need your help – not just your funds, but your commitment to work together and break down barriers), I look forward to a very successful end of year annual campaign over the next two weeks, and to a very successful 2022... so that one year from now you will permit me to graduate and hand the reins over to new leadership.

Thank you.

“Lyrics of Gratitude” at Temple Sinai

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) This year’s Temple Sinai Gala, Lyrics of Gratitude, will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2022. The Gala will honor Cantor Micah Morgovsky. For 13 years, her voice has filled Temple Sinai with beautiful music, and her spirituality and passion for Judaism has inspired many. The Temple is also delighted to celebrate Jayne Vasco, the synagogue’s dedicated office manager, for her devotion and valued work at Temple Sinai over the past 23 years.



Cantor Micah Morgovsky



Jayne Vasco

The evening will be the temple’s first hybrid gala and will include an in-person event with cocktails and dinner, as well as a virtual option that will give attendees the opportunity to acknowledge and show appreciation for the honorees.

In addition, Temple Sinai is excited to announce that celebrated artist, Elana Arian, will entertain all attendees. Elana is one of the leading voices in contemporary Jewish music.

The fun-filled evening will also include a silent auction, paddle raise and raffle that will be held virtually in the week leading up to the Gala and

peak that evening. All donations support the spiritual, educational and social programming at Temple Sinai and the community at large.

Cantor Micah Morgovsky has served as the Cantor of Temple Sinai since 2008. Through the Hebrew Union College School of Sacred Music, Cantor Morgovsky received a Master of Sacred Music in 2005 and was ordained in 2006.

At Temple Sinai, Cantor Micah encourages everyone to find their own voice - from the youngest singers in RuJu (youth choir), to the volunteer adult choir (Kolot Sinai) and Ruach (musical ensemble) and she participates in numerous community-wide events

throughout the year. Cantor Morgovsky lives in Riverdale, NY with her husband, Benjamin Spratt, Senior Rabbi at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Manhattan, and their children, Ayalah and Jonah.

Jayne Vasco has been a committed member of the Temple Sinai staff for 23 years. Prior to joining the Temple, Jayne worked in sales in corporate America for many years. Jayne has been a long time New Canaan resident along with her husband, Gerard, and their Bichon, Ozzy. Their two adult children, Gerard and Jillian, both live in Manhattan. Outside of the temple, Jayne is an active member of her parish, Saint Aloysius, in New Canaan.

Moira Morrissey, Temple Sinai’s President, offers congratulations to both

honorees saying, “We are deeply grateful to Cantor Micah and Jayne Vasco for their many years of service to our *kehilah kedoshah* - sacred community. They have both made tremendous contributions to our congregation, particularly during the past two years. Cantor Micah helped create new virtual forms of ritual and Jayne navigated multiple challenges to ensure that our spiritual home came into our physical home. Thank you, Cantor Micah and Jayne.”

To reserve a ticket for the Temple Sinai Gala, Lyrics of Gratitude, or to place a tribute ad in honor of Cantor Micah Morgovsky or Jayne Vasco, please RSVP online at TempleSinaiStamford.org. For more information about the Gala, contact Shelly Welfeld at assistant@templesinaistamford.org.

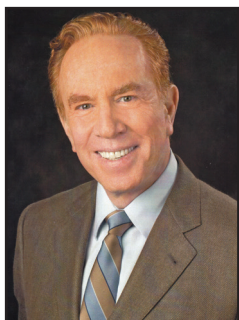


United Jewish Federation

To advertise, contact Diane Sloyer at: dianesloyer@ujf.org or (203)321-1373

Annual Temple Rock to Honor Alan Kalter, z'l

(Courtesy of TBE) Temple Rock, an annual fundraiser for Temple Beth El since 2007, will be held this year on Saturday, March 19 as a hybrid event. This year’s theme “The World Awaits” will feature a cocktail hour, dinner and dancing and entertainment by musical guests.



Alan Kalter z'l

The Annual Auction held as part of the event will all be online this year. It will offer everything from exotic vacations to Shabbat dinners and gift cards for area restaurants to name just a few of the items.

This year’s Temple Rock will honor Alan Kalter, z'l, who for many years emceed the live auction and very successful paddle raises. Alan, a long-time member of TBE, served as president of the congregation from 1987-1989. Alan was the announcer on the “Late Show with David Letterman” from September 1995, and was with Letterman until his final show on May 20, 2015.

Emcee of the evening will be Matt Scott, a dear friend of Alan Kalter, who currently serves as a television weekday evening meteorologist and featured reporter at WTIC-TV FOX61 in Hartford.

Senator Richard Blumenthal, in addressing the opening session of the 117th Congress, remembered Alan Kalter; and as part of the Congressional Record stated, “Alan’s great humor and thoughtful spirit touched countless lives. He brightened the days of both friends and strangers without a second

thought. Alan was also guided by his deeply rooted values and dedicated himself to giving back to his community.”

“Beyond his fame and his golden voice, Alan was a true mensch, who was deeply committed to Jewish values and the Jewish people and was especially devoted to this, his home community,” Rabbi Joshua Hammerman said in announcing his death.

Temple Rock, open to the community, is being chaired this year by Barbara Rothstein and Dana Horowitz. Dana Weinberg is auction chair. Reservations are available online at www.tinyurl.com/templerock22.

For further information contact Steven Lander, TBE Executive Director at execdir@tbe.org or 203-322-6901, ext. 304.

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

Dental Care Kids Open 7 Days A Week!

Board Certified Dentists and Orthodontists for Children and Adolescents!



IV sedation for high fear & special needs children





www.DentalCareKids.com • www.DentalCareOrthodontics.com
 1500 Summer St., Stamford, CT
 Call Today for New Patient Special Offers!
203.883.4457

Celebrate Women's History Month

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation, The Stamford JCC's Center for Arts & Culture and the Jewish Book Council are pleased to host Janice Kaplan for an in-person Book & Author Conversation on Tuesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the JCC. "It is fitting that Janice Kaplan, bestselling author and journalist, will be speaking about her book, *"The Genius of Women - From Overlooked to Changing the World"*, during Women's History Month. Her new



Janice Kaplan

book *The Genius of Women* will change how you think of women's achievements, shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.

Why do 90 percent of Americans believe that geniuses are almost always men? Janice Kaplan explores the powerful forces that have rigged the system - and celebrates the women geniuses, past & present, who have triumphed anyway.

Janice sets out to determine why the extraordinary work of so many women has been brushed aside. Using her unique mix of memoir, narrative, and inspiration, she makes surprise discoveries about women geniuses now and throughout history from music to robotics.

Through interviews with neuroscientists, psychologists, and dozens of women geniuses at work in the world today, she proves that genius isn't about talent. It's about talent recognized, nurtured, and celebrated. In *The Genius of Women*, you'll learn how these women ignored obstacles and broke down seemingly unshakable barriers.

Widely known as a writer, magazine

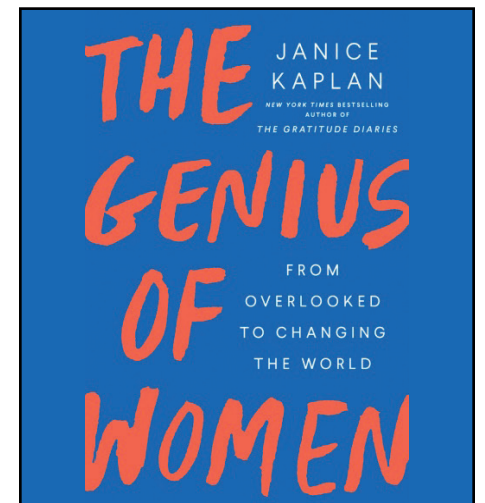
editor, and keynote speaker, Janice is the author of fifteen books, including the *New York Times* bestseller *The Gratitude Diaries*.

As the Editor-in-Chief of *Parade*, the most widely read publication in America, Janice worked with major political figures including President Barack Obama and interviewed stars including Barbra Streisand, Matt Damon, and Daniel Craig. Janice was deputy editor of *TV Guide* magazine and executive producer of the *TV Guide* Television Group, where she created more than 30 television shows that aired primetime on major networks. She began her career as an award-winning producer at ABC-TV's *Good Morning America* and has appeared dozens of times on TV shows including *Today*, *Good Morning America*, *Entertainment Tonight* and *CBS This Morning*.

Tania Wilk Weiss will moderate the conversation. A multi-Emmy Award winning documentary producer at Alan Weiss Productions, Tania changed careers to work in the not-for-profit world. Longtime facilitator of the JCC Book Club, Tania is Executive Director of The Cancer Support Team, in Westchester

County, N.Y. "We are so happy to have Tania to moderate the talk, which she has done so successfully in the past," said Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Arts & Culture & Seniors at the JCC.

The program is free to the community. Registration required at www.ujf.org/women. For more information, please contact Dianesloyer@ujf.org or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.



"The Genius of Women - From Overlooked to Changing the World"

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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

www.ujf.org for updates and donations

David Gordon President
Diane Sloyer CEO

Advisory Committee

Meryl Gordon Chair
Allison Greenbaum, Meryl Japha, Arlene Rosen,
Nancy Schulman, Ellen Weber

Jewish Link Media Group

The Jewish Link Media Group edits and publishes The New Jewish Voice.

Moshe Kinderlehrer Publisher
Adam Negnewitzky Design & Layout
Gila Negnewitzky Bookkeeper
Risa Lefkowitz Advertising Representative

Opinions

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

Letters

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

Kashruth

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

HOW TO REACH THE EDITOR:

Mail: Sandy Golove
1035 Newfield Ave. - Suite 200
Stamford, CT 06905-2521
E-mail: sandy@ujf.org
Phone: (203) 912-9945

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

HOW TO REACH THE ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE: DIANE SLOYER

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

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

Phone: (203) 912-9945
E-mail: sandy@ujf.org

Women's Philanthropy Annual Education Symposium

(Courtesy of UJF) Women's Philanthropy of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and UJA-JCC of Greenwich will join together on March 9th for the Women's Education Symposium. The annual event has a long history of bringing together women from Lower Fairfield County for a morning of enlightenment, education and socializing.

The event will begin at 9:30 am and will be held at the YMCA of Greenwich, 259 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich. At the time of this printing the plan is to gather in person, but please check the registration page for updates.

"I always look forward to the Education Symposium," shared Women's Philanthropy President Tara Shapiro. "It is an opportunity to see friends and meet new people and hear from some exciting authors," she continued.

Both United Jewish Federation and UJA-JCC are members of the Jewish Book Council and are thrilled to partner together to have the following four authors join the symposium this year.

LADYPARTS: A MEMOIR DEBORAH COPAKEN

Side-splittingly funny one minute, a freak horror show the next, Copaken's irreverent inventory of both the female body and the body politic of womanhood in America is an era-defining memoir.

SPLIT MILK COURTNEY ZOFFNESS

Vulnerability soaks through Zoffness's collection of essays reliving her childhood anxiety disorder as manifested in her firstborn, enduring brazen sexual advances by a student, grappling with her young son's cop obsession, challenging her Jewish faith and much more.

DARE TO SPEAK: DEFENDING FREE SPEECH FOR ALL SUZANNE NOSSEL

This urgent primer by the CEO of PEN America equips readers with the tools needed to speak one's mind in today's diverse, digitized and highly divided society without resorting to curbs on free expression.

IRMA STERN AND THE RACIAL PARADOX OF SOUTH AFRICAN MODERN ART: AUDACITIES OF COLOR LANITRA M. BERGER

Spanning the Boer War to Nazi Germany to apartheid South Africa and into the #RhodesMustFall movement, this illustrated chronicle of Irma Stern shows why she became South Africa's most prolific painter of Black,

Jewish, and Colored (mixed-race) life while maintaining controversial positions on race.

Registration can be found at www.ujf.org/symposium. Tickets are \$54 and sponsorship opportunities are available at \$118 and include a choice of a book. For more information contact dianesloyer@ujf.org.

Annual Women's Education Symposium Featuring:

- Suzanne Nossel** *Dare to Speak*
- Deborah Copaken** *Ladyparts*
- Courtney Zoffness** *Spilt Milk*
- LaNitra M. Berger** *Irma Stern*

Temple Sinai Brings Us Forward

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) Temple Sinai will present a conversation with Jodi Rudoren, Editor-in-Chief of *The Forward*, at the Joan Bruder Danoff Lecture Series on Sunday, April 3 at 4:00 pm. The program can be attended either in person or virtually.



Jodi Rudoren, Guest Speaker

Rudoren will discuss Jewish Community, Division, and the Media. In this tumultuous time, to what extent does Jewish media have a responsibility to help heal divisions in the American Jewish community? Rudoren's views on the current polarization of Jewish communities and the role of journalism as

a potent antidote have been informed by her extensive career in journalism.

She became Editor-in-Chief of *The Forward*, the nation's oldest independent Jewish news organization, in 2019, after more than two decades as a reporter and editor at *The New York Times*. In her current role, she led the transformation of the storied 123-year-old institution, a non-profit, to its digital-only presence.

As Jerusalem bureau chief of *The New York Times* from 2012 to 2016, Rudoren covered two wars between Israel and Gaza, Israeli elections, innumerable terrorist

attacks, and Secretary of State John Kerry's failed peace talks. She also wrote extensively about the Iran nuclear deal, struggles over Israeli national identity, and the deterioration of Palestinian politics.

Rudoren's journalistic experience has ranged from local and regional in places like New York and Chicago to the international arena, giving her a unique perspective on the layers and meaning of community. Rudoren was a *New York Times* national education correspondent, as well as education editor, deputy international editor and deputy Metropolitan editor. She was the executive producer of the multimedia series "One in a Million," a project that profiled interesting New Yorkers, which won an Emmy.

Temple Sinai looks forward to hosting Ms. Rudoren and seeing the media and Jewish world through her lens at this critical time in our own communities.

The annual Danoff Lecture series honors Joan Danoff. She and her husband Dr. Stuart Danoff are longtime Temple Sinai members. It was endowed by their three children, Will Danoff, Suzy Poneman and Nancy Danoff. Joan Danoff is a retired elementary school teacher in the Stamford Public Schools and Stuart Danoff is a retired Stamford pediatrician.

To register for this discussion email Benjamin.magidson@yahoo.com.

For more information call Temple Sinai (203) 322-1649.

JHSFC Programs Have Gone International

(Courtesy of JHSFC) Please join The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) on Sunday, February 27 at 11:00 am for a Zoom program focusing on the lives and travels of Romanian Jews. Jill Culiner, writer, critical artist and photographer will speak about Romanian Jews, from her home in a small village in France. Although she was born in New York and raised in Toronto, Culiner has spent most of her life living in Europe. Her acclaimed photographic exhibit about the First and Second World Wars toured Europe and Canada under the auspices of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNESCO.



Jill Culiner

For the JHSFC program, Culiner will direct her discussion to her non-fiction books. *Finding Home in the Footsteps of the Jewish Fusgeyers* will be her primary focus along with her book *A Contrary Journey*, which focuses on the villages and daily life of the Jews in the mid-1800s.

Culiner first became interested in Romanian Jews after translating a Yiddish manuscript at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Her talk will concentrate on the conditions of life in Galicia and Russia that resulted in so many families settling in Romania in the earlier part of the 19th century. Romania was seen as the ideal country back then. However, conditions in these Romanian towns were not as ideal as they hoped. The Fusgeyers were the thousands of Romanian Jewish men and women who were no longer willing to tolerate antisemitism and decided to leave. From 1899 to 1907 they headed to North America. They were destitute but resolute. They supported themselves by giving theatrical performances or by selling stories and poems as they made their way west across Europe. Tales of

walking across Europe are just part of romantic family lore.

If your family is not from Romania but a different part of Eastern Europe, your story is probably very similar. Ms. Culiner stated that in Russia people walked to the border and they sometimes walked some distance after that, but generally they took trains or peasant's carts. Walkers were considered suspicious and they could be sent back to where they came from. That was too much risk for many people.

"I was fascinated with Ms. Culiner because my Dad's family came to NY in the early 1900's from Romania. I really don't know a lot about their home but only that there were strict laws for the Jews. So I hope I learn a lot about my father's old country," shared Marcie Schoenfeld, a member of JHSFC.

This program is available to all participants free of charge. For more information, please contact us at info@jhsfc-ct.org or 203-359-2196 or check out the website <http://jhsfc-ct.org>.

Providing Senior Care Throughout Southern Connecticut



Call 1-833-JSS-LINK (577-5465) to speak with a Care Advisor about these services and others...

- Skilled Nursing
- Assisted Living
- Medical Home Care
- Hospice
- Companion Care
- Outpatient Therapy
- Adult Day Program
- Rehabilitation Services



Jewish Senior Services®
excellence in our home and yours

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus • www.jseniors.org

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

February 4	4:57 pm
February 11	5:06 pm
February 18	5:14 pm
February 25	5:23 pm
March 4	5:31 pm
March 11	5:38 pm
March 18	6:46 pm
March 25	6:54 pm

Gallery@The J Welcomes New Exhibits

(Courtesy of the JCC)

Artist Deo Lutwama's "African Art Exhibition – A Retrospective" will be the featured exhibit at the Gallery@The J Wine & Art Opening Reception on Thursday, February 3 at 6:30 pm.

Born in Uganda, East Africa, Deo Lutwama came to appreciate the beauty of nature and art as being part of himself at an early age. He paints in different mediums, oils, acrylics and pastels, to depict the daily life, folklore and wildlife of Africa.



"Trukana Maids" (oil on canvas) by Deo Lutwama. (PHOTO COURTESY OF DEO)

Deo studied Interior Design-CIDA/FIDER accredited and Fine Art at Kean University in Union, NJ. After graduation, Deo spent some years working as a designer for New York Expo Designs. Through his work for non-profit organizations for people with developmental disabilities, he better connects his life as an artist to making a difference in the lives of people.

An award winning versatile and talented artist, his work has been exhibited at The Passaic County House in New Jersey, The Passaic County Arts Center - John W. Rea House in New Jersey, The National Museum, Kampala-Uganda, Essex County College Art Gallery, and Kean University School of Industrial Design in New Jersey.

"The JCC is so pleased to bring Deo Lutwama's beautiful

artwork here for everyone to enjoy," says Nancy Schiffman, Director of Arts & Culture at the JCC.

The Stamford Photography Club's exhibit "Spring is in the Air" will be the featured exhibit at the Gallery@The J Wine & Art Opening Reception on Thursday, March 3, at 6:30 pm.

The juried exhibit will present photography from 24 members.

The Stamford Photography Club is a non-profit organization that operates for the good of the community and all photographers, to foster photography as an art, a hobby, or a vocation. These goals are accomplished by providing instruction, education and by sharing knowledge and experience. A major element of the meetings is the showing and critiquing of members' work. Often guest speakers give presentations of their work or discuss various aspects of photography.

A small group of photography enthusiasts founded the Stamford Camera Club in 1945. It was later renamed The Photography Club of Lower Fairfield County and is now known as the Stamford Photography Club (SPC). The organization has grown to be a leading photography club in the area attracting members from Fairfield County in Connecticut, and Westchester County in New York. Over the years, there have been numerous milestones initiated within the Club that illustrate the changes that advancing technology has brought to this art form.

Caroline Temlock Teichman, an SPC member and member of the JCC's Gallery@The J Committee says, "We are so pleased to be exhibiting at the JCC so we can showcase our members' creativity for the community."

The Gallery@The J Wine & Art Opening Receptions are free and open to the general public.

Registration is required at stamfordjcc.org. For further information contact Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Arts & Culture and Seniors at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.



"The Power of One" by Steve Labkoff. (PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE LABKOFF)

JCC Book and Author Conversation Explores the Italian Holocaust

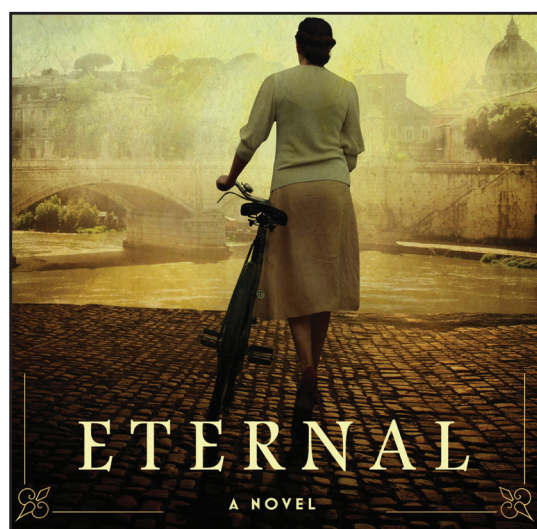
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bestselling author of 33 novels. She has 30 million copies of her books in print in the United States and has been published in 35 countries. Her books have landed on all the major bestseller lists. She also writes a weekly column with her daughter, Francesca Serritella, "Chick Wit", for the Philadelphia Inquirer. She has served as President of the Mystery Writers of America and was the recipient of the Edgar Award, their most prestigious honor. She has taught a course she developed, "Justice in Fiction", at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, her alma mater.

"We are very excited to have Lisa Scottoline join us for what promises to be an illuminating

conversation," said Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Arts & Culture and Seniors at the JCC. Members Free, Community \$10.

For more information, please contact cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org



Creating A Caring Soul

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

two. To register for the remaining two presentations, please go to ujf.org/caringsoul. For more information please contact Sharon Lewis, slewis@ujf.org.



United Jewish Federation
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN
BETTER TOGETHER



Join us on International Holocaust Memorial Day

January 26th • 7:30pm • ZOOM

MEL LAYTNER

Second Generation Survivor

WHAT THEY DIDN'T BURN

Melding the intimacy of personal memoir with the rigors of investigative journalism, **What They Didn't Burn** also is an inspirational story of resilience and redemption, of desperate refugees turned hopeful immigrants rebuilding shattered lives in America, all the while struggling with the lingering trauma that has impacted their children to this day.

Free of Charge • RSVP at www.ujf.org/Laytner

For further information please contact Sharon Lewis • slewis@ujf.org • 203-321-1373 ext. 104





Musician and Mentalist Headlines TBE's Purim Celebration



Musician and mentalist, Gary Ferrar.

(Courtesy of TBE) On Wednesday March 16, Temple Beth El will celebrate Purim with a special Family Megillah Reading at 6:00 pm and the traditional costume parade during services. An adult Megillah Reading will be held at 8:00 pm.

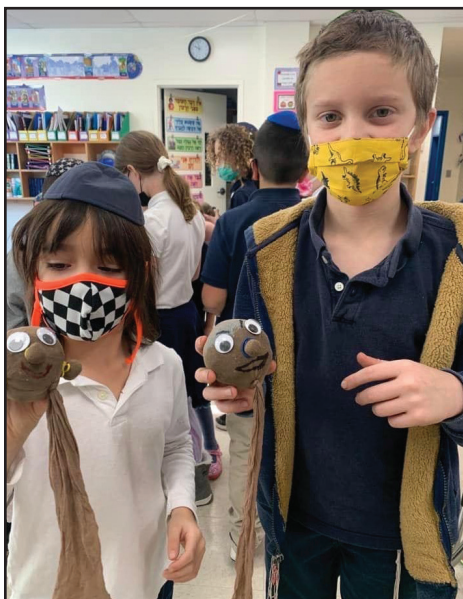
The featured entertainer at this year's Purim service and celebration will be acclaimed magician and mentalist Gary Ferrar for a performance full of unexpected moments and unique effects. Ferrar has appeared on NBC, USA, and the Travel Channel, and is excited to "blow our minds" in this performance filled with comedy and audience interaction for both children and adults.

Ferrar draws on his love for

theater and improvisation in more than 300 performances each year. From national television appearances on NBC, Fox News, and USA, to performing for celebrities such as Tom Brokaw, Howard Stern, and Robert De Niro and Howie Mandel on Season 7 of *America's Got Talent*, Gary has been wowing audiences for over a decade. Although he has over 1 million views on YouTube, his favorite performance style is performing for live audiences.

The program is sponsored by the TBE Sisterhood and Men's Club. The community is invited to attend at no charge. For more information, contact Steven Lander, Executive Director 203-322-6901, ext. 304.

TU B'SHVAT



1st and 4th grades at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy teamed up and made grass heads in honor of Tu B'Shvat.



The pre-k class of Sara Walker Nursery School at the JCC Stamford, used UJF's 3SQUARE left over boxes to create a beautiful tree for Tu B'Shvat.

Celebrate Purim With Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) From Megillah readings, to *mishloach manot* (Purim packages), to their famous Purim bashes and festive meals, Chabad of Stamford has your Purim needs covered every year. This year will once again look a little different from previous years, but promises to include all the joy and spirit of the celebration.

On Sunday, March 6th, Chabad will hold its annual Family Hamentashen Bake Fest from 10:00 - 11:00 am. Families can get into the holiday spirit by preparing hamentashen with delicious fillings and toppings.

Throughout the day on Monday, March 7th and Tuesday, March 8th, volunteers are invited to help pack *mishloach manot* packages. A *mishloach manot* packing party will be held for teens on March 8th from 7:00-9:00 pm.

On Wednesday, March 16th at 7:30 pm, Chabad of Stamford will host its annual Purim bash. Megillah readings will be held mostly outdoors followed by Purim festivities for the entire family with music, entertainment, a bar, food, and a special interactive kids' Megillah reading. There will be prizes for everyone in a costume!

Chabad hopes to bring the community together for a special *Chagigah* (celebration)

in a safe way by holding Megillah readings throughout the evening and during the following day in small groups, outdoors. If you would like to RSVP for a Megillah reading, or if you are homebound and would like to arrange a reading, please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org. On Thursday, March 17th, starting at 5:00 pm, Chabad will host an outdoor Purim seudah (festive meal) where the community is invited to join Chabad for a *l'chaim* (a toast), a "Wild West Texan BBQ" and some good Purim spirits.

One of the four mitzvot celebrated on Purim is to send gifts of food to friends in celebration of the spirit of Jewish unity and joy. *Mishloach Manot* (or *shalach manos*) are gifts that contain two different ready-to-eat foods and are sent to a friend or community member on the day of Purim. Every year, Chabad of Stamford sends almost 1000 *Mishloach Manot* to Jewish families all over Stamford and Fairfield County and will do so again this year. Greeting letters can be included in the gift packages to friends, family and community members for as little as \$18 a listing.

For more information about Chabad of Stamford's Purim Happenings, go to www.StamfordChabad.org or contact programs@stamfordchabad.org.



United Jewish Federation
OF STAMFORD • NEW CANAAN • DARIEN



UJF's PJ Library & Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy
Invite you to:

A Family Purim Celebration!

Sunday, March 16th
2:00pm

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford



Sign up at www.ujf.org/pjpurim
(For kids birth to six, siblings welcome)

For more information contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org
or Miriam Sperber at msperber@bcha-ct.org

We Are Makers: Women Making History

BY SHARON LEWIS,
JCRC DIRECTOR

During Chanukah, United Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), participated in the national, regional and state campaign called "Shine A Light on Antisemitism". Through social media posts, billboards and an informational initiative, the campaign drew attention to the rising levels of antisemitism in Connecticut and across the country. You may have seen billboards along I-95 or trucks driving through the streets with the "Shine the Light" banner.

Governor Lamont held a press conference in New Haven on November 29th issuing a proclamation to raise awareness about antisemitism. Professionals and lay leaders from all Connecticut Federations were in attendance as were other allies. The campaign concluded on December 6th with a webinar presented by the seven Federations of Connecticut, the JCRC's, the NAACP, the Urban League and the Archdiocese of Hartford which included a presentation by Oren Jacobson, co-founder of Project Shema in which he discussed the history of antisemitism throughout the world. "Many people think about antisemitism as starting with the crucifixion of Jesus and ending with the Holocaust. The truth is, anti-Jewish ideas existed before this moment. And unfortunately, they exist long after the Nazis were defeated," Jacobson said.

On January 11th, an event called "Building Bridges with Books (BBB)" occurred at the Ferguson Library which included a panel discussion of *The Midnight Library*, by Matt Haig. Over a hundred people attended via ZOOM.



Sharon Lewis

The panel included Rev. Dr. Michael Christie, Chaplain Supervisor for the Department of Corrections; Rabbi Moshe Kurtz of Congregation Agudath Sholom and Dr. Mariana Medrano. The panel touched on themes from the book including living your best life, managing regrets, and spirituality.

Prior to the panel discussion, small book discussion groups allowed participants to share their thoughts and begin to build bridges of understanding with each other. BBB is part of the JCRC's continuing efforts to strengthen relationships with other faith and cultural communities. "We are so happy that this first initiative has begun the process of building bridges and we look forward to this event being even bigger next year," said Lorraine Kweskin.

Looking forward, the JCRC will be working with the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) to advance the legislative agenda that includes encouraging legislation to adopt anti-BDS legislation, additional security funding for houses of worship and adoption of a Holocaust education curriculum.

In February, JCRC will once again participate in Jewish Federation of North America's Jewish Disability Awareness Day, a full day of advocacy and education regarding making Jewish communities more inclusive to those with disabilities. For more information, please see the ad in this issue.

The JCRC is always looking for additional people to join this dynamic committee. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Sharon Lewis, at slewis@ujf.org, 203-321-1373.

Federation's Regional Security Advisor Makes A Local Impact



Temple Sinai: Shelly Welfeld, Director of Operations, and Sharon Goldstein, Vice President, and Michael Shanbrom.



Chabad of New Canaan: Claude Bernstein, Rabbi Levi Mendelow and Michael Shanbrom.

(Courtesy of UJF) The year 2021 ended with local Jewish institutions moving toward a more secure future as Michael Shanbrom, United Jewish Federation's Regional Security Advisor from Secure Community Network, met with community partners to become more familiar with their facilities. Discussions will

continue in the New Year pertaining to existing security processes, specific security concerns and/ or challenges experienced by the institutions and recommendations by Mr. Shanbrom for no-cost security related services being made available by UJF of Stamford, New Canaan, Darien.



Temple Beth El, Steven Lander, Executive Director, and Michael Shanbrom.



Michael Shanbrom met with JCC Preschool teachers at Greenwich Reform to begin Countering Active Threat Training.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

April 2022 Issue

Deadline: Monday, March 7, 2022

May 2022 Issue

Deadline: Monday, April 4, 2022

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

Join UJF's Women's Philanthropy

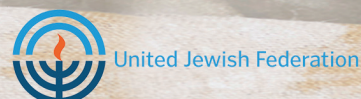
For a night of cooking with cookbook author

Paula Shoyer

The Author of "The Instant Pot Kosher Cookbook"

February 15, 2022
8:00pm via zoom

Event Chair, Jessica Batkin
Register at www.ujf.org/cooking



Jewish Summer Camp Scholarships Now Available

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) As COVID-19 continues to put a financial strain on families, Schoke Jewish Family Service understands that many households have limited funds to send their children to Jewish summer camp. Schoke JFS is excited to announce that applications for camp scholarships for summer 2022 are now available.

The Joan and Ben Zinbarg – Schoke Jewish Family Service Camp Scholarship Program was created to assist families who cannot afford to send their children to a Jewish sleep-away or day camp program without some financial assistance. Camp scholarships are available for eligible families from Stamford, Westport, Bridgeport, and Upper Fairfield County.

It is well documented that attendance

at Jewish camps helps to strengthen youngsters' Jewish identities and involvement in Jewish communities, now and into the future.

To quote one of our grateful recipients, "Thank you ever so much for helping me return to the greatest place on earth...My camp journey this year helped me become even prouder of my Jewish heritage. Thank you for all you have done for me."

The Joan and Ben Zinbarg – Schoke Jewish Family Service Camp Scholarship Fund is supported by the Zinbarg family, the United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County. As a result of their generosity, Schoke JFS awarded 50 camp

scholarships in 2021.

Applications for the Joan and Ben Zinbarg – Schoke Jewish Family Service Camp Scholarship Fund for summer 2022 are available to download at www.ctjfs.org/joan-and-ben-zinbarg-camp-scholarship-program.

The application must be filled out completely and returned to the Schoke Jewish Family Service office by mail or email to Maria McNulty at mmcnulty@ctjfs.org along with the required attachments. The deadline for applications is Friday, April 15, 2022. Please take the time to review all forms before you return them to the JFS office. All information is kept strictly confidential.

The camp scholarships will be awarded



Campers at the JCC enjoy a day of sunshine.

through email so please be sure to include your email address. Note that your child must be entering first grade or above in September 2022 to qualify.

If you have any questions, please contact Maria McNulty at the Schoke Jewish Family Service office at 203-921-4161 or mmcnulty@ctjfs.org

2021 Ends With A Bang



(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation held its Annual Meeting in mid-December. The event was chaired by Federation board member Ami Soifer and welcomed close to 200 participants in person and virtually. Archie Gottesman, cofounder of *JewBelong* was the keynote speaker and Seth Tobin received the Harvey A. Peltz Leadership Award.

"Archie's presentation and the work she does through *JewBelong* is empowering. Her long career and expertise in marketing have helped rebrand antisemitism and Jew hate. In this time of increased hate and assimilation, the *JewBelong's* branding and messaging is needed more than ever," shared event Chair Ami Soifer.

The Harvey A. Peltz Young Leadership Award has been given out since 1977 by UJF at its Annual Meeting. The award was established

in memory of Harvey Peltz, the first chairman of the Executive Committee of the Federation, by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Peltz. Its purpose is to encourage the development of leaders and their participation in causes on behalf of Israel and the Jewish Community.

Diane Sloyer, UJF's CEO shared the following about this year's recipient, Seth Tobin. "Seth has been involved in our greater Stamford Jewish community since moving here with his wife Laura and their now 4 children.

Seth was involved with Federation's Young leadership Division, now revamped as NextGen. He serves on Federation's Allocations and Grants Committee and is currently serving on UJF's Strategic Planning Task Force.

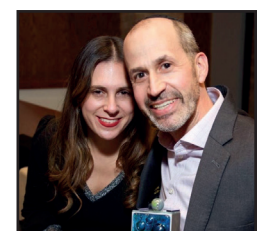
Seth is a board member at Schoke Jewish Family Service and sits on their Investment Committee. Seth and

Laura are also active at both Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Friendship Circle and at Congregation Agudath Sholom.

David Gordon, UJF's President shared his "State of the Federation" address (page 2) and announced that he will remain as President for a third year.

The evening concluded with Campaign Chair Ellen Weber presenting the UJF Board slate for 2022 on behalf of past President and Nominations Committee Chair Ricky Arbron. Ricky Arbron and Arlene Rosen were thanked for their service and new board members Robert Abrams, Kerrin Behrend and Cathy Satz were welcomed. Ellen also provided a final 2021 Annual Campaign message.

UPDATE: Thanks to the generosity of donors, UJF exceeded its \$1.4 million goal for 2021!



Your Community
Impact!

Good Deeds Impact The Community

(Courtesy of BCHA) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) is no stranger to chesed (good deeds). "As the school continues to grow, and with the addition of the Upper School, when United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien launched its new campaign structure, BCHA saw this as an opportunity to take its chesed program to the next level," shared BCHA Head of School, Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein.

Recently, BCHA has implemented a new program into their curriculum, The BCHA Community Chesed/Tikkun Olam Program, thanks to a grant from United Jewish Federation. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with different Jewish agencies and institutions and to partake in programs that benefit the community.

The UJF grant has enabled BCHA to purchase a minibus to transport students to chesed activities and to hire a part



BCHA Students Volunteer at a Local Non-Profit, Wheel It Forward.

time coordinator for this initiative, Alisa Weisser. "BCHA is very pleased to find Alisa, who has the passion, talent and skill to make this position a great success," shared Rabbi Bernstein. A former teacher, Weisser has been volunteering for years and

currently serves as a youth chair for Young Israel, serves on the chesed committee for Congregation Agudath Sholom, and jumps in whenever there is an opportunity to volunteer. For the past 10 years, Weisser has been a stay-at-home mom. Now that her youngest has started pre-K at BCHA, she is getting into her natural habitat of working in chesed.

"We are a small community, and this grant has connected us all," shared Alisa. A recent example is when BCHA students were bused to *Wheel it Forward*, a local nonprofit that lends durable medical equipment. The students spent time there organizing and sorting items that were not needed by Wheel it Forward. These items were loaded onto the bus and then transported and organized at Schoke Jewish Family Services.

Other activities will include a food packaging project with Jewish Family Services in which BCHA will send their

students to help pack the food. If the Jewish Community Center hosts a seniors' lunch, BCHA will send kindergarten kids to sing.

The goals of the program include actively engaging students in chesed/tikkun olam as part of BCHA's school curriculum. According to Alisa, "By inspiring students to dedicate themselves to community service throughout their lives, we are teaching them to become responsible and effective Jewish leaders in their own right."

According to Weisser, her goal is to incorporate different facets of chesed, including bringing awareness about people who have disabilities and struggle with mental health. And if the students have different passions or interests, she is all for it. "We are so very grateful to the United Jewish Federation for their vision and funding of this initiative. We are confident the impact will be felt for years to come."

Inaugural Friendship Circle Inclusion Fair

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) On Sunday February 6th, the Friendship Circle of Fairfield County will host their first ever educational fair for elementary school students in partnership with Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. This program is fully funded by a grant from United Jewish Federation's annual campaign. The fair will take place on the BCHA Campus from 2:30-4:00 pm for students in grades 1-6 from schools all over Fairfield country.

The Inclusion Fair will be led by teen volunteers, who will guide the elementary school children and their parents to different booths that therapists and educators have helped to create. The booths will include explanations of different types of special needs and immersive activities to better understand the world from the viewpoint of a person with special needs. Parents will participate with their children, so that they can then continue the conversation



at home and implement what is learned into their daily lives.

After the Fair, children and parents will then separate for different activities. The parents will participate in a conversation about raising a child with kindness and inclusivity. The children will watch a show by Dr. Schnitzel.

Chanie Kamman, Family Program Coordinator said, "We know that fostering a community of tolerance and inclusion begins with education and exposure from a young age. The Friendship Circle began training volunteers with

the Mitzvah Volunteer Program in 6th grade, but thanks to UJF and this generous grant, we can broaden our outreach to younger kids. Parents have expressed that they wish their children can get a better understanding of the world of special needs. The UJF grant has helped us meet this need."

Registration can be found online at www.friendshipct.com/fair.

To become involved with the Friendship Circle please email Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com

UJF Delivers Joy to Local Children



A staffer at Inspirica was grateful to receive holiday gifts for children.



(l-r) WP President Tara Shapiro, WP board member Marlene Gatz, and Belinda Foster of Stamford Hospital.

(Courtesy of UJF) Each December, United Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy division coordinates a toy drive for David's Treasure Chest Toy Closet, located on the children's floor at Stamford Hospital. Toys were collected at several locations in Stamford during December, then delivered to the hospital before the holidays. Young patients get to visit the toy closet and pick out their own special gift.

Children at a local shelter also received gifts during the holidays. UJF staff dropped off gifts to Inspirica, a shelter and a children's center located in Stamford.

To learn more about United Jewish Federation or Women's Philanthropy, contact Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org.

Paint a Prayer Project Completed at Temple Beth El

(Courtesy of TBE) The students of the Temple Beth El Religious School recently worked with artist Jennifer Levine to create canvases inspired by the “Hashkiveinu” prayer and the song, “One Day,” by Matisyahu. They are sung together at TBE as one special prayer in services on Friday nights and in Religious School during *tefillah* (prayers). This prayer has become something that is truly special to the students in TBE’s religious school over the years.

First, Jennifer, a Mural Arts Educator and currently a teaching artist with ArtsWestchester, worked with the students to create collages and drawings inspired by the words of the song and the prayer. Then, she used the students’ artwork to create three templates for canvases which the students painted during Religious School. The students

had the opportunity to include additional images on the spot.

Lisa Gittelman-Udi, Director of Congregational Learning, said, “Through their collaborative work with artist Jennifer Levine on the ‘Paint a Prayer’ project, our students created three canvases that illustrate their thoughts and feelings about the ‘Hashkiveinu’ prayer, the song, ‘One Day,’ by Matisyahu, and their sense of connection to Temple Beth El, our own spiritual shelter of peace. Our students were able to experience prayer in a new way, work together as a community, and express their individual creativity.”

“Children have an innate ability to sense the wonder of prayer, and that comes through in their questions, their voices in song, and in their artwork. As such, this project will now hang on our



Under the guidance of artist Jennifer Levine, canvases are painted by Temple Beth El students.

wall and inspire their parents, teachers, and all the adults of the congregation to strive to attain (and regain) their level of spiritual creativity,” stated Rabbi Hammerman.

“This project brings Jewish learning to life in an exciting collaborative way

and is a project the students loved working on,” stated Steven Lander, Executive Director of TBE.

To find out more about TBE’s Religious School, contact Lisa Gittelman-Udi, Director of Congregational Learning, at Eddir@tbe.org.

Young Israel Family Chanukah Celebration



(Courtesy of Young Israel of Stamford) Chanukah is a festive holiday and Young Israel of Stamford was thrilled to bring together families, new and veteran, to enjoy a Family Menorah Lighting and Party with a concert by Bobby Doowah. In addition to music and dancing, doughnut decorating and a very special gelt drop with the Belltown Fire Department added to the festivities. *(PHOTO CREDIT: KAILA ROISOVSKY)*

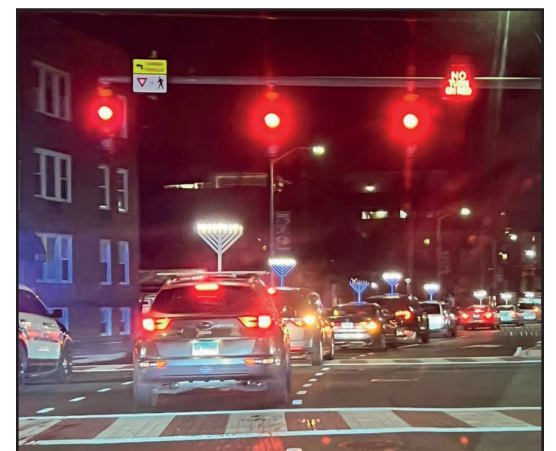


Chabad of Stamford Celebrates Chanukah



Rabbi Moshe Shemtov and outgoing mayor, David Martin, light up the giant Menorah at Chabad of Stamford’s Chanukah community celebration lighting ceremony in Latham Park. *(CREDIT: STEVE LABKOFF)*

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford’s 7th annual Menorah Car Parade saw 30 cars decked out with menorahs on their roofs. They paraded through the streets of Stamford on the 7th night of Chanukah for a truly uplifting and memorable night. Families were able to practice safe social distancing while lighting up the streets of Stamford.





**United Jewish Federation is driven by the fundamental principle that
“each Jew is responsible one for the other.”**

By working TOGETHER, we can accomplish so much more than any one person can working alone. This guiding vision has enabled Federation to enhance, educate, assist, and touch the lives of thousands of Jews in so many ways in Stamford, New Canaan, Darien, in Israel, and around the world. We thank you for your generous support - through the Annual Campaign, supplemental giving and gifts to LIFE & LEGACY, an investment in Jewish life. The return on investment is a strong, vibrant, caring, warm and welcoming Jewish community.

Federation is powered by YOU, with Gratitude.

Below is a list of 2021 UJF Annual Campaign Donors.

We apologize in advance for any omissions or mistakes. If there is an error, please email Taly@ujf.org and we will print a correction in the next issue of the New Jewish Voice.

*^UJF Life & Legacy Donor *Deceased*

**THE PRIME MINISTERS COUNCIL
\$25,000 PLUS**

Anonymous (3)
Stephne & Kerrin Behrend
Melody & Claude Bernstein ^
The Estate of Ronald Gross ^
The Herbert & Sarah M. Gibor Charitable Foundation
Roslyn & Elliot Jaffe
Sandra & Michael Kamen
Helene & Harvey Kaminski ^
The Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation (Florida)
Eleanor & Mort Lowenthal ^
Susan & Len Mark ^
Nancy & Gadi Mimoun ^
Monica Smyth & Michael Schlessinger ^
Renee Samson * ^
Praxis Foundation ^
Eileen & Fred Springer

**THE TIKUN OLAM SOCIETY
\$15,000-\$24,000**

Ricky Snow Arbron ^
Stephanie & Joshua Bilenker
Rhoda & Avram Freedberg
Meryl & David Gordon ^
Judith & Robert Raymond ^
Edith Samers & Edward Smith ^
Kathryn Emmett & David Golub
Terry Newman & David Rubin
Diane & Elliot Sloyer ^
Ellen & Richard Weber ^

**THE JOSHUA SOCIETY
\$10,000-\$14,999**

Amy & Henry Bubel ^
Shoshana Dweck ^
Joseph Field
Marilyn & Irving Goldblum ^
Joan & Michael Gray
Elissa & Philip Klapper ^
Norma Kraut ^
Chris Maroc
Sissy & Gary Stein

**THE DEVORAH SOCIETY
\$5,000-\$9,999**

Jack Alexander*
Sary & Edward Backer
Mary Lee & Jeff Benson
Linda & Carl Bildner
Judith Block
Barbara & Gary Bloom
Caryl & Mel Goldstein* ^
Beverly Ferber
Stephanie & Howard Fogel ^
Maxine & Jay Freilich
Susan Frieden
Jill & Arthur Green
Wendy & Jordon Handler
Audrey & William Heller
Meryl & Ronald Japha ^
Dena Kaplan
Jill & Mitchell Kaplan
Sheila & Leslie Klein
Lorraine & David Kveskin ^
Leon N. Lapine Trust
Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation
Judith & Mark Lowenstein
Norma & Milton Mann*^

Caryn Halbrecht & Tomas Haendler
Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeffrey Cohen ^
Susan Plutzer
Susan Rapoport
Roberts Family Foundation
Carole & Michael Roth
Gayle & Howard Rothman
Miriam & Michael Schechter
Shelley & Eddie Senker
Tara & Richard Shapiro
Bracha & Jerry Silber
Beverly & David Stein ^
Joan Zinbarg*

**THE KING DAVID SOCIETY
\$1,800-\$4,999**

Margie & Robert Abrams
Mandee & Jason Adler
Marlyn & Richard Agatstein
Jeri & Mark Appel
Barbara & Frank Axel
Carri & Alan Barnett
Jessica & Adam Batkin
Dina & Paul Berger
Charlotte & Manfred Birnbaum
Rita & Michael Butterman
Marilyn & Lewis Dale
Karen & Daniel Davis
Dinah Miller Marlowe & Seth Marlowe
Toby Lazarus & Allan Lichtenberg
Nancy & Kevin Fahey
Esta & Jay Feinsod
Madeline & Sol Field
Robin & Jason Fischel ^
Lenore & Ilan Fogel ^
Connie & Alan Freeman ^
Frances & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg
Leo Gold
Debby & Jack Goldberg
Joanne & Marshall Goldberg
Ruth & Rabbi Mark Golub
Shari Goodstein
Nan & Paul Gordon ^
Lea Winter & Daniel Gordon
Susan & Arthur Greenwald
Zeena Hine
Shara & Rabbi David Israel
Sari & Alan Jaffe
Monica & Eric Jankelovits
Susan Kostin ^
Norine Krasnogor
Claudia Kraut
Beverly & Charles Levine
Lynn & Jeffrey Lowin
Robin & Jamshed Madan
Eva Mayer
Julie & Andrew Mendelsohn
Jane & Philip Molstre
Alissa Wool & Peter Weisel
Cheryl Bader Goldblum & Steven Goldblum
Gail Berman & David Fogel
Linda Hurwitz & Richard Fine ^
Molly & Adam Rafalowicz
Rhonda Schaffer-Marion & Jeffrey Maron ^
Allison & Jonathan Ostroff
Lynn & Alan Pearce
Caryl Ferber Poser & Peter Poser ^
Risa & Steven Raich
Lori & Stuart Ratner
Lenore & Donald Rich
Arlene & Carl Rosen ^

Margo Rosenfeld
Janice & Stanley Rosenstock
Sherri & Allen Rosenthal
Edwin Schechter
Ivy & Marvin Schildkraut
Ilyse & Dean Schuckman
Nancy & Gary Schulman
Ken Schwartz
Marsha Shendell ^
Ronnie & Steven Sichel ^
Lisa & Larry Siebert
Mary & Alan Silberman
Brenda Smith
Louise & Ami Soifer
Lisbeth & Frank Stern
Louise Stern
Laura & Seth Tobin
Sharon & Jeffrey Turshen
Pamela & Richard Vogel
Sandi & Stuart Waldstreicher
Barbara & Harry Webski
Alisa & Jeremy Weisser
Penny Wolff
Lauren & Joe Zalis

**THE BEN GURION SOCIETY
\$1,000-\$1,799**

Marlene & Paul Adelberg
Jane & Stephen Alpert
Stephen Berni
Darona & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
David Bessaleli
Elizabeth & Benjamin Bilus
Joseph Blum
Jodi & Richard Boxer
Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen
Andrea & David Cohen
Rachel & Ephraim Cohen
Lorraine Ditesheim
Marcia & Jerrold Dolinger
Helen & Martin Donner
Kristen Hochman & Amiel Goldberg
Linda Gornitsky & Harvey Weber
Rachel & Jay Jubas
Elaine & Robert Erichson
Bobbe & Ben Evans
Stephanie Feinland
Sam Fischel
Andrea Fitting
Miriam & Ira Flatow
Leslie Freedman
Debbie & Neil Gershon
Judy & Howard Goldstein
Yvette Gordon
Loralee & Philip Granowitz
Paula & Benjamin Green
Barbara & Edward Guttman
Arlene & Bob Hall
Mara & Rabbi Joshua Hammerman
Kayla & Leon Hanna
Rachel & Dan Haron
Kamal Haron
Judy Hoffman
Dale & Stephen Hoffman
Suzanne Horn
Elissa & James Hyman
Betsy & Peter Kempner
Elise & Oren Klein
Isrella & Gerald Knopf
Elizabeth & Scott Krowitz ^
Jackie & Marshall Kurland

Rita Lerner
Carla & Roger Levien
Sharon & Jeff Lewis
Carol & Peter Lillenthal
Anna & Victor Litvinov
Barbara Malloy
Roselyn Mangot
Lisa & Jeff Manheim
Kori & William Meyers
Rebecca Sloyer & Yoni Suriel
Alix Field Eben & David Eben
Janice Steinberg & Stephen Davidson
Lisa Ross-Benjamin & Michael Benjamin
Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen
Robin Fredrick & Michael Gold
Sheryl Brown & Michael Gertzner
Roslyn & Merritt Nesin
Stanley Novack
Brenda Piskin
Cindy & David Pitkoff
Carol & Robert Rabinowitz
Robin & Richard Redniss
Esther & Harvey Rein
Anne & Steven Rosenberg
Sharon & Burt Rubin
Cathy & David Satz
Rochelle & Harold Schwartz
Nancy & Jeffrey Serkes
Madeline Shapiro
Shelley Taylor & David Swerdloff
Marian & Arthur Shulman
Claudia & Keith Silver
Heidi & Mark Silverstein
Talia & Jon Siscovick
Sandy & Moshe Speter
Judith Steinberg
Gail & Bruce Stone
Sheila & Bernard Teig
Gail G. & Stephen Trell
Rachel & Greg Waldstreicher
Sandi & Stu Waldstreicher
Stephen Wayne
Dana & Carl Weinberg
Marian Weinberg
Joan Weisman
Sharon & Simeon Wohlberg
Shushannah & Ari Yasgur

**THE GOLDA MEIR SOCIETY
\$500-\$999**

Victoria Agron
Marni Amsellem
Billie & Peter Anker
Barbara Aronica
John Ashe
Marilyn & Mervyn Balsam
Gayle & Mitchell Bell
Nancy & Brad Benjamin
Marc Bennett
Karen & Ira Berk
Helen Berkoff
Judith & Raymond Birnbaum
Terry Blank
Amy & Melvin Bloomenthal
Joan & Howard Breslow
Carol & Will Brewer
Martin Budd
Emily & Harvey Caney
Joyce & Barry Chavkin
Meredith & David Cohen
Lisa & Jonathan Daniel

Tracy & Nahum Daniels
Karen & Bruce Denker
Harriet & Fredric Dulaney
Robin Evans
Lee Fanwick
Taly & Trevor Farber
Karen & Mark Feder
Judy & Harold Feinleib
Sharon & Michael Feldstein
Max & Helen Abrams Foundation
Lynne & Steven Frenkel
Jennifer & Gregory Fuchs
Jessica & Adam Furmansky
Joan & Jeffrey Gallin
Ann & Alex Goldblum
Sandy & Robert Goldstein
Myra & John Graubard
Allison & Fred Greenbaum
Judy & Leonard Haber
Gail & Harvey Hecht
Phyllis & George Heller
Tricia & Rob Hoff
Helen Kaplan
Nancy & Harris Kligman
Carol & Allen Krim
Dorothy Landress
Roni & Allan Lang
Debbie & Stan Lee
Ellen & James Levenson
Andrea & Martin Levine
Wendy & David Lewis
Lois & Jack Lichtenhal
Hadassah & Joseph Lieberman
Lisa & Seth Linzer
Charisse & Mark Litchman
Nina & Norman Lotstein
Terri Lowenthal
Karen & Jonathan Malkin
Renee Manger
Hortense Martin
Rachel & Sam Maryles
Arlene & Harvey Melzer
Janice & Jacob Meyer
Helen & Boris Miloslavsky
Joseph Mittel
Stacy & Gary Mozer
Rachel & Brian Stapleton
Cynthia & Stanford Hoffman
Elise & Steven Cohen
Pam Ehrenkranz & Matt Greenberg
Stephanie Rifkinsin-Mann & Ronald Mann
Tracey Aaron & Adam Balinsky
Riv & Edward Neiss
Ken & Marguerite Neuhaus
Doreen & Howard Nusbaum
Irma & Allan Paull
Miriam & Gideon Pell
Anne Peskin
Marina & Alex Podelko
Risa & Michael Pollack
Pamela & Michael Reese
Maria & Glenn Reicin
Linda & Larry Rezak
Sheila Romanowitz
Rona Orestein Moskowitz & David Moskowitz
Julie & Remi Rosenberg
Jennifer & Edward Rosenfeld
Joan & Robert Rosenthal
Nofie & Mark Rosovsky
Linda & Joe Rothman

Lynda & Henry Rubinstein
Linda & Leonard Russ
Judy & Richard Schaefer
Miriam Schiller
Barbara & Paul Schultz
Karen & Michael Schwartz
Myrna & George Sessa
Pam & Alan Shanker
Susan & Carl Shapiro
Donny & Shelley Sherer
Gloria & Steven Simon
Phyllis Sinrich
Esther Sloyer
Jennie & Joshua Small
Miriam & Steven Sosnick
Audrey & Joseph Speter
Julie & Rabbi Jay TelRav
Lynne Weinberg
Barbara & Kenneth White
Vivien White
Navah & Rabbi Naftali Wolfe
Sheila & Dan Wolfson
Hillary & Robert Zitter

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS UP TO \$499

Tova Weinstock & Micky Reich
Gail & Jack Abrams
Johanna & Salim Akyuz
Alida & Bruce Albert
Adrienne & Michael Alexander
Ruth Alpert
Gayle & Geoff Alswanger
Serita & Michael Altshuler
Judith & Robert Amster
Sarah Bierman & Daniel Wallis
Muriel & Alvin Ashley
Elian & Tomer Avraham
Sharyn & Frederick Baer
Betty & Sherwin Baer
Rachel & David Bahar
Leah & Larry Baker
Scott Bale
Marian Bauer
Myrna Baye
Burton Benjamin
Sabrina & Daniel Benjamin
Stacy & Ward Bennett
Debra & Michael Berg
Lila & Larry Berger
Debra & Seth Berger
Deborah & Stanley Berger
Noemi & William Berkoff
Jamie & Steven Berkowitz
Barbara & Edward Berman
Lynn & Harvey Berman
Tova & Cameron Berns
H. & E. Bernstein
Judith & Matthew Bernstein
Albert Beson
Eileen & Gary Besser
Barry Best
Beth Frenkel Goodman & Jeffrey Goodman
Marcia Bick
Ellis Bloch
Dorothy & Raphael Bloch
Susan & Richard Blomberg
Hannah & Daniel Blonshteyn
Christine Bloom
Caryn & Ross Bogatch
David Boxer
Jessie & David Brand
Barbara & Warren Brandt
Herbert Bregman
Wendy & Joel Brest
Michele & Arthur Brown
Danile & Blake Bueckman
Judy & Jeff Cahn
Sandra & David Camner
Catherine Reed & Yitzhak Brudny
Dina & Gregory Celniker
Anat & Marc Chavkin
Lewis Cherniack
William Chetta
Zoe & Harry Chiel
Kate & Peretz Cik
Susan & Martin Clarke
Janess Coffina
Abraham Cogan
Roberta & Alan Cohen
Stella & Isaac Cohen
Joan & Jeffrey Cohen
Lorraine Cohen
Sheila Cohen

Suzannah & Eytan Coll
Rhea & Alan Comen
Lisa & Pat Comunale
Lenore & Michael Cooper
Dana Horowitz & Peter Wolly
Ellen & Stephen Daniels
Joan & Stuart Danoff
Rebecca & Scott Davidson
Aviva & Rabbi Yisroel Deren
Pamela Marcus & Jeffrey Erskine
Sarah Kahn & Rick Routhier
Shari Damast & Jeffrey Mosenkis
Valerie Warmflash & Jonah Schrag
Marion & Milt Drexler
Emily & Yitzhak Dubitzky
Tamara Duhov
Michelle & Peter Ebstein
Steven Einstein
Bette Epstein
Stacey & Eliot Essenfeld
Joshua Esses
Esther Gibofsky & Adam Rattner
Lisa & Todd Everett
Debra & Daniel Faizakoff
Michele & David Falk
Dani & Alan Falkoff
Gaines Family
Gina & Jonathan Fass
Ronnie & Edward Fein
Helen Felder
Irina & Arkady Feldman
Jami & Scott Fener
Lyudmila Ferits
Debbie & Lou Ferri
Susan Feuerwerger
Claudine & Stuart Feurstein
Jessica Ficarra
Anne Finder
Leah & Manuel Fine
Jessie & Andrew Fink
Shirley Firestein
Rosalea & Richard Fisher
Claire Fishman
Judy & Gerald Fishman
Martha Fleischer
Jennie & Ben Folkinshteyn
Jane & James Fox
Lindy & Leonard Fox
Laura Frank
Joanna & Mark Frank
Audrey Frankenberg
Sharon Franklin
Phyllis Freeman
John Freiberg
Lester Freundlich
Lauren Friedland
Claire Friedlander
Janie & Edward Friedlander
Brenda Friedler
Marc Friedman
Barbara & Stanley Friedman
Gayle & Richard Frohwirth
David Frommer
Estelle Fruchtman
Gail & Joachim Fuks
Susan & Peter Furth
Claudia & Stephen Ganis
Heidi & Harrison Ganz
Lisa & Gadi Gavronsky
Aleksandra Gedal
Judith & Lewis Gediman
Miriam & Joseph Gelb
Polly & Harry Geller
Janet & David Gentry
Stan Gershman
Raisa & Vladimir Gershman
Diane Getzler
Valentin Geyfman
Elizabeth & William Gilbert
Shira & David Gilboa
Rhonda & Larry Ginsberg
Ronni & Paul Ginsberg
Lyudmila & Gregory Ginzburg
Paula & David Giver
Carole Gladstone
Sandra & Stephen Gladstone
Kimberly & Ronald Glassman
Jeanette & Michael Glazer
Leslie Glenn
Shari & Allen Glucksman
June & Jon Gold
Vivian & Bruce Goldberg
Cindy & Eric Goldberg
Risa & Jeff Goldblum

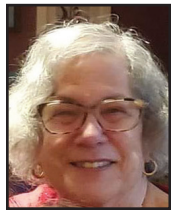
Ellen & Kenneth Goldman
Hilary & Ari Goldstein
Sharon & Bruce Goldstein
Edwen & Frederick Goldstein
Sandy & Fred Golove
Joan & Harevy Goodman
Ellen & Bruce Gordon
Michelle & Howland Gordon
Leslie Gordon
Robert Gray
Gloria Green
Marlene Green
Phoebe Greenberg
Rhonda Greif
Lori & Samuel Gressel
Peggy Grodd
Jaffa & Pinchas Gross
Roy Gross
Jamie Grozovsky
Karen & Richard Hainbach
Diane & Jack Halpert
Angele Hanna
Leora & Yaakov Hauptman
Beth & David Held
Eleanor Heller
Joan Hendrickson
Zena & Alexander Henkin
Ian Herman
Sheryl Hertzberg
Sally & William Hines
Hilary & Peter Hohmeister
Karen Holzman
Benice Horowitz
Barbara Hotz
Lorraine Hutzler
Holly Hyman
Irina & Mikhail Logman
Sheila & Martin Israel
Olga Ivenskaya
Jody & Tom Jackson
Nicole & Jack Jacob
Jerry Jacobs
Dorothy Jaiven
Deborah Jeffries
Judith & David Jelen
Susan Josephson
Evelyn & Bruce Kahn
Rachel & Gavin Kaimowitz
Judith & Grant Kallen
Elana & Mikhail Kalman
Rebekah & Brian Kanefsky
Elissa & David Kaplan
David Kaplan
Jane & Dean Kaplan
Hannah Kaplan
Ronnie & Ira Kaplan
Sharon & Doug Karp
Anita Katz
Jessica & Ilan Katz
Joy & Larry Katz
Flora & Carl Kaufman
Becky & Adam Kevelson
Michael Kheyfets
Melanie Kieval
Eli Kisselbaum
Liz & Marc Kitay
Joan & Robert Klanfer
Esfir Klass
Barbara & Morton Klein
Kathy Kligler
Stephanie & Fredrick Koch
Emilyn Kogan
Susan & Max Kolbrenner
Caryl Komornik
Audrey & Kenneth Kramer
Joan & Jerome Kranz
Myra Kreiman Kijek & Thomas Kijek
Maximilian Krentsel
Mona & Fred Kubli
Pauline Ladds
Janice & Peter Leeds
Galina & Vladamir Landres
Biana & Benjamin Lanson
Lisa & Doug Last
Mandy & Gary Lazarus
Dallice & Ian Lazarus
Maytal & Jonathan Lerner
Robert Lesser
Beth & Michael Levick
William Levin
Wendy Levin Shaw
Tamar & Jason Levine
Hayley & Josh Levine
Gloria & Sheldon Levine

Judith & Stanley Levine
Helen Levine
Marlene & Howard Levy
Marla & Jason Lewis
Rachel & Josh Licht
Tamra & Scott Lichtman
Yospa Lieberman
Judith Liebeskind
Sheila & Albert Linder
Vered & Mark Links
Sarah & Avi Lipsker
Lisa Loeffler-Kaplan & Ilya Kaplan
Rabbi Liz Rolle & Rabbi Philip Schechter
Alan Locker
Dmitri Logvinski
Sheri London
Devorah & Bradley Lowenstein
Claudia Lubin
Arielle & Jeremy Luksberg
Joan & Stuart Madison
Beverly Magida
Julia & Nathan Maidenbaum
Haim Maimon
Rosalie Makler
Nicole & Jonathan Makovsky
Doris Maller
Aviva & Michael Maller
Linda & George Mallozzi
Barbara Manners
Nataliya & Oleg Margolin
Marie Orsini Rosen & Philip Rosen
Laura Markowitz
Michelle & Greg Marrinan
Melanie Massell
Marsha Matthews
Ellen & Joel Mellis
Irene Meltzer
Sondra & Franklin Melzer
Michal & Rabbi Levi Mendelow
Deborah & Neil Metviner
Shelley & Barry Michelson
Barbara Miller
Stacy & Jonathan Miller
Rina & Yoni Miller
Bruce Minkoff
Cecile Minkoff
Eleanor Mirne
Liliana & Gary Mirsky
Tzvia & Gabe Moreen
Leora Borzak & Jacob Sloyer
Esta Berman-Price & Jeffrey Price
Lorianne Dunn-Weiss & Mark Weiss
Abby Katz & Jeffrey Cunningham
Amy Fishkowitz Benjamin & James Benjamin
Anna Zhits & Mikhail Frenkel
Ariel Poser & Stephen Bedik
Arlene Gewanter & Lloyd Contract
Audrey Cohen & Mark Wagshul
Belle-Ann Abrams & Jerry Leichter
Debra Katz-Shapiro & Leon Shapiro
Debra Winthrop & Stephen Pollack
Elisabeth Aronow & Robert Landeck
Emily Pomerantz & Sean Altman
Ilene Kveskin Locker & James Locker
Jamie Morvitz & Matthew Miller
Jodi Maxner & David Rauch
Kathleen Dempsey & Douglas Karp
Lauren Frank & Adam Frapart
Leslie Tamarkin & Marc Becker
Lois Stark & Gary Lessen
Mia Freedman & Douglas Kramer
Marguerite Felsenfeld & Steven Rotstein
Marilyn Wolpin & Paul Ellis
Maryam Samaram & Andrew Wind
Meira Rosenberg & David Friedman
Melissa Chefec & Richard Berman
Michelle Kanter Bramwit & Steven Bramwit
Mihal Spitzer & David Ariyeh
Pamela Feldstein & David Lowenberg
Randie Katzel & Larry Cryer
Shani Cohen & Gil Orbach
Susan Berger Sabreen & Richard Sabreen
Tatyana Novikova & Yevgeniy Sagalchik
Tatyana Yarmolinskaya & Viktor Lusher
Barbara Muller
Leah & Peter Munk
Eve Nachman
Ellen Naidorf
Audrey Necamuli Charling
Karen & Gary Neems
Edith Neidle
Stayce & Stuart Nekritz
Shira & Marc Nerenberg
Rebecca & Omer Neumeier

Rose* & Bruce Newman
Helene & Sheldon Newman
Irwin Niedober
Rina & Chanoch Nof
Hillary Nussbaum
Diane Offenbach
Barbara & Kenneth Onish
Barbara & Norman Ostroff
Stacey & Todd Palker
Alison & Nate Pava
Leah & Doni Perl
Beth Peters
Karen & Stephen Philipson
Richard Pianin
Rhea & Paul Plotnick
Fran & David Pribish
Mindy Rabinowitz
Julie & Leonard Rakowitz
Bonita & Steve Rappoport
Rosa & Saaid Rastegar
March & Peter Rathman
Sarah & Ronald Rich
Joyce & Jay Riemer
Laurie Rogoff
Milana Rose
Doris Rose
Julie & Solomon Rose
Anna & Jon Rosen
Suanne Rosen
Ann & Harold Rosenbaum
Barbara Rosenberg
Gloria & Eugene Rosenberg
Wendy Rosenblum
Benjamin Rosenthal
Eileen Rosner
Glenn Ross
Abby & Howard Ross
Mina Roth Dornfeld
Sally & James Rothkopf
Ruth Rothseid
Mila & Joseph Rubbak
Michal & Jonathan Rubin
Sally & Allan Sacks
Julie & Bruce Sacks
Shira & Jason Saibel
Dora & David Salm
Lois & Moosa Salman
Raema & Clive Salmon
Helene & Nat Samberg
Phyllis Sanders
Ruth & Merton Sarnoff
Laura & Dan Schacht
Ruth Schacht
Deena Schaffer
Kaili & Dan Scherban
Margot & Daniel Scherer
Paul Schieber
Sheila Schleier
Judy Schneiderman
Marcie Schoenfeld
Carol Schwartz
Douglas Schwartz
Cindy & Gregg Schwartz
Barbara & Nolan Schwartz
Richard Schwartz
Chaya & Levi Segal
Rachel Seligson
Sandra Semel
Helen & Sheldron Sepulowitz
Amanda & David Shapiro
Frieda & Eugene Shapiro
Phyllis & Martin Shapiro
Marilyn Shapiro-Lowell
Elaine Sharlach
Karen Sheftell
Leah & Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
Lawrence & Stephanie Sherman
Robert Shubs
Hanah Shweiger
Leah Siedner-Tillman
Sandy & Alvin Siegertel
Wendy & Jared Siegel
Marisa & Michael Siegel
Amy & Andrew Silberfein
Miriam & Eliezer Silverman
Jane Silverman
Patricia & Michael Silverman
Meryl & Henry Silverstein
Brian Simblist
Sara & Mitchell Simon
Judy & David Singer
Shirley & William Sklar
Lisa & Abraham Slen

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Bits & Pieces



BY SANDY GOLOVE

To submit information, please call (203) 912-9945 or email sandy@ujf.org

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Sandy Golove

Molly Aronica Ahuja & Arun Ahuja on the birth of a son, Havi M. Ahuja; and to the grandparents, **Barbara Aronica & Peter Buck**.

Tova & Meir Attar on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, **Rochel & Hecky Attar**; and to the great-grandmother, **Yospa Lieberman**.

Michal & Yochanan Bigman on the birth of a daughter.

Stephen Block on the birth of a granddaughter.

Shira Burstein & Zinory Pravin on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, **Faina Pravin and Barbara Smith & Ilan Burstein**.

Hope & Jason Carr on the birth of a daughter, Meadow Helenna Carr.

Kate & Peretz Cik on the birth of a son.

Michelle & Peter Ebstein on the birth of a grandson, **Asher Alexander Selig**.

Yolly & Yaakov Faratci on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, **Rabbi Mark Dratch and the Faratci family**.

Joanna & Mark Frank on the birth of a daughter, **Madeline Sara Frank**; and to the grandparents, **Lynn and Jeffrey Lowin**.

Abigail & Eric Frick on the birth of a daughter, **Mia Helen Frick**; and to the grandparents, **Dana & Jeffrey Ditesheim and Lisa & Steve Frick**; and to the great-grandmother, **Binnie Ditesheim**.

Sima & Andrew Goldstein on the birth of a daughter, **Yakira Goldstein**; and to the great grandfather, **Hazzan Emeritus Sidney Rabinowitz**.

Liz & Michael Golove on the birth of a daughter, **Ella Grace Golove**; and to the grandparents, **Nick Giancola and Sandy & Fred Golove**.

Chanie & Yossi Kamman on the birth of a son.

Rebecca Kapchan and Andrew Paul on the birth of a son, **Maverick Chery Kapchan**; and to the grandparents, **Nancy & Jerry Kapchan**.

Desiree & Michael Katcher on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, **Rosa & Saiid Rastegar**.

Caitlin and Peter Kirschenbaum on the birth of a daughter, **Charlotte Skye Kirschenbaum**; and to the grandparents, **Adrienne & Ben Kirschenbaum**.

Emily Lessen & Robbie Sparno on the birth of a daughter, **Lily Bea Sparno**; and to the grandparents, **Lois & Gary Lessen**.

David Levine on the birth of a grandson.

Tamar & Jason Levine on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, **Deborah & Ira Feigenbaum**.

Katie & Jesse Lifshitz on the birth of a son,

Ari Lifshitz.

Julia & Nathan Maidenbaum on the birth of a daughter, **Jude Olivia Maidenbaum**.

Lisa & Jeff Manheim on the birth of a son, **Oz Emmanuel Manheim**.

Susan & Len Mark on the birth of a granddaughter.

Mielcah & Joshua Munk on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, **Rachel Allswang and Leah & Peter Munk**; and to the great grandfather, **Michael Munk**.

Jen & Matt Sakofs on the birth of a daughter, **Layla Simone Sakofs**; and to the grandparents, **Denise & David Greenman**.

Stephanie & Bob Sherman on the birth of a granddaughter.

Sara & Albert Steckin on the birth of a son.

Rosalie & Gary Stone on the birth of a granddaughter.

Fraida & Rabbi Binyomin Warmflash on the birth of a daughter, **Shaina Warmflash**; and to the grandparents, **Doris & Ron Warmflash** and to the great-grandmother, **Camille Warmflash**.

Joanna & Mark Zaner on the birth of a son, **Caleb Jeffrey Zaner**; and to the grandmother, **Madelyne Kirch**.

MAZEL TOV OTHER:

Glenn Dynner has accepted a position at Fairfield University as Bennett Chair of Judaic Studies in the Religion Department at Fairfield University and the Director of the Bennett Center for Judaic Studies.

Ben Folkinshteyn on the publication of his new book "The Three Little Pigs and the Miracle of Chanukah."

Seth Tobin, recipient of United Jewish Federation's Harvey A. Peltz Leadership Award.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Eden Cohen: daughter of **Meredith & David Cohen**.

Rebecca Hailey Dreyer: daughter of **Bryna & Jonathan Dryer**; and granddaughter of **Marlene Chait and Lois & Neil Dreyer**.

Malena Goldblum: granddaughter of **Maxine Goldblum**.

Yael Green: daughter of **Shira & Ethan Green**; and granddaughter of **Gloria Green**.

Sylvie Rosenberg: daughter of **Julie and Remi Rosenberg**.

Nava Rubin, daughter of **Michal & Jonathan Rubin**.

Marlena Shamah: granddaughter of **Aviva & Paul Scheiber**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Carl Bennett: father of **Bruce Bennett**, **Mark Bennett** and **Robin Bennett Kanarek**.

Murray Berk: husband of **Judy Berk**; and father of **Marcia Borensztajn**, **Ira Berk** and **Jeff Berk**.

Stuart Buttermann: brother of **Michael Buttermann**.

Murray Cohen: father of **Roberta Cohen**.

Nina Derman: mother of **Paula Shulman**.

Fran Dorf: wife of **Bob Dorf**.

Menachem (Emanuel) Feder: father of **Judy Tannenbaum**.

Carol Feinberg: wife of **David Feinberg**; and mother of **Daniel Feinberg**, **Jennifer Feinberg** and **Valerie Schweitzer**.

Joy Fisher: mother of **Marc Fisher**.

Sylvia Frucht: grandmother of **Jennifer Bernstein**.

Teresa Bowman Fryday: aunt of **Lee Bowbeer**.

Libby Greenberg: mother of **Lynn Rakos**.

Regina Greenwald: mother of **Judith Greenwald** and **Meryl Gordon**; and sister of **Sheila Altman** and **Connie Golden**.

Estelle Kirschner: mother of **Andrew Kirschner**, **Judy Kirschner** & **Barbara Webski**.

Corynne (Cooky) Zises Klein: mother of **Stacye Nekritz**.

Sam Kravitz: father of **Hal Kravitz** and **Robert Kravitz**.

Stanley Lastoff: husband of **Nancy Lastoff**; and father of **Adina Lastoff** and **Ilan Lastoff**.

Carol Levine: mother of **Beth Levine**, **Jon Levine**, **Laura Levine** and **Martha Levine**.

Sandra Moed Mehl: mother of **Lisa Benoit** and

Jared Mehl.

David Michelson: son of **Naomi Michelson** and brother of **Barry Michelson** and **Lisa Michelson**.

Deborah Monahan: sister of **Allen Kezsbom**.

Pasquale "Pat" Murace: father of **Vincent Murace**.

Rose Newman: wife of **Bruce Newman** and mother of **Avi Newman**, **Daniel Newman**, **Zev Newman** and **Adina Shrage**.

Frieda Reitman: mother of **Madeline Chaleff**, **Norman Chaleff**, **Randa Reitman**, **Marc Reitman** and **Beverly Rudman**.

Svetlana Ruvinshteyn: mother of **Alex Ruvinshteyn**.

Renee Samson: mother of **Claire Ellman** and **Jeanne Katz**.

Suzy Trief: wife of **Frank Trief** and mother of **Jordan** and **Jared**.

Meyer Weitz: father of **Toba Goldberg**, **Joclyn Stern** and **Gary Weitz**.

Guillermo Wiener: father of **Roberto (Rory) Wiener**.

Alan Ziskin: husband of **Roz Ziskin**.

Seymour Zucker: father of **Beth Malowitz** and **Mitchell Zucker**.

UConn Hillel comes to Stamford

(Courtesy of UConn Hillel) Serving the Jewish student population, UConn Hillel has had a vibrant presence at the University of Connecticut since 1933. An inclusive and pluralistic organization, UConn Hillel strives to meet students wherever they may be on their Jewish journey. College is often the first time that students have the opportunity to independently decide whether and how to involve themselves Jewishly. Providing opportunities for students to explore their Jewish identity is essential for fostering their own personal foundations. Executive Director, **Edina Oestreicher** noted, "We strive to assist students in growing their Jewish identity, helping them build their leadership skills and connecting them with mentors who will continue to serve as resources post-graduation."

The University of Connecticut operates five campuses throughout the state, with Storrs serving as the main and largest campus. Satellite campuses include Hartford, Avery Point, Waterbury and Stamford. Approximately 10% of the student population on the Storrs campus identifies as Jewish, which translates to roughly 2,000 Jewish students. UConn Hillel is actively working to identify the extent of the Jewish student population on the Stamford campus, which is home to a total of 2,000 undergraduate students.

Flagship programs on the Storrs campus include weekly Shabbat services



(l-r) UConn Student **Mark Spiegel**, Professor **Fred Roden**, Professor **Susan Herbst**, Executive Director **Edina Oestreicher** and UConn Student **Josh Schulman**.

and dinner, **FYSH** (First Year Students of Hillel) mentorship programming, observances and celebrations of most major holidays and an annual **Hummus Experience** competition.

With the help of students and faculty on the Stamford campus, UConn Hillel has identified a desire and need for its programming and services. UConn Hillel began providing such programming on the Stamford campus during the Fall 2021 semester with events including activity fair, tabling, and celebrating Chanukah by providing students with donuts and chocolate gelt.

UConn looks to expand its programming in 2022 with a grant from United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

For more information, please email info@uconnhillel.org.

Bi-Cultural High School Sees Early College Admissions Success

BY LINDA RUSS

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) is living up to its promise as "a small school that delivers big results" for its students, especially its high school seniors applying early to colleges for the coming fall.

"We are often asked, 'How is a school of your size doing with college placement?'" explained BCHA Head of School, Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein. "Implicit in the question is a concern that attendance at a small school impacts negatively on college admissions results when, in fact, we are proving that the opposite is true."

"Early college acceptances are indeed rolling in again this year at BCHA, and that includes the 'Ivies,'" noted Rabbi Shimmy Trencher, principal of BCHA's Upper School. "We have one student accepted early at Yale, another at Brown University, and one of our students has been accepted early into two joint BS/MD programs, which shorten the years to the MD degree and are highly competitive for admission."

Another BCHA student has been accepted at Yeshiva University (YU), Rabbi Trencher continued, "and one of our students has been admitted to a prestigious three-plus-three Bachelors/JD Degree program, which shortens the years for a law degree."

Of the dozen BCHA students applying to schools for early admission (which is binding) and early acceptance (non-binding), two dozen acceptances are in hand so far from schools including: Binghamton University, Drexel, Rochester Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Rutgers, Stony Brook, University of Denver, University of Pittsburgh among others, according to Rabbi Trencher.

Last year, Bi-Cultural seniors enjoyed similar early admissions success at Yale, Brown, YU and more.

"The diversity of our students' special interests and talents is reflected in a range of colleges to which they gain admission," Rabbi Bernstein noted. "In the arts last year, for instance, we had a student accepted at Berkeley College of Music in Boston--one of the top conservatories in the nation--and another at Savannah College of Art and Design."

"Something special at BCHA is the close collaboration between students, faculty and staff, throughout all four years of high

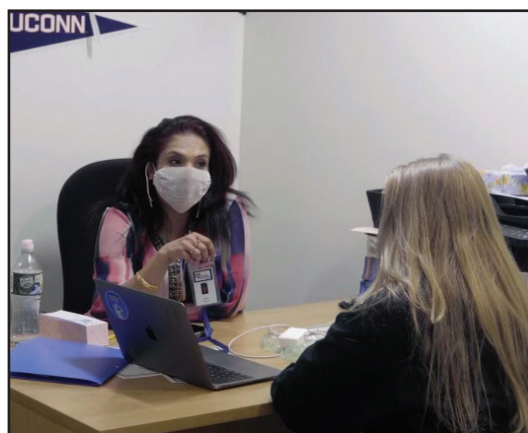


BCHA Senior Shira Haron and upper school principal Rabbi Shimmy Trencher discuss potential college choices and essay topics as part of the school's collaborative college admissions process.

school--and often starting in lower school--to guide students on course selection, special academic experiences and summer internships that are more than just 'resume-builders.' They are transformative opportunities both academically and personally for students interested in science, math, the arts, technology and engineering," Rabbi Trencher explained.

"Our talented and effective Director of College Counseling, Ms. Meghan Fernandez, really keeps students on track throughout a process that is exacting and exhausting," Rabbi Trencher continued, "and our parents are especially appreciative."

"It's important to point out that these are young men and women of strong character, highly motivated, with a solid knowledge base and real confidence in what they have to offer," Rabbi Bernstein added. "It's precisely because we are a small school and we know our students so well, that we are able to help them focus on their strengths in the college admissions process, as we nurture and encourage their academic and personal growth throughout all their years at BCHA."



Meeting with BCHA senior Jamie Zaritsky is Ms. Meghan Fernandez, Bi-Cultural's Director of College Guidance, who high school principal Rabbi Shimmy Trencher says "provides our students with expert advice on the difficult and stressful college application process, and is dedicated to their success."

New Around Town

Jensen Greif, New Director of Youth Services

As of September, 2021, Jensen Greif has taken on the directorship of youth services at Young Israel of Stamford. He has deep roots in the community, having grown up in Young Israel and attended Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. He frequently took leadership roles in school, summer camp, and youth group theatricals.

Currently he is a professional dancer and has experience teaching and directing people of all ages in many different contexts. "To meet Jensen is to be bathed in sunshine. His enthusiasm, energy, and optimism are so infectious, one can't help but be lifted by it. The word that comes to my mind to describe him is charisma ... children respond to him incredibly well, and, when it comes to performance, he meets them where they are," said one of his teachers, Janice Chaikelson.

One of Jensen's goals for the youth program at Young Israel is to re-establish cooperation and integration with the local National Council of



Jensen Greif

Synagogue Youth (NCSY) chapter. He remembers benefiting from this partnership when he was younger and believes it would be an asset to both the students and the chapter.

Since 2019, Young Israel's total membership has grown over 40%, and there are now approximately 200 children under the age of 13. Volunteers from the membership and teen leaders work with Jensen to round out all group offerings. Youth services are offered every Shabbat morning from 10:00 - 11:45 am, all are welcome.

UJF Welcomes Newcomers and Babies



Jeff and Lisa Manheim receive a Shalom Baby visit and gift bag for baby Oz.



Rob Schlissel and his wife Stacey recently moved to Stamford with their two children.



Beth and David Held learn more about their new community.

(Courtesy of UJF) Even during these challenging times, United Jewish Federation's Director of Campaign and Community Engagement, Sharon Franklin, continues to welcome those new to the area or those who have recently had a new baby with a welcome visit. A visit includes a masked hello from the door and a welcome tote bag filled with gifts, coupons, and helpful

information about the community. Newcomers and parents with new babies are informed about local programming and initiatives that can help them get connected.

If you know someone who has recently moved to Stamford, New Canaan, or Darien, or has a new addition to their family, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

JHSFC Intergenerational Oral History Builds on Success



Students and teachers at Siyum.

BY ELISSA KAPLAN AND LEAH TILLMAN

“Great, endearing, memorable, hilarious, surprising, persistent, interesting, and revealing!” were the words that parents used to describe the videos that their children produced for the exciting new Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) Intergenerational Oral History Project. This stimulating new initiative, called *LDor VDor* (From Generation to Generation), had students interviewing their grandparents or other elder relatives.

LDor VDor was launched at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) last spring by Dr. Elissa Kaplan, Dr. Leah Tillman, and Marcie Schoenfeld of JHSFC in conjunction with Rachel Haron, Associate Head and Principal of Lower School, and David Giver, Principal of Middle School, BCHA. Building on this success, Elissa Kaplan and Leah Tillman expanded the program to include religious schools in synagogues all over Fairfield County. To facilitate this effort, they recruited Rhonda Ginsberg, presently teaching Hebrew School at Congregation Beth El, Norwalk.

When they proposed the project to Congregation Beth El, Norwalk, Rabbi Ita Paskind and Principal Danielle Mittleman wanted to start the program immediately.

The *LDor VDor* project is a group of interactive and experiential lessons designed to develop an appreciation for the Jewish history of Fairfield County, as well as each student's family role in that history. As budding historians, the participants also gain an awareness of the stories that family artifacts tell. Expanding the perspective that artifacts tell stories, photos, documents, and objects from the Vivian and Irwin Miller JHSFC Archives are brought to the students. In addition, participants develop the skills necessary to interview an elderly relative and use the appropriate technology

to produce a ten-minute video.

LDor VDor has a grand finale, the *Siyum*, where parents and students are invited to view the videos and discuss the impact of the program on their lives. To illustrate how engaged the families became in this project, the parents remarked as follows:

“I had no idea my father did those things;”

“I learned so much about my mother-in-law's history;”

“We learned about our parents as people. They had a life before children!”

This project requires the cooperation of the administration and the classroom teacher. We appreciate the double role Rhonda Ginsberg played as a member of the *LDor VDor* team as well as the Congregation Beth El, Norwalk classroom teacher.

JHSFC is thrilled to expand this intergenerational program, which is part of its "Oral History and Archives at Home" initiative, to other Jewish organizations in Fairfield County. New cohorts at both Temple Sholom in Greenwich and once again at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford have already been scheduled.

As a volunteer organization, JHSFC welcomes your input and assistance. If your Jewish organization is interested in participating in a cohort or you would like to be trained as a *LDor VDor* instructor, please contact JHSFC at info@jhsfc-ct.org or 203-359-2196. This program is available to all participants free of charge.



Congregation Beth El, Norwalk parents and students watch video interviews.

A Sweet Victory for Bi-Cultural's Fourth Grade

(Courtesy of BCHA) Each fall, children in the Jewish community collect money for United Jewish Federation's Tzedakah Coin challenge with the incentive of knowing they are helping those in need and with the hope of raising the most charity and winning the annual contest. The winner was Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's (BCHA) fourth grade class. In addition to collecting tzedakah from family and friends, the 4th grade class got creative and held a bake sale to raise money for charity.

Sharon Franklin, UJF's Director of Campaign and Community Engagement,



BCHA's fourth grade class wins the UJF Tzedakah Challenge contest.

visited the winning class to talk to them about where the tzedakah goes and how Jews in need locally and all over the world benefit from their efforts. The kids also enjoyed their prize - a dessert party - which included gourmet donuts from Beldotti Bakery.

JFS Passover Meals



(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service is already preparing for Passover food distributions and needs your help. Shop the Virtual Grocery Store and help stock the shelves of the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry to help hungry families throughout Fairfield County during Passover. You can shop the Virtual Grocery Store at www.ctjfs.org/virtualgrocerystore.

JHSFC Sponsors 2022 Connecticut National History Day Contest

(Courtesy of JHSFC) The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) is offering prizes in conjunction with Connecticut History Day (CHD), an affiliate program of National History Day (NHD). This opportunity encourages Fairfield County students in grades 6-12 to further develop their critical thinking, writing and research skills. Area educators should encourage and endorse their students' participation.

Outstanding entries that incorporate an aspect of Jewish history, Jewish heritage, Jewish culture, or the contributions of a Jewish individual into the 2022 theme, "Debate and Diplomacy-Successes, Failures and Consequences", will be considered for an award. Projects can vary from essays to websites to individual or group performances.

Go to historydayct.org for the Contest Rule Book, CT Research Ideas, and the 2022 Theme Book.

The Connecticut State Contest, which is managed by the Connecticut Public Affairs Network, will hold its Fairfield County regional contest on March 26th; students must register by February 11th. This year all regional contests will be virtual.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County Archives is a great resource to help students choose a topic, find appropriate materials and get assistance in preparing entries. Examples of previous years' prize winners can be found at www.jhsfc-ct.org. For questions or more information, contact JHSFC at (203) 359-2196.

Israel At Our Doorstep

(Courtesy of UJF)

With the borders of Israel closing due to COVID, Federation is thankful to The Jewish Agency for Israel, for offering our community the opportunity to host two former *Schlichim* (emissaries), Idan and Lital. Their three days in Stamford were jam packed. Idan spent Shabbat at the home of Diane Sloyer, enjoyed dinner with community members, and attended Young Israel for services.

On Saturday evening, UJF hosted a dinner in a private home. Participants made traditional Kubbeh soup and while dining, discussed current events in Israel.

Sunday was jam packed and began at Temple Sinai's religious school (see page 1) with the 3rd and 5th grades. The day concluded with an evening with UJF's NextGen (see article on this page).

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) hosted the delegation all day Monday. Pre-K through 8th graders enjoyed various Israeli activities with Idan and Lital. Morah Yael from BCHA shared "we had a great day with our Israeli friends, Idan and Lital. Our students had a wonderful experience and learned so much. They brought the Israel experience to our school."

"I am thankful we were able to connect our community to Israel, even just for a few days," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer. "It is so important to feel connected to our homeland and hear first-hand, about the people and projects that are impacted by our philanthropy," she continued.



Participants learn to make Kubbeh Soup.



Temple Sinai third graders learn about the geography and topography of Israel with Idan.



Bi-Cultural 6th and 7th graders spend time with Idan and Lital learning about Israel.

Kubbeh Soup Brings NextGen and Israel Together

(Courtesy of UJF) Israel was certainly at the doorstep for the NextGen community in December with two Israeli educators and former community emissaries teaching a group of 17 young Jewish leaders how to cook Kubbeh soup.

Leading the evening (and directing the cooking!) was Idan Sharbi, along with his "sous-chef" and fellow educator, Lital Rasovsky. Both were born and raised in Israel and were in Stamford as part of the Jewish Agency for Israel's and the Israel Ministry of Diaspora Affairs joint "Israel at your doorstep" project, aimed at connecting the Diaspora community to Israel.

Idan, being a keen cook from a Yemenite background, loves to share the flavors he grew up on, and the NextGen community of Stamford were excited to try them.

Hosted at the private home of Shushannah and Ari Yasgur, the NextGen guests gathered around the kitchen to watch Idan and Lital prep the ingredients for the Kubbeh, and then finally, everyone got a chance to roll them before placing them in the soup to be cooked. Of course, everyone then got to try their creations over a sit-down dinner.

"It was a wonderful evening and such a great way for everyone to connect to both Israel and Idan and Lital," said UJF's NextGen Director, Melanie Vorm. "Food connects people and plays an integral role in every culture. So, to get to make such an authentic dish like Kubbeh soup here in Stamford was such a special treat for everyone. If you closed your eyes while taking a bite, you could almost have been in Israel," she added.



Participants learn how to make Kubbeh, an Iraqi dish.



NextGen gathers to learn about the impact of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The NextGen Kubbeh night was just one of many events planned for the 20s, 30s and 40s Stamford, Darien and New Canaan community. The mission of the newly relaunched NextGen program is to serve as a connector for all young Jews, regardless of background or affiliation. It aims to serve as a gateway to help empower young leaders to develop Jewish identity and build community through social events, fun and meaningful volunteer programs, educational activities, and philanthropy.

To get involved in shaping the future and to learn more, contact Melanie Vorm at melanie@ujf.org

Group Support Helps During Difficult Times

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service helps people in a variety of ways during times of marital separation and/or divorce. The Divorce Support Group at JFS meets weekly to provide an opportunity to connect with other people going through this significant life change. The group encourages members to identify and evaluate alternatives for themselves as well as help and support others.

A client from the Schoke JFS Divorce Support Group recently shared her personal experience of how the support group helped her get through this difficult life changing event.

"Divorce is a challenge that no one should attempt to tackle alone. Some may be ready and accepting for an amiable mediation right away, others are in more harrowing circumstances, requiring much more nurturing and guidance. In any case, one thing holds true, we all need the support of others. Schoke Jewish Family Service offers the most amazing Divorce Support Group.

This is a group where any man or woman at any stage in the divorce process can meet remotely, in a safe and confidential space to bounce ideas off of, seek support with, or simply just listen to and seek solace in the fact

that he/she is not alone.

The peer support and professional guidance provided by a facilitator was paramount to me personally overcoming a complicated and emotionally draining divorce. The group gave me the strength and confidence that I would not have had. I am grateful for Schoke JFS and encourage those in a similar situation, at any stage in a separation, divorce or marital conflict, to reach out and get the support you need."

In addition to the Divorce Support Group, Schoke JFS also offers Parenting Education Program (PEP) classes for separated, divorced or divorcing parents. PEP is a state

mandated workshop for divorcing couples in the State of Connecticut with children under the age of 18.

The Divorce Support Group meets every Monday at 1:00 pm on Zoom and is facilitated by Lois Meyer, LMSW. The cost is \$10 per session. For more information, please contact Lois Meyer at 203-984-4519, by email at lmeyer@ctjfs.org, or register for the group directly at www.ctjfs.org/counseling/groups/.

The cost of the Parenting Education Program (PEP) classes is \$150 per person. To register for the Parenting Education Program, please call 203-855-8765.

BBYO Teens Get Packing

(Courtesy of BBYO) The local chapter of BBYO held a packing party in support of United Jewish Federation's Dignity Grows program. The girls packed 100 totes filled with toiletries and other personal care items for local women and girls living below the poverty line, which were later delivered to Inspirica. BBYO, a pluralistic Jewish teen movement, aspires to involve more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences across the country. This mitzvah, or good deed, fulfilled the Jewish value of *Tikun Olam*, or repairing the world.



Cassie Culhane (left) and Cayla Frattaroli (right), local BBYO members and seniors at Westhill High School, help pack and deliver 100 Dignity Grows tote bags for Inspirica.

JWC Celebrates with Martinis and Gifts

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) On Chanukah, Chabad of Stamford's Jewish Women Connected (JWC) held its annual package party with a "Martinis and Matanot" (gift) theme. Participants enjoyed a variety of cocktails and a delicious latke bar and brought in a wrapped gift to be auctioned off. Auction proceeds benefited Chabad's "Loaves of Love" project.



receive these packages.

"Loaves of Love" is a project which shares love and community with families and individuals who need it most, whether it is to a new parent, new neighbor, someone sitting Shiva or going through a crisis, or just because! Each year hundreds of Stamford residents

Please join JWC on Wednesday, February 9 at 8:00 pm for its International Cookoff. To find out more about their events or to volunteer, sponsor or deliver "Loaves of Love" packages please email programs@stamfordchabad.org.

Seniors' Luncheons & Let's Talk at The JCC

(Courtesy of the JCC) The dates for the "Let's Talk" and Seniors' Luncheons at the JCC have been finalized for the first half of 2022. They are:

- Friday, February 11, from 10:15 am to 1:00 pm Let's Talk and Seniors Luncheon.
- Friday, March 11, from 10:15 am. to 1:00 pm Let's Talk, Entertainment and Seniors Purim Luncheon, provided through the generosity of Betsey and Arthur Selkowitz.
- Friday, April 8, from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm Seniors Passover Luncheon, provided through the generosity of Mrs. Beverly Ferber, in memory of her husband,

Stanley Ferber.

•Friday, May 6, from 10:15 am to 1:00 pm Let's Talk, Entertainment and Seniors Mothers' Day Luncheon, provided through the generosity of Caryl & Peter Poser, in memory of Peter's mother, Jacqueline.

•Friday, June 10, from 10:15 am to 1:00 pm Let's Talk and Seniors Luncheon.

Reservations required for all luncheons. Free to all seniors. Suggested donations of \$6.00 welcome.

For questions and information, please contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-940-3890 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Chabad of Stamford Family Fun Day

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Almost 100 people joined Chabad of Stamford on December 24 for their annual family brunch and fun day. Despite the snow covered ground, families met on the outdoor playground to enjoy music and play, have hot cocoa and a delicious brunch, with each child receiving challah dough to shape and bake for Shabbat.



Chabad of Stamford Teens Raise Funds for Camp

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) In December, Chabad of Stamford sent two girls to volunteer at a winter camp in the Ukraine that provides a warm, Jewish experience for underprivileged girls, many of whom are orphans or come from at-risk backgrounds. The camp is funded exclusively by money raised by the counselors. With this in mind, Chabad's teen groups, Cteen (for grades 9-12) and Cteen Jr. (for 8th grade) got together to organize a bake sale to raise funds for this camp. Over 15 kids baked delicious pies, muffins and cookies to sell at Chabad and Gan Yeladim, raising almost \$500. For more information about Chabad's teen groups please email youth@stamfordchabad.org.



(l-r) Elliot Nerenberg, Mikah Israel, Chaya Rivkin, Kalanit Shmuel, Ella Dulitz & Tamar Links.

New Course: Meditation from Sinai

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Beginning this February, Rabbi Levi Mendelow, who directs the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) courses for Chabad in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, will offer Meditation from Sinai, a fascinating new six-session program exploring the nature of Jewish meditation and the profound benefits it can bring to one's daily life.

Beginning Wednesday, February 9, participants in the course will discover what Jewish meditation is, the pivotal role it plays in Jewish tradition, and the fundamental ideas it is based on. The course will teach crucial life tools that help us respond effectively to negative thoughts and emotions, recognize the value of

each new moment, and find purpose and spirituality even in life's most mundane tasks.

"Not many people think of meditation as a Jewish thing," said Rabbi Mendelow, "when, in reality, Judaism has a rich and authentic tradition of meditation practices that, when implemented, can truly transform one's life for the better."

Meditation from Sinai is a revolutionary, empowering offering that unveils Jewish meditation and mindful awareness as the bedrock for a meaningful life. This course synthesizes extensive research from both the spiritual community and psychological research, forging a practical path to fully realizing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll

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

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

Anonymous (24)	Alicia and Jason Goldstein
Adrienne and Michael Alexander	Caryl Goldstein*
Jeri Appel	Meryl and David Gordon
Mark Appel	Nan and Paul Gordon
Ricky Snow Arbron	Linda B. Gornitsky
Suellyn Bache	Sharon and Larry Greenberg
Monica Becker and Edieal Pinker	Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg
Rachel Tyd and Robert Beldock	Grecia and Ron* Gross
Gayle and Mitchell Bell	Scott Handelman
Debra and Michael Berg	Jacqueline Herman
Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz and Parry Berkowitz	Dr. Shara and Rabbi David Israel
Berkun Family	Sari and Alan Jaffe
Darona and Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein	Meryl and Ron Japha
Melody and Claude Bernstein	Sadae and Michael Kadish
Bruce Blasnik	Judith and Grant Kallen
Judith B. Block	Helene and Harvey Kaminski
Amy and Henry Bubel	Chanie Kamman
Roberta and Alan Cohen	Dr. Jan Kaplowitz
Andrea and David M. Cohen	Jason Kaplowitz
Diane and Rabbi Daniel Cohen	Roni Kaplowitz
Malerie Yolen-Cohen and Jeff Cohen	Lisa and Arnold Karp
Judy and David S.* Cohen	Jessica and Ilan Katz
Mimi Cohen	Joy Katz
Rachel and Ephraim Cohen	Judith and Sheldon Katz
Saul Cohen*	Larry Katz
Tracy and Nahum Daniels	Betsy and Peter Kempner
Janice Steinberg and Stephen Davidson	Madelyne Kirch
Elayne Dener	Liz and Marc Kitay
Helen and Marty Donner	Elissa and Philip Klapper
Fran and Bob Dorf	Harris Kligman
Shoshana Dweck	Susan Kostin
Debra and Dan Faizakoff	Arthur Kramer*
Michelle Fanwick	Norma Kraut
Esta and Jay Feinsod	Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher
Sharon and Michael Feldstein	Carol and Allen Krim
Peggy and Jerry Fensterstock	Elizabeth and Scott Krowitz
Linda Hurwitz and Richard Fine	Svetlana Kunin
Robin and Jason Fischel	Jackie and Marshall Kurland
Stephanie and Howard Fogel	Lorraine and David Kveskin
Lenore and Dr. Ilan Fogel	Helen and Ed Kveskin
Miriam Lavinsky and Morton Folb*	Lieba and Steve Lander
Sharon Franklin	Shelley Leibowitz
Connie and Alan Freeman	Lois D. Stark and Gary P.Lessen
Susan Frieden	Elizabeth Libner
Rachel and Keith Friedman	R. and J. Licht
Marc Friedman	Ronnie and Gary Lilien
Donna and Edward Fuhrman	Vered and Mark Links
Nancy and Mark Funt	Lisa and Seth Linzer
Lesley and Dennis Gehr	Eleanor and Mort Lowenthal
Carole Gladstone	Stu Madison
Herbert Gladstone*	Lisa and Jeff Manheim
Sylvia and Herb Gladstone*	Norma and Milton Mann*
Leslie Glenn	Susan and Len Mark
Robin Frederick and Michael Gold	Chris Maroc
Cyndy and Eric Goldberg	Rhonda Schaffer-Maroon and Jeffrey Maroon
Marilyn and Irving Goldblum	Melanie Massell

Michal and Rabbi Levi Mendelow	Hilde Scheraga*	Dr. Julie and Rabbi Jay TelRav
Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun	Jayne and Bud Schiff	The Estate of Sheila Carmine*
Marguerite and Kenneth Neuhaus	Carol Ruth and Herman Shepherd*	The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin*
Rose and Bruce Newman	Nancy Schiffman	The Estate of Ronald Gross*
Marsha and Louis Panzer	Monica Smyth and Michael Schlessinger	Pamela and Richard Vogel
Leah and Doni Perl	Elayne and James Schoke*	Annie and Jeremy Watman
Dr. Robin Evans and Dr. Jeffrey Perry	Chaya and Levi Segal	David Wayne
Honni and Sylvan Pomerantz	Myrna and George Sessa	Ellen and Richard Weber
Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser	Diane and Steve Shaby	Linda B. Gornitsky and Harvey Weber
Enid Randall*	Jessica and Laurence Sheinman	Dana and Carl Weinberg
Bonita and Stephen Rappoport	Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov	Leon Weisburgh
Judith Raymond	Marsha Kaiser Shendell	Janet Welkovich
Lisa and Harry Rich	Stephanie and Bob Sherman	Robyn and Mark Winarksky
Judy and Adam Rin	Malya Shmotkin	Neda Khaghan and Robert Yaghoubian
Betty and Dan* Roberts	Ronnie Ness and Dr. Steven Sichel	Rita and Abe Yellen
Sonia and Brian Roitman	Miriam Landsberg-Silverman and Eliezer Silverman	Sheryl and Dan Young
Romanowitz Family	Paula Simon	Lauren and Joe Zalis
Arlene and Carl Rosen	Diane Sloyer	Joan Zinbarg*
Arlene Rosen	Diane and Elliot Sloyer	Renee Zinn
Irma Ross	Ed Smith	
Sandra Ross	Greta Solomon	<i>*Of Blessed Memory</i>
Sally and Jim Rothkopf	Miriam and Steve Sosnick	<i>This is the list provided to UJF at time of publishing. We apologize for any names that have been omitted. Please let us know and the missing names will be added to the next issue of the paper.</i>
Ruth Rothseid	Sandy and Moshe Speter	
Linda and Leonard Russ	Ed Spilka	
Bonnie Russo	Eileen and Fred Springer	
Edith Samers	Beverly and David Stein	
Renee Samson*	Betsy and Michael Stone	
Sharyn and Richard Sarner	Gladys and Greg Teitel	
Leah Schechter		

Jewish Community Relations Council Presents

Cultivating A CARING SOUL

Please join us as these authors share how we can create a better world by caring for each other. Books can be purchased at book stores or online.

FEBRUARY 28

7:00pm
**Be A Mensch:
Unleash Your Power
to Be Kind and Help
Others**
Elisa Udaskin (Via ZOOM)

MARCH 21

**The Kindness
Advantage: Cultivating
Compassionate and
Connected Children,**
Dale Atkins &
Amanda Salzhauer
(Venue and Time TBD)

Chair: Nancy Schulman
To Register: ujf.org/caringsoul



LIFE & LEGACY Testimonials

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

Learn why they look to secure our Jewish future and discover your reasons to join them. Together, we can all work to guarantee the future of the Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish community we love. For more information, visit ujf.org or call Lenore Fogel at (203) 321-1373, extension 115 or Lenore@ujf.org.

NORMA KRAUT TESTIMONIAL

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien has been dear to my heart for many years. My mother was very active in Hadassah, and she taught me the importance of devoting time and funds to assist Jewish communities in the United States and abroad.

In 1968, on my first visit to Israel, I really understood the meaning of having our own state and how that could impact the hopes and dreams of Jews worldwide. My late husband, Herb Kraut, and I



Norma Kraut

were both very involved in the Stamford Federation's governing board and fundraising campaigns.

We taught our daughters to value and support Federation's mission.

As soon as I learned about the Life & Legacy program, I

committed to leaving a lasting gift. Just as I plan to provide for a future for my children and grandchildren, I am proud to provide for a future for my Jewish family around the world, via Federation's work.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Autism Can Be Identified As Early As Baby's First Year

New studies affirm that early detection and therapeutic intervention may significantly reduce the severity of lifelong developmental deficits.

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN/ISRAEL21C

Two recently published studies show that symptoms associated with autism can be identified as early as the first year of life, and that early detection allows for therapeutic intervention beginning in a child's second year.

Both studies were published in the International Journal of Pediatrics & Neonatal Care and led by Dr. Hanna A.

Alonim from the Mifne Center for Early Intervention in the Treatment of Autism and the Weisfeld School of Social Work Continuing Education Unit at Bar-Ilan University in Israel.

The first study, carried out at the Mifne Center over the course of a decade, asked infant development experts to look for signs of autistic behavior in video recordings of 110 infants, all of whom were later diagnosed with autism between the ages of two-and-a-half and three.



Prof. Ilan Dinstein

They found that in 89 percent of the infants, symptoms could be observed from the age of four to six months. These signs include lack of eye contact, lack of response to parents' voice or presence, excessive passivity or, alternatively, excessive activity, delay in motor

development, refusal to eat, aversion to touch, and accelerated growth of head circumference.

Following this study, a screening tool called ESPASSI was developed by the Mifne Center to detect infants at risk for autism and used as a pilot at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center.

The second study, also conducted for a decade, compared the impact of therapeutic interventions at the Mifne Center that began at two different stages in life: 45 infants treated in their

Remembering Renee Samson, Z'L

(Courtesy of UJF) Renee Samson passed away in mid-December at the age of 93. She and her late husband Ernest called Stamford their home after moving here from South Africa. They quickly became leaders in the Stamford Jewish community offering strategic sage advice in addition to their philanthropy. Stamford's Jewish community became their extended family. Renee's love and devotion to their daughters, Dr. Jeanne Katz (David) and Claire Ellman (David), grandchildren Naomi Sacks, Gideon Katz, Karen Levine, Jonathan Ellman, Daniel Ellman and her great-grandchildren, were endless.

"Renee Samson, of blessed memory, was a true gem – a precious human being and the world is a better place because she was a part of it. Renee cared about her family deeply, but she also saw herself as part of a larger family – the Jewish community first and then everyone else. She was committed to *tzedakah* and believed that she had no choice but to give back. The true meaning of *tzedakah* is righteousness and she symbolized that. What was totally unique about her, and so unlike most philanthropists, is she never asked for recognition and often even refused it when organizations wanted to give her public thanks. I was lucky to

spend a great deal of time with Renee and always left feeling with a renewed faith in the human spirit," shared long-time friend, Edith Samers.

Lorraine Kweskin shared the following loving memories.

"Renee had a twinkle in her eye and a mischievous smile! Her family was everything to her. She loved sharing stories about the grand and great-grands helping her with her computer. She spoke about her love of Ernest and his protection of her. She had a deep commitment to the Jewish community and generously supported it. She loved

that her great-grandchildren called her Granny Granny! I will miss our lunches together".

"Philanthropy was at the core of Renee's soul. She was thankful that she and Ernest were able to make a lasting impact in the Stamford and world-wide Jewish communities. Renee was always interested in all that Federation was doing and grateful she was able to make a meaningful difference. She gave a lead gift to help us fund the start of the LIFE & LEGACY program and became a legacy donor herself shortly before her passing. She will be missed and remembered warmly by all who knew her," shared Federation CEO, Diane Sloyer.



Renee Samson

in the journal Autism by Prof. Ilan Dinstein, head of the Azrieli National Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopment Research, revealed that children diagnosed before 2.5 years of age were three times more likely to exhibit considerable improvements in the core social symptoms of autism in comparison to children diagnosed at later ages.

"We believe this larger improvement is due to the larger brain plasticity and behavioral flexibility that is a fundamental characteristic of early childhood," said Dinstein.

"These results highlight the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder even in community settings with heterogeneous services. In addition, these results motivate further prioritization of universal screening for autism spectrum disorder before 2.5 years of age."

second year vs. 39 toddlers treated in their third year.

The interventions addressed the physical, sensory, motor, emotional, and cognitive aspects of development. While both groups showed progress in all development components, the younger group showed significantly better statistical improvement compared to the older group.

"Decades of neural, cognitive and behavioral research affirm that the human brain undergoes its most substantial and maximal development in the early postnatal years," said Alonim.

"These two studies confirm that there is a window of opportunity and it makes complete sense that early detection and intervention will affect neuroanatomical development components at a stage which is most influential for the rapidly developing brain, even to the extent that the full-blown manifestation of autism can be prevented from escalation."

In November, a paper published

PJ Library Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

Save the date for a **Festive Purim Celebration**, hosted by United Jewish Federation's PJ Library and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Sunday, March 13th at 2:00 pm. Come in costume!

- **Books for all!** Families are eligible to receive one book per child. It's easy to sign up! Just go to www.pjlibrary.org and fill out the online form, and books will arrive within several months. For children ages 6 months to 8 years old.

- **PJ Our Way** offers children 8 1/2-12 years old a free chapter book each month. Tweens can choose from a selection of four high-quality titles that have been reviewed by a panel of PJ educators, children, and parents. To sign up go to www.pjourway.org.

- Grandparents in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien can now receive a free subscription of PJ's **PROOF Magazine** and two free books each year. Sign up at: www.pjlibrary.org/grandparent-enrollment.

- Join UJF's **Grandparents Group**, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org. **WINTER CRAFT: UPCYCLED JUICE CARTON OWL BIRD FEEDER**

Watching birds at your feeder during the cold winter months is a wonderful way to stay connected with nature and help creatures that might otherwise struggle to find their next meal.



Sharon Franklin

1. Materials:

- Juice or milk carton
- Plastic bottle lids (two sizes as photo or with one size and keep it simple).
- Googly eyes (or a permanent marker to draw the eyes).
- Craft stick or use a stick you find outdoors for the perch.
- Glue (hot glue is a good option applied by an adult).

2. **Paint** the carton- several coats may be needed- let dry between coats. If using acrylic paint, add a coat of clear varnish so it is waterproof.

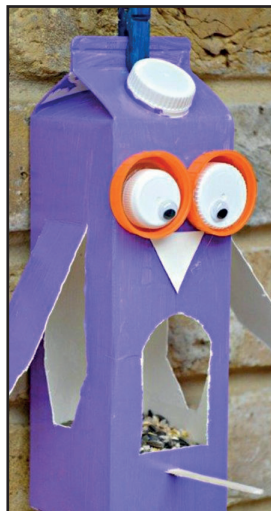
3. **Draw** your cut out shapes, and have an adult help **cut out** the tummy opening, and the owl wings (leave attached to create the wing effect). Make a small hole under the tummy opening for the stick.

4. **Glue on** your bottle top eyes. Add googly eyes (or draw on with a permanent marker). Cut a triangle shape and glue below the eyes for the **beak**.

5. **Punch a little hole** or use a **clothes pin** at the top and add a string or ribbon.

6. **Add bird seed** and hang the feeder outside. By placing it in view of a window, your family will enjoy watching a variety of bird species eat from your feeder!

Share your creations! Tag and post your birdfeeder at @PJLibrary Stamford on Instagram or on Facebook at PJ Library Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien.



Use upcycled materials to make a winter bird feeder.

PJ Library Feature Family – The Feinbergs

(Courtesy of UJF) Matt and Nikki Feinberg live in Stamford with their two children. Matt is a Stamford native, and Nikki grew up in Florida. They met at the University of Florida and have been married for 11 years. They have two amazing boys- Cooper (3 ½ years old) and Austin (8 months) who keep them busy and laughing.



Matt and Nikki Feinberg read a PJ Library book to their two sons.

What is your family's favorite PJ Library book(s)?

Cooper loves receiving the PJ Library books that arrive in the mail. He will excitedly ask what the mailman brought him and will read the book immediately. He's always anxious to see what the new book is all about. His favorites are:

Purim Is Coming - Cooper has loved this book from his first Purim when he wasn't quite a year old. He enjoys the story of Purim, the costumes, decorations, and foods.

Found - This is a newer book that Cooper has already memorized, and "reads" to his younger brother Austin. He loves the idea that special toys can be passed on, and that certain things can be shared.

Naamah and the Ark at Night - Cooper loves the story of Naamah and all the animals in the ark.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PJ LIBRARY PROGRAM?

We appreciate that PJ Library has shifted some of their programming

to online events. We haven't mingled a lot in the last two years, but we're looking forward to meeting people in person soon.

WHY IS PJ LIBRARY IMPORTANT IN YOUR HOME?

Raising the boys with a strong Jewish identity and Jewish education is extremely important to us. The PJ Library stories help to explain holidays, traditions, and culture in a fun way the boys can relate to and understand.

WHAT IS YOUR BEDTIME ROUTINE LIKE? DOES IT INCLUDE A PJ LIBRARY STORY?

Our bedtime routine includes lots of reading! Austin goes to bed a bit earlier than Cooper, so we read a few books together. After Austin goes down, Cooper picks a couple of books that he would like to read. A PJ Library book is always in the mix!

PJ Library Serves Up Coffee and Community

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

United Jewish Federation's PJ Library held a Coffee Truck and Cookie Pop-Up event in mid-December in partnership with Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. Families bundled up for this in-person, outdoor program to see friends, meet new people, do a mitzvah, and enjoy hot drinks and treats.

"This is the second year we have held this PJ winter event with Rogue Coffee, and the attendance doubled from last year! This event gave families an opportunity to get outdoors and see friends at a



Children enjoy hot chocolate and cookies from Beldotti Bakery.



Families warm up with a hot beverage at the PJ-BCHA event in December.

time when many are hesitant to socialize indoors. Prospective families also had a chance to tour BCHA with Director of Admissions, Miriam Sperber. A special thank you to Rabbi Eli Kohl for providing "Kashrut supervision," says Sharon Franklin, UJF's Director of Campaign and Community Engagement.

Children made "Cups of Love" packages for a local fire station, which were later delivered by the first-grade class at BCHA and Alissa Weisser, the school's Chesed Coordinator. The mitzvah packages included chocolate, tea, coffee, a handwritten note, and all the fixings needed for a hot beverage while on duty.

For more information about PJ Library books and programming, contact Sharon Franklin at Sharon@ujf.org. To learn more about BCHA, contact Miriam Sperber at msperber@bcha-ct.org.



Warming up with hot beverages. (l-r) Adam Kevelson, Peretz Cik, and Ari Goldstein.



Judith and Matthew Bernstein and family assemble "Cups of Love" for local firefighters.



PJ Library Mom's Night Out

(Courtesy of UJF) Lielle Sugar, United Jewish Federation's PJ Library's Parent Ambassador for babies and toddlers, held a PJ Library Mom's Night Out at the home of Elana Barer in late December. The group enjoyed hot drinks, snacks, and a chance to catch up and socialize.

If you would like more information about joining UJF's PJ Library Baby and Toddler group, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



(l-r) Marissa Emple, Danielle Bergman, Katie Lifshitz, Elana Barer, Dani Kondub, Lisa Gavronsky, and Tova Berns.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Scientists Develop Method to Harvest Electricity From Seaweed

An idea inspired by a swim leads to the production of electrical currents on a par with those obtained from standard solar cells.

BY NAAMA BARAK/ISRAEL21C

Ancient Greek inventor Archimedes may have had his Eureka moment in the bath, but modern-day Israeli student Yaniv Shlosberg recently had his own moment of clarity during a swim in the sea.

Inspired by the sight of seaweed on a rock, he wondered whether the algae could be used to create green, carbon-negative energy. A bit of research and one publication later, the answer became a resounding yes.

The negative effects of fossil fuel usage have long led researchers to look for cleaner, planet-friendlier ways to provide the world with power. One such path of research involves using living organisms as the source of electrical currents in microbial fuel cells, but the problem with this is that the bacteria need to be constantly fed and in some cases are pathogenic.

Another option is a technology called Bio-PhotoElectrochemical Cells (BPEC), where the source of electrons

can be derived from photosynthetic bacteria, especially cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae.

The only problem here is that it is less commercially attractive, since the amount of current that can be produced is smaller than that of other sources such as solar cell technologies.

"I had the idea one day when I went to the beach," explains Shlosberg. "At the time I was studying the cyanobacterial BPEC, when I noticed seaweed on a rock that looked like electrical cords. I said to myself – since they also perform photosynthesis, maybe we can use them to produce currents."

Shlosberg and a team of researchers from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology and the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute began exploring the use of Ulva, or sea lettuce, which grows plentifully both naturally and for research purposes on Israel's Mediterranean shores.

After developing new methods to connect between the Ulva and the BPEC, currents 1,000 times greater than those from cyanobacteria were obtained – currents that are on the level of those obtained from standard solar cells.

The results were recently published in *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*.

The researchers note that the increased currents produced by Ulva are due to the high rate of seaweed photosynthesis and

PJ Library Lights Up Darien

(Courtesy of UJF) Darien has been a destination for many young families who are moving out of the city during the pandemic as they look for more space and a suburban community. As a result, United Jewish Federation's PJ Library has seen a surge in new subscriptions in this quintessential New England town.

This past Chanukah, the first-ever menorah lighting in Darien was organized by town resident Dan Guller. Nearly 300 people came to celebrate the holiday, or to lend their support for diversity. PJ Library distributed complimentary holiday bags and Chanukah cookies. During the event, 18 new families signed up for PJ Library and PJ Our Way books, showing the desire



Dan Guller is shown addressing the group at the first-ever Darien menorah lighting.



Sarah Walker, Sharon Franklin, and Keren Lai met to plan PJ Library programming in Darien.

and need for Jewish community in Darien.

Planning is currently underway for PJ Library programming thanks to local Darien parents who joined a planning committee. Keren Lai, who moved to Darien with her husband and son during COVID, is one such parent. "I recently signed my son up for PJ Library books to include more Jewish stories and holidays into my home. I'm excited to help plan programming in Darien, and meet others in our community," says Keren.

For more information about PJ Library, or if you know a young family moving to or already living in Darien, reach out to Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

the ability to use the seaweed in their natural seawater as the BPEC electrolyte – the solution that promotes electron transfer in the BPEC.

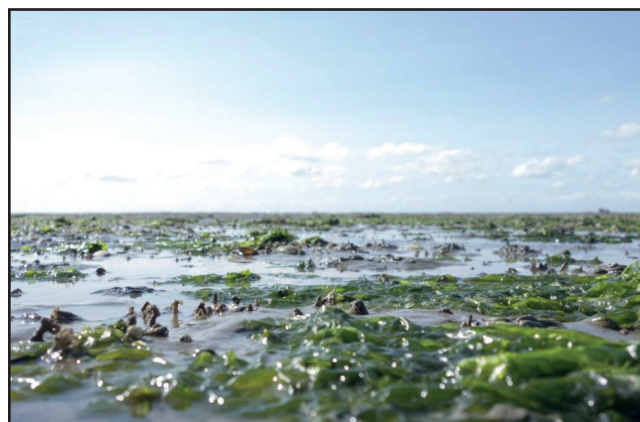
In addition, the seaweed can also provide currents in the dark thanks to a process of respiration whereby sugars produced in the photosynthetic process are used as an internal source of nutrients.

Not only is this new method carbon neutral but is in fact "carbon negative," with the seaweed absorbing carbon from the atmosphere during the day while growing and releasing oxygen.

No carbon is released during the harvesting of the current during daytime, and the seaweed releases the normal amount of carbon during respiration at night.

The researchers have so far built a prototype device that collects the current directly in the Ulva growth vat and believe that it can be further improved and developed as a future green energy solution.

"It is a wonder where scientific ideas come from," Shlosberg concludes.



The humble sea lettuce seaweed can become a significant carbon-neutral energy solution. (PHOTO COURTESY OF TM CREATIONS VIA SHUTTERSTOCK.COM)

PJ Library Refer a Friend Is Back!



- Engage qualified families to subscribe and receive a prize
- To participate check your email or go to www.ujf.org/pjlibrary.
- For more information contact your local PJ Library Director, Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org

PJ Library

WHY I CARE...

Focus on: Dan Guller

“As he thinks in his heart, so he is.” — Jewish Proverb

My husband, Eric, and I moved from Manhattan to Darien 12 years ago. When I started looking for a local synagogue, I was often told, “Jews don’t live in Darien.” My reply was, “Jews will continue to not live in Darien until Jews move to Darien.” It hasn’t always been easy being a minority here. Our genuinely wonderful neighbors held the block party on Yom Kippur...twice, but in general I have found Darien to be open and inviting.

Once our son, Eli, was born in 2018, our perspective, naturally, changed. We saw Darien from the perspective of a child growing up here and attending the public schools. We wanted to make sure the sporadic incidents of hate speech scrawled on school walls was not indicative of a return to Darien’s past. This year I ran for and was elected to the Representative Town Meeting.

I have been performing improv comedy

in New York since the early nineties and wanted to bring the classes and shows you can only get in the city to Fairfield County. So, in 2017, I founded Yes And Company – a small business where we teach and perform improvisation. Eric is currently a Managing Director at Encina Capital.

Earlier this year, a friend reached out to me with an idea about a public menorah lighting in town. Since he wasn’t available to organize such an event, I took the project on. I partnered with Baywater Properties and PG Properties who offered up Grove Street Plaza as a venue. I saw this as an opportunity to showcase Darien’s Jewish community, so, in addition to the main public lighting event, I decided to find a local Jewish family to light the Grove Street Menorah each night of Chanukah. I honestly thought I might have to bring in some ringers from Stamford, but once word started spreading, I kept getting more volunteers. We wound up with 22 local Jewish families participating! Apparently,

Jews do live in Darien.

The main celebration was held on the fourth night of Chanukah. I had invited local business leaders, politicians, and clergy from various churches – all of whom showed up. We had around four hundred people come to celebrate with us that night! The clergy of Temple Shalom in Norwalk led the ceremony. United Jewish Federation was also a great partner, providing giveaways and treats, as well as books from PJ Library. I was overwhelmed at the response from the community for each of our nightly menorah lightings and promise we’ll be back next year.

In addition to serving on the Representative Town Meeting, I’m also a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple Shalom. And I’ve been a member of the



Dan Guller (left) and his husband, Eric James (right), live in Darien with their son. (CREDIT: LINDSAY MADDEN PHOTOGRAPHY).

Action Network of Darien Democrats since its founding in 2019.

We pay taxes to improve our roads, schools, and infrastructure. But maintaining our community welfare takes volunteers willing to stand up. I want my son to know that tzedakah is not just about charity, but about social justice, as well.

New Course – Meditation from Sinai

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

life’s potentials.

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

The course will be offered over Zoom. Sign in information will be provided upon enrollment.

Interested students may call 203-972-7708 or visit www.myJLI.com for

registration and for other course-related information.

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 1,600 international locations in the U.S., Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Panama, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Venezuela. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since it was founded in 1998.

2021 UJF Annual Campaign Donors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Moira Morrissey & Mark Slivka
Zimrat Sloyer
Michal Smart
Stacy & Lee Soffer
Debbie & Ben Soifer
Jill & Steven Sokol
Diane Sorcher
Miriam & Josh Sperber
Melissa & Michael Spiesman
Wendy Stark
Gail Stein
Jill & Harold Stein
Leba & Steve Steinmetz
Fannie Stevens
Betsy & Michael Stone
Larry Stoogenke
Claire & Paul Stuken
Susan & Sandy Swidler
Caroline & Marc Teichman
Greg & Gladys Teitel
Elana & Brian Tepper
Rachel & Harold Terk
Danielle & Steven Thau

Ailene & Steve Tisser
Hildi & David Todrin
Debra & John Tomsky
Patty & Mitchell Tublin
Helene & Leonard Vinnick
Melanie & Laurie Vorm
Sandra & David Wallach
Alyssa & Joseph Wallen
Phyllis & Harvey Walzer
Kimmie & David Warmflash
Cindy & Steven Warren
Anita Wasserman
Annie & Jeremy Watman
Beth & Sandy Weinberg
Wendy & Daniel Weiner
Hillary & Larry Weinroth
Luba Weinroth
Harriet & Seymour Weinstein
Michele Weintraub
Robin & Mark Winarsky
Annabeth Winters
Emily & Michael Wirgin
Susan Wise

Howard Wolfe
Cheryl & David Wolff
Nancy Wolfson
Susan Wruble
Arnold Yelin
Rita & Abe Yellen
Sharon & Robert Yudell
Steve Zales
Carol Zampino
Dorothy & Steven Zeide
Michelle Zelin
Sara & Simon Zhornitsky
Helene Zimmerman
Zimra Gordon & Steve Danzer
Luba & Arcady Zislis
Navah & David Zizmor
Robert Zohn
Fridrikh Zubarev
Chani & Rabbi Oran Zweiter

TEEN VOICES

The Meaning Behind Friendship Circle

BY JULIANNE KATZ

The Friendship Circle of Fairfield County is a nonprofit organization that helps children with special needs and families. However, there is so much more to this organization. “The Friendship Circle was founded on the idea that within each person is a soul, regardless of any limitations that may surround it- here, we make friends!”

I am going into my fourth year of actively volunteering for The Friendship Circle, but I have always been a part of their community. I would volunteer at Children’s Circle on Sunday mornings (held at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) where children with special needs are paired with buddies who do different activities with them. In my first year, I volunteered with a close friend of mine, and this became a highlight of the week for both of us. Not only did we enjoy hanging out and building a connection with our new shared friend, but we truly felt the difference we were making.

The philosophy of The Friendship Circle resonates with me: everyone can do anything they set their mind to- it doesn’t matter how many limitations one has, there will always be someone there to help. Children and adults with special needs are not viewed as people with disabilities, rather, as human beings who need a little help seizing the day. Volunteers are not



Julianne Katz

considered babysitters- we are friends. During just three hours, a child can go from tantrums to smiles. From firsthand experience, I can say that these children have so much potential. My special buddy taught me as much as I taught him.

The Friendship Circle also treats volunteers with gratitude, respect, and kindness. Every Children Circle Sunday, one of the staff brings treats and raffle prizes for the volunteers. The opportunities and appreciation that volunteers receive are endless, and I have learned so much about giving back to my community, about chesed, and about Judaism.

The Friendship Circle stands for kindness, creativity and appreciation. The founding idea- that we are all friends, that everyone matters- is apparent every time we meet. These experiences have helped me become a better person and have gifted it’s special children with the most precious gift of all- a friend and companion.

Julianne is a senior at Bi-Cultural Hebrew High School, and enjoys volunteering, working out, reading, and hanging out with friends. She spends a lot of time studying, and hopes to get a law degree and work for an American Intelligence Agency such as the CIA, Department of Defense, or the Secret Service.

United Jewish Federation
The New Jewish Voice
1035 Newfield Ave, Suite 200
Stamford, CT 06905

Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Flushing NY
Permit # 19357

**61 Million Americans live with disabilities
and nearly 26% live in poverty.**

VIRTUAL

JEWISH DISABILITY ADVOCACY DAY

February 23rd & 24th

**Join us for JDAD as we come together virtually
from diverse communities across North America
to harness our collective power and break down
barriers to opportunity and inclusion.**

Together, we'll learn, take action, and be inspired!



United Jewish Federation

Registration:

jewishtgether.org/JDAD-2022

Opening Ceremony:

Wednesday, Feb. 23rd, 7pm EST (virtual)

Advocacy Day:

Thursday, February 24th 1-4pm EST (Virtual)