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United Jewish Federation

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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UJF Reading Partners Celebrates Twenty-Five Years

(Courtesy of UJF) In 1999, Elaine Erichson, Audrey Frankenburg and Susan Krieger had an idea. In conjunction with the National Jewish Coalition for Literacy, they began Reading Partners at United Jewish Federation.

In the fall of 1999, two public schools and 13 volunteers enrolled. In 2003, the Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Charitable Foundation began to fund the program. Today, 25 years later, Reading Partners collaborates with all 13 public elementary schools in Stamford and has close to 70 volunteers.

The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program has impacted over 4,000 students in Stamford over the past quarter century.

On June 6, volunteers, teachers and supporters gathered to celebrate the milestone event. Close to fifty people

participated in a festive breakfast, where they were honored for their dedication throughout the years. Some volunteers at the breakfast have participated

in Reading Partners since its beginning, while others started this year. Guest speaker Alan Katz, children's author and six-time Emmy-nominated TV writer, kept everyone laughing and engaged. At the end of the event, everyone received a commemorative 25-year anniversary notebook. Reading Partners Director

Lenore Fogel said, "It is so wonderful to see the devotion of the volunteers and the school administration in strengthening the student's reading skills. The volunteers love their meetings as much as the children who run to greet them each week when they see them at



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Temple Beth El Welcomes Rabbi Michael Knopf

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Temple Beth El (TBE) is delighted to announce the appointment of Rabbi Michael Knopf as its next Senior Rabbi, effective July 15. Rabbi Knopf will succeed Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, who will transition to the position of Rabbi Emeritus.



Rabbi Michael Knopf

Rabbi Knopf comes to TBE from Temple Beth-El Richmond, where he served for almost 10 years. *The Forward* named Rabbi Knopf one of "America's Most Inspiring Rabbis" for his efforts in building an inclusive, supportive, and deeply intertwined community, where the enduring power and truths of the Jewish tradition come alive for people of all backgrounds, ages, and stages.

Among his many accomplishments, Rabbi Knopf holds degrees from Columbia University (History, Cum Laude), the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (Talmud and Rabbinics, Magna Cum Laude), and the American Jewish University (Master of Arts in Rabbinic Studies, Rabbinic Ordination),

where he received the Eliezer Slomovic Award in Talmud. He is an American Jewish World Service Global Justice Fellow and an alumnus of both Rabbis Without Borders and the Clergy Leadership Incubator. Passionate about lifelong learning and interfaith understanding, he is currently a doctoral candidate at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

On the lighter side, Rabbi Knopf avidly follows pop culture (hosting the *PopTorah* podcast) and politics, goes for a run (almost) every day, and enjoys movies (especially *Star Wars*), traveling (especially Disney World), pizza and ice cream (especially Ben & Jerry's The Tonight Dough).

"Rabbi Knopf's visionary leadership, engagement with contemporary social issues, and his commitment to sharing a Judaism that is rich and meaningful are evident by his achievements throughout his rabbinic career," said TBE President

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Chabad's Mega Challah Bake

In a powerful show of Jewish unity, over 430 local women and teens gathered together for an evening of inspiration and challah baking at the Italian Center in Stamford. (See story on page 4.)



(PHOTO CREDIT: RIVKAHLABERPHOTOGRAPY)

From UJF's Chief Executive Officer

Marching Down Fifth with Pride and Purpose

BY DIANE SLOYER

On a bright and sunny Sunday, the heart of New York City was transformed into a sea of blue and white as approximately 100,000 people marched down Fifth Avenue in a powerful display of pride and solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people. For those older readers, we remember the Salute to Israel Day Parade then renamed The Annual Celebrate Israel Parade, and this year renamed Israel Day on 5th.

The parade has been a staple event since 1964. I marched as a young child with my synagogue, Greenburgh Hebrew Center in Dobbs Ferry, through United Synagogue Youth (USY) and college at NYU, and then as the organizer, for too many years to count, at Bi-Cultural. Now I attend as a spectator, and have probably attended over 30 parades.

This normally jubilant event focused on remembering the hostages seized by Hamas on October 7. Together a diverse crowd



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

was unified in their support for Israel and their unwavering commitment to the families of hostages currently enduring unimaginable hardships. Over 3,000 people representing the Hostage Forum, including former hostages and families, marched and chanted "bring them home now" while joined by the 25,000 plus spectators.

Colorful floats depicted various aspects of Israeli life from its innovative technology sector to its rich agricultural heritage. Marching bands and dance troupes added to the festive atmosphere, their performances a testament to the enduring spirit and cultural vibrancy of the Israeli people. One highlight for me was the NYPD marching band playing "Stand By Me".

The parade also highlighted the strong bonds within the Jewish community and the wider support from allies and friends of Israel. Various organizations, from religious institutions to cultural and educational groups, marched together, emphasizing the



Israel Day on 5th drew roughly 100,000 marchers.

importance of unity and collective action.

Security was intense, and, for the first time, there was no viewing from the west side of 5th Avenue, and spectators had to go through a magnetometer. And while this deterred many, this was the safest I have felt since October 7.

In a world often marked by division

and conflict, the parade stood as a beacon of hope and a reminder of the enduring strength of solidarity of the Jewish people. It was a day when people came together to celebrate a nation's spirit and to show that, indeed, Israel, its people, and the Jewish people are worth caring about. Am Yisrael Chai!

UJF Reading Partners Celebrates Twenty-Five Years

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the door! We are excited for the next school year and

actively recruiting for volunteers. We look forward to the next 25 years!!!"



Author Alan Katz (back, middle) joined Reading Partners team leaders for a celebratory breakfast. (PHOTO CREDIT: BERNIE WEISS)

Temple Beth El Welcomes Rabbi Michael Knopf

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Scott Krowitz. "He will serve TBE exceedingly well in a growingly complex and challenging Jewish world as he works to strengthen the ties that bind us together as a congregation and to the outside community. We are thrilled to welcome Rabbi Knopf, his wife Adira, and their three children to TBE and the Stamford Jewish community."

"For over a century, TBE Stamford has been committed to nurturing a welcoming and inclusive community that fosters dynamic Jewish life and is deeply engaged in the work of building a more loving and just society," added Rabbi Knopf. "I



Rabbi Michael Knopf, his wife Adira, and their three children (from left), Akiva, Lilah and Shemaya. am honored and humbled by the opportunity to partner with TBE's incredible team of clergy, staff and lay leaders in helping write the congregation's exciting next chapter."

UPCOMING DEADLINE

September 2024 – Rosh Hashanah Edition

Deadline: Monday, August 5, 2024

Email submissions to

sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

July 5	8:11 pm
July 12	8:08 pm
July 19	8:04 pm
July 26	7:58 pm
August 2.....	7:51 pm
August 9.....	7:42 pm
August 16.....	7:32 pm
August 23.....	7:22 pm
August 30.....	7:11 pm

Wacky Wednesdays with PJ Library

(Courtesy of UJF) Back by popular demand, United Jewish Federation's (UJF) PJ Library will be hosting "Wacky Wednesdays" all month long in July. Formerly called "Popsicles in the Park," UJF will bring PJ Library activities (and lots of ice-cold popsicles) to four community parks around Stamford this summer. Children are invited to wear their wackiest hats, outfits, costumes, or pajamas!

Library books are sent free of charge to over 600 children in over 400 households throughout the towns of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien. The books are funded by two local donors and arrive in homes monthly. Wacky Wednesdays and other PJ programming throughout the year provide opportunities for families with young children to expand their circles and meet like-minded Jewish families.

These free and informal summer gatherings are a great way to meet other parents and for kids to let off some steam on long summer days. The program will not be held if it is raining.

Each week will feature a new surprise

guest reader. The first program on July 10 will also include a puppet show by UJF Community *Shaliach* Yoav Yaron, designed to teach children some summer-themed Hebrew words. This will be Yoav's last community program before he returns home to Israel.

Families are welcome to bring picnics and stay as long as they'd like.

- Wednesday, July 10, 4:30-5:30 pm at Harbor Point Commons Park – 101 Commons Park S., Stamford
- Wednesday, July 17, 4:30-5:30 pm at Barrett Park – Newfield Ave & Burdick St, Stamford
- Wednesday, July 24, 4:30-5:30 pm at Chestnut Hill Park – 354 Chestnut Hill Rd, Stamford
- Wednesday, July 31, 4:30-5:30 pm at Czesnik Marina Park – Shippan Ave & Harbor Dr, Stamford

For security purposes, please register at www.ujf.org/wackywednesdays. For more information or to be a guest reader, contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at eric@ujf.org.



Community Shaliach Yoav Yaron at a PJ Popsicles in the Park (Summer 2023)

An Evening of Song in Tribute to The Rebbe

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Each year, Chabad of Stamford marks the July 8 anniversary of the passing of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson z"l. This year is the 30th anniversary of his passing, and Chabad will recognize the occasion with an evening dedicated to gaining insights and inspiration on his life, legacy and impact.

Chabad of Stamford will be marking this milestone with a community gathering featuring a live performance by Shulem Lemmer. Lemmer is a musician often described as an Orthodox Jewish trailblazer for being the first Chasidic musician to have signed onto a major record label. His music, according to *Tablet Magazine*, is able to reach across

cultural divides and touch people of diverse faiths and backgrounds.

Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov, co-directors of Chabad of Stamford, are deeply honored to be hosting this world-renowned musician who will share his soul-stirring melodies with the Stamford community. They hope all those who attend will be touched by his voice and his ability to communicate a hopeful message of peace. The entire community is welcome to join them on July 8 at 7:00 pm at Chabad, 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford.

For more information and to register, please visit www.stamfordchabad.org or call 203-3CHABAD.

Gallery@The J presents: Lily Morgan

(Courtesy of the JCC) The Stamford Jewish Community Center invites the community to the Faye and Ben Manger Gallery@The J for an exhibit opening on Thursday, July 11 at 6:30 pm featuring "Lost & Found," a solo show by artist Lily Morgan. This series of paintings focuses on the intense act of making a painting, while simultaneously infusing whimsy and exploration into the narrative of each piece.

Morgan strives to find balance between the contradictory elements that she is drawn to the most, while continually looking to balance impulse and intention as well as whimsy and weight. In the background of a majority of her pieces, she begins by mixing a range of colors to cover the surface. Initial marks are fluid and intuitive and become more deliberate over time. These first steps of building a surface are as important to her as the rendering of the object in the final piece.



The End of an Era.
(PHOTO CREDIT: LILY MORGAN)

Morgan finds an extra element of joy in creating work with colors and objects that are intentionally silly yet rendered in a way that asks the viewer to spend more time with them. She encourages you to take a closer look to find how each subject is painted with attention to shadow, reflected light, and subtle shift in hue.

For further information, contact Sarah King at sking@stamfordjcc.org.

Apple Picking at Silverman's Farm

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Save the date for the Schoke Jewish Family Service "Sunday Social Apple Picking" happening on Sunday, September 15, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at Silverman's Farm, located at 451 Sport Hill Road, Easton, CT. It will be a day filled with community, fun, and, of course, plenty of ripe, juicy apples waiting to be picked.

Bring the whole family along for a

day of bonding and enjoyment amidst the picturesque orchards. Not only will participants be able to pick delicious apples for themselves, but they will also have the opportunity to pick for a greater cause – the Schoke JFS food pantry. The Kosher Mobile Food Pantry will be onsite, offering a chance to make a difference while enjoying a day outdoors.

Summer Fun with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Experience a summer filled with fun activities for everyone at Chabad of Stamford.

For women, Chabad offers an array of opportunities during the summer, including Torah classes in July which will feature lunch, flower arranging, outdoor painting and even a poolside gathering. There will also be a women's trip to the Ohel (The Lubavitcher Rebbe's final place of rest) in Queens. Transportation will be provided, and after visiting the Ohel, participants will enjoy a kosher lunch before returning to Stamford.

For children aged 6 weeks to 3 years Chabad presents "Tiny Treasures - Got Summer?" The Mommy and Me summer classes are offered in late June through mid-July on Thursdays at 9:30 am for

children to enjoy singing, story time, challah baking, and more.

For families and individuals, please join Chabad on Friday, July 19 at 5:30 pm for a pre-Shabbat party and "Friday Night Live" Kabbalat Shabbat which will feature "Mimosas and Munchies" and promises to be a Shabbat experience catering to families, singles, couples, old and young!

Chabad has something special lined up for the men! Join the men's "End-of-Year Barbecue" social on Wednesday, July 17, at 7:15 pm at the home of Rabbi Moshe Shemtov. Relax, socialize, enjoy delicious food and a summer evening with the guys.

For more information about Chabad's summer programs and events please visit www.stamfordchabad.org or email programs@stamfordchabad.org

UJF Announces Recipients of Inaugural Lilly Reiser Scholarship

BY ERIC ROSS, UJF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) is excited to announce the nine recipients of the inaugural Lilly Reiser Scholarship. Each awardee will receive a \$10,000 academic scholarship, renewable for up to four years. The winning applicants all demonstrated the potential to live up to the example of Lilly Reiser, a person who overcame significant hardship, prized education, and became a responsible and productive citizen.

Lilly E. Reiser (1924-2020) was born in the small town of Moravska-Ostrava in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (now the Czech Republic). Having suffered the



Isabelle Kanefsky



Sarah Berk

inhumanity and indignity of forced labor and internment during the Holocaust at Theresienstadt, Auschwitz, and Bergen-Belsen, Lilly was eventually liberated from Bergen-Belsen by British soldiers. She emigrated to the United States in 1945 and was only able to obtain her degrees because of the generosity of various Jewish communal organizations that provided her with the scholarships necessary to do so.

Lilly completed her undergraduate education at Hunter College and went on to achieve a graduate degree from Columbia University's New York School of Social Work. She proudly served as



Reese Johnson

a social worker in the New York City Public School system for over 50 years. Ever thankful for the financial support she received from the organized Jewish community, Lilly wanted to provide similar support to deserving and financially challenged students of Jewish faith.

"The entire process has been so meaningful to participate in. We are very excited to honor Lilly's memory by fulfilling her wishes to assist young Jews achieve their academic dreams like she did," said Rachel Haron, UJF Lilly Reiser Scholarship Committee Chair.

United Jewish Federation is proud to have been chosen to administer the Lilly Reiser Scholarship, which provides academic scholarships to Jewish students with need and merit from Connecticut or New York.

The application window for the 2025-2026 Lilly Reiser Scholarship will open in

early 2025. For more information, please contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at eric@ujf.org.

The 2024-2025 Lilly Reiser Scholarship Awardees are:

- Sarah Berk of Stamford, CT.
- Yonatan Conn of Plainview, NY, who will attend Macalester College in St. Paul, MN.
- Kyra Esrig of New Rochelle, NY, who will attend Harvard College in Cambridge, MA.
- Ava Gell of NY, who will attend Brown University in Providence, RI.
- Reese Johnson of Stamford, CT, who will attend Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.
- Isabelle Kanefsky of Stamford, CT, who will attend Colby College in Waterville, ME.
- Don Mahali of Commack, NY, who will attend Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.
- Roni Ziv of NY, who will attend Columbia University in New York, NY.
- Anonymous

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HOW TO REACH THE EDITOR:

Mail: Sandy Golove
United Jewish Federation
2009 Summer Street - Suite 302
Stamford, CT 06902
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. 1 **E-mail:** dianesloyer@ujf.org

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

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

Chabad of Stamford's Mega Challah Bake Returns

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford)

After a brief hiatus, the Jewish Women Connected Mega Challah Bake returned to Chabad of Stamford. The now worldwide event started right here in Stamford in 2009 and has taken the Jewish world by storm. This year, over 430 teens and women gathered together at the Italian Center in Stamford in a powerful show of Jewish unity.

Leah Shemtov, Co-Director of Chabad of Stamford, dedicated the evening to our brothers and sisters in Israel and to her Bubbie (grandmother), Rochel Lipskar of blessed memory. The matriarch of Morah Leah's family, who helped rescue the mother of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, from Russia, passed away two days prior to the

Challah Bake at age 102.

Chabad was honored and humbled to hear from 17-year-old Tal Kalmenson, who shared the moving story of the heroism of her late father, Elchanan z"l, who rescued over 100 people on October 7th before being murdered by Hamas terrorists. Her inspiring request to everyone there was that they each answer their call to duty to the Jewish community just as her own father had done. Attendees were also led in *Tehilim* (Psalms) by an IDF soldier, Hannah S, a combat paramedic.

This year, two Gan Yeladim teachers were honored with the "Neirot LeHair" ("Lights that Illuminate") Award. Morah Margarita Kunin and Morah Sonia Avny have collectively taught at Gan for over 60

years, caring for and nurturing hundreds of Stamford children.

For many attendees, it was their first time coming together to prepare challah, but even for veterans like Judith Bernstein, "challah at the Mega Challah Bakes somehow always tastes better." At their Shabbat table, Renana Teplitsky's family took a collective vote and decided to switch their trusted challah recipe to the one used at the Challah Bake.

"The evening was a powerful, meaningful, elegant, uplifting and fun event which invigorated women here in Stamford and sent strength and *mitzvot* to our brothers and sisters in Israel," said Morah Leah. "It also honored not only my Bubbie Rochel, but all current and future Jewish Bubbies present at the event."



Hundreds of women attended Chabad of Stamford's Mega Challah Bake. (PHOTO CREDIT: RIVKAHLABERPHOTOGRAPHY)

Stop the Bleed Kit Distribution

BY SHARON LEWIS,
JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS
COUNCIL DIRECTOR

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) and its Jewish Community Relations Council were able to distribute hundreds of "Stop the Bleed" kits to community agencies in late May. The kits were purchased through a grant UJF received from LiveSecure, an unprecedented \$62 million security campaign and initiative to ensure the security and resiliency of our communities. In addition to providing funding for these kits, LiveSecure helps our Federation afford a Regional Security Advisor to increase security training and preparedness in our community.

The LiveSecure initiative was started years ago as antisemitism levels began to rise. In Pittsburgh, Poway, Monsey and Colleyville violent antisemitism rocked those communities but survivors of these

attacks stated they would not have made it out alive without the security measures that their institutions implemented through LiveSecure.

The "Stop the Bleed" kits contain bandages, tourniquets and other essential items needed in case of a bleeding emergency. Notably, Senator Gabby Giffords, who was shot at a campaign event in 2011, survived the shooting because a kit like those we distributed was available and staff members knew how to use it. The kits were distributed in our community with the hope that they never have to be used.

Organizations who received "Stop the Bleed" kits from UJF included Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Chabad of New Canaan, Chabad of Stamford, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Friendship Circle, Stamford's Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, Schoke Jewish Family Service, and Young Israel of Stamford.





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

NextGen and PJ Library are celebrating summer!

Scavenger Hunt Hike · Ice Cream

Step into your favorite sneakers and join us for a fun-filled family hike, as we embark on a thrilling quest to discover hidden treasures! Kosher ice creams from the on-site café will be given to everyone at the end to ensure a really COOL day.

Sunday July 21st, 10 - 11:30am,
Mead Memorial Park, 241 Park Street, New Canaan, CT
(Meet at The Apple Cart Cafe)

\$5 per person or \$12 per family

RSVP www.ujf.org/summer

PJ Library **NEXTGen**

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NextGen Celebration Raises Funds for Israeli Tractor

(Courtesy of UJF) It was a night of celebration for United Jewish Federation's NextGen as over 75 participants from Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien gathered at the residence of Micky and Tova Reich for the third annual Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, marking Israel's 76th birthday.

The event buzzed with excitement as attendees reveled in the vibrant atmosphere, set against a backdrop of iconic Israeli tunes, fluttering flags, and the warm glow of a bonfire. Guests indulged in authentic Israeli cuisine catered by Napoletana, savoring traditional delights such as hummus, burekas, and an array of dips.

Amidst the festivities, Micky Reich, who sits on NextGen's Executive Committee, delivered a poignant speech, foregoing his usual rap performance. He emphasized the crucial role of unwavering support for Israel, urging attendees to stand strong in solidarity with the nation.

Inspired by Micky's words, attendees

huddled under the starlit sky to sing "Hatikvah", symbolizing their commitment to standing strong with Israel.

And while laughter, joy, and Zionist pride filled the air throughout the evening, the celebration also served a deeper purpose. All proceeds from the night, totaling an impressive \$3,280, were dedicated towards the purchase of a tractor for a farm in the western Negev. This initiative aims to aid Israeli farmers directly impacted by the ongoing challenges of the war.

The tractor, a Massey Ferguson 4445 model, represents far more than a mere piece of machinery, explained Micky in his speech. It symbolizes resilience and hope for farmers in the western Negev who were devastated by events on October 7th. With this tractor, they will be able to rebuild their livelihoods, restore irrigation systems, and continue their vital work of sustaining the land and feeding the nation.

"The tractor isn't just about farming; it's about supporting our brothers and

sisters in Israel during their time of need," remarked Micky.

The success of the fundraiser underscores the power of community and collective action in effecting positive change. As UJF continues its fundraising efforts throughout the year, the impact of solidarity will be felt far beyond the borders of Israel.

Attendees departed with hearts full of gratitude and a renewed commitment to standing strong with Israel. The NextGen community remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen ties with Israel and support its citizens in times of adversity.

For further information on getting involved with NextGen or to contribute to the tractor fund, reach out to Melanie Vorm at melanie@ujf.org



Becky Kevelson, Mel Vorm, Robin Fischel, Shushannah Yasgur, and Ari Yasgur at NextGen's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.



NextGen gathers under the stars to sing Hatikvah.

The Legal Battle Against Antisemitism

(Courtesy of UJF) On May 22, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien's (UJF) Cardozo Society hosted a community briefing titled "The Legal Battle Against Antisemitism Today." Attendees were treated to a fascinating presentation by attorney Daniel Schlessinger, a business litigator from Chicago who is also the current Chairman of the Board of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and Dr. Asaf Romirowsky, Executive Director of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA) and Executive Director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME).

Attorney Schlessinger discussed the case of an American family's fight for justice for nearly 30 years since their son was killed by Hamas terrorists. At the center of the case is the question of whether the pro-Palestinian nonprofit American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), with Chicago roots and chapters across the country, is an "alter ego" of a former organization which disbanded after it was found liable for \$156 million for providing material support to terrorist organizations, including Hamas. The founder of AMP is also the co-founder of the national Students for Justice in Palestine organization, which has been especially active on college campuses since October 7th.

Dr. Romirowsky discussed the web of money from Qatar, Iran, and other foreign governments, as well as terrorist organizations, which provides billions of dollars in funding



(l-r) UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross, Daniel Schlessinger, Dr. Asaf Romirowsky, and UJF President Michael Schlessinger at the event

to American universities, including funding professorships and curriculum in their Middle Eastern studies departments and influencing their bottom lines.

Many thanks to the Cardozo Society event host committee Brad Berman, Jeffrey Cunningham, Julie Daniel, Ben Folkinshteyn, Shari Goodstein, Howland Gordon, Robert Hoff, Gerald Knopf, Daniel Faizakoff, Robert Lesser, Jason Lewis, Seth Lubin, and Jennie Woltz Folkinshteyn, to event sponsors Naomi and Brad Berman, and to the law firm of Wiggin and Dana for coordinating the CLE credits for attorneys.

The Cardozo Society is UJF's affinity group for legal professionals in Fairfield County, providing education, leadership, and networking opportunities aimed at helping the local Jewish community. To learn more about Cardozo Society and how to get involved with UJF affinity groups, contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at eric@ujf.org.

Sweet Times with UJF's Boomer Engagement Network

(Courtesy of UJF) On Monday evening, June 3, the Boomer Engagement Network (B.E.N.) of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien held a "Sweet as Honey Spring Social" at the UJF office.

Guests enjoyed a lively and interactive schmooze-fest, before being treated to a presentation by Uriel Lin – an Israeli Shlichah (Community Emissary) for the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) in Rockville, Maryland. Uriel's family have been honey farmers in Israel for three generations. She explored

the fascinating history of honey farming in Israel, connecting the land from ancient days directly to her backyard today. Finally, Uriel guided the attendees through a deliciously intricate honey-tasting, featuring five types of honey from her farm: Wild Flower, Citrus, Zaatar, Thistle, and Avocado.

B.E.N. is UJF's affinity group for single "boomers," who are looking to create a greater sense of community. If you'd like to learn more about B.E.N. or any of UJF's other exciting affinity groups, please contact Eric Ross at eric@ujf.org.



Ygal Sadock and Sandy Weiner meet Shlichah Uriel Lin.



JAFI Community Shlichah Uriel Lin discusses honey farming in Israel.

Friendships Made While Cooking Are Worth Savoring

(Courtesy of UJF) Members of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien's (UJF) Chapter Two affinity group came together on Monday, June 10, for a hands-on Israeli Cooking Workshop, led by Community Shaliach Yoav Yaron.

Attendees learned how to make puff pastry apple pie, cheese and squash filled bourekas, and bulgur and watermelon salad. All of the recipes came from the "Shavuot of Longing" Cookbook, created by the Hostages and Missing Families Forum. The cookbook contains 75 recipes, each of which is a personal favorite of one of the Israeli hostages still kept captive in Gaza. Copies can be purchased at <https://solidarity.bringthemhomenow.net>.

Chapter Two is UJF's affinity group for women in Fairfield County who share the common experience of being "empty

nesters," and are looking to create a network through shared interests and an appreciation for community.

To learn more about Chapter Two or how to get involved with UJF's affinity groups, contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at eric@ujf.org.



Community Shaliach Yoav Yaron, Susan Krieger, and Linda Hurwitz make the stuffing for bourekas.



(Standing) Beverly Stein, Roselyn Mangot, Nancy Mimoun, Barbi Shames, Linda Hurwitz, and Caryl Poser. (Seated) Marilyn Wolpin, Meryl Gordon, and Deborah Goldberg.



(Standing) Joan Rosenthal, Rosalea Fisher, Lorraine Kweskin, and Karen Davis. (Seated) Susan Krieger, Madelyn Yale, Carole Gladstone, and Barbara Brafman.



(Standing) Heidi Ganz and Linda Spilka. (Seated) Allison Greenbaum, Sharon Franklin, and Cathy Satz.

Temple Sinai Children Help Those in Need

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service (JFS) partnered with the Temple Sinai religious school to pack toiletry kits for people in need. Students from Pre-K through third grade learned about the importance of helping others and then came together to pack over 400 kits for Schoke JFS clients.



A Jam Packed Month for Dignity Grows

(Courtesy of UJF) During the month of May, United Jewish Federation's "Dignity Grows" held two separate pack parties in an effort to continue to fight period poverty.

GenRe employees came together in Stamford to pack 200 totes of essential feminine hygiene goods that were distributed to New Covenant Center, the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry at Schoke Jewish Family Service, and the Domestic Violence Crisis Center.

At the Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk, a generous group of women united to pack 150 totes that were delivered to Person-to-Person and Inspirica's women's shelter.

Thank you to both Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk and GenRe for



Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk members held a pack party to support women in need. (PHOTO CREDIT: DIGNITY GROWS)

volunteering and supporting UJF's Dignity Grows chapter, which is on-pace to assemble and distribute over 3,000 totes this year.



GenRe employees made a difference by packing Dignity Grows totes.

Grandparents and Special Persons Day

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) This year's "Grandparents and Special Persons Day" at Gan Yeladim celebrated Shabbat, bringing together over 200 guests, including "Bubbies and Zaydes, Grandmas and Grandpas, Sabas and Savtas" and special friends. The joyous Shabbat celebration took place in each class, filling the building with a fun and exciting energy.

For Morah Hillary Isaacs, "It was such an honor and a delight to swing open the doors and invite everyone in for a true flavor of Gan!" For Morah Leah Shemtov, "the feeling of love and joy of Yiddishkeit and our heritage was felt by all."

Each class enthusiastically shared their Friday routine with their special guests. Activities included shaping challah from dough made by the children every Thursday, baking it, and of course tasting the delicious challahs. Together they set up and celebrated

an authentic Shabbat Party, just as they do every Friday at Gan. The special visitors were able to enjoy the children's singing and weekly Shabbat.

After the classroom activities, guests enjoyed a delicious brunch, providing a wonderful opportunity to socialize and soak in the remarkable energy of Gan. Each visitor took home gifts, including Chabad's signature "Loaves of Love" Challah and a personalized wine stopper with their child's photo. These items are meant to enhance their Shabbat table and overall Shabbat experience.

The children were overjoyed to share their classrooms with their grandparents and special grown-ups and include them in their activities. This day is always a special one at Gan Yeladim and they look forward to inviting the children's honored guests back again next year.



Gan Yeladim welcomes grandparents and special grown-ups for a Shabbat experience.

Keep on Stockin'

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Congregation Agudath Sholom's truck packing *mitzvah* day was a success! Families helped stock the Schoke Jewish Family Service Kosher Mobile Food Pantry for a bustling week of distributions across Fairfield County.



On the Road with SJFS Mobile Food Pantry

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) The Schoke Jewish Family Service Kosher Mobile Food Pantry hit the road for a journey to the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (NJHSA) conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

Leah Schechter, Schoke JFS Chief Program Officer, was a speaker and shared insights on "Mobilizing Responses

to Food Insecurity and Ensuring Access to All" alongside Dickran Jebejian, Senior Advisor of the Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnership, USDA Food and Nutrition Service.

The Kosher Mobile Food Pantry also made a special visit to the Squirrel Hill Food Pantry at JFCS (Jewish Family and Community Services) Pittsburgh.



Leah Schechter, Schoke JFS Chief Program Officer, gives attendees of the NJHSA conference a tour of the Kosher Mobile Food Pantry.

A Colorful Lag BaOmer Celebration

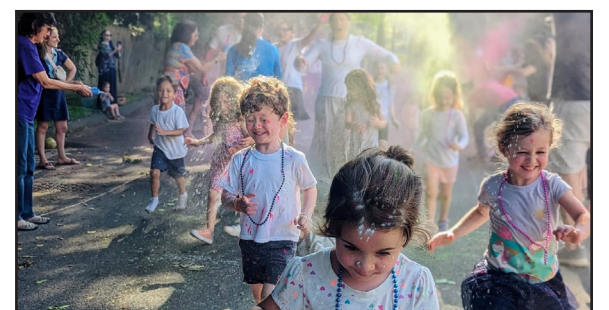
(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) This past Memorial Day Weekend coincided with another barbecue-friendly holiday: Lag BaOmer! Chabad of Stamford hosted a joyous event as many families gathered to celebrate. Children were invited to make arts & crafts while a barbecue dinner of hot dogs, hamburgers and desserts was served.

After dinner, adults and children participated in the Chabad of Stamford's first ever "Color Run." Everyone wore white

and when "Get Ready, Get Set, GO!" rang out, they raced through a spray of colorful powder! The racers looked beautiful covered head to toe in all the colors of the rainbow.

For the main event, everyone gathered together in the meditation garden for a *medura* (bonfire.) Before lighting the fire, the children were invited by age group to recite a line of Torah with Morah Leah Shemtov. After each group had

the opportunity to learn, the children were treated to ice pops and roasted marshmallows by the fire. By the end of the evening, the children were covered in colored powder and sticky sweets, and couldn't have been happier on this special holiday. It was a perfect way to celebrate and the perfect start to summer.



Families enjoy the color run at Chabad's Lag BaOmer family celebration.

United We Walk for Friendship Day

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) Sunday, May 19, was a wonderful day for the Friendship Circle of Fairfield County! Almost 1,000 supporters and participants came to Westhill High School to support the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year. As of this writing, the fundraising goal had been surpassed by \$20,000 with over \$140,000 donated. This is a new record for Friendship Day in both attendance and dollars raised.

The day's festivities included the walk

station, face painting and sports.

"The Inventor Mentor" returned once again with his variety of live science experiments, and Dr. Schnitzel's "Wacky Science" show made everyone laugh, as his combination of humor and science appealed to parents and children alike. The audience participation was loud and enthusiastic. Super Hero laser tag was open to all and a wide variety of carnival games were available for parents and children to play throughout the day.



(l-r) Volunteers Alex Young, Isabel Sigman, Sammy Sendersky, and Sammie Culhane enjoy Friendship Day.

around the track with different teams carrying signs they had decorated earlier in the day. The ceremonial red ribbon-cutting ceremony under the Friendship Circle arch once again marked the start of the event. Both before and after the walk, families and friends enjoyed a wide variety of entertainment, as well as a free lunch. Kivi Attar catered again this year and included fun snacks of popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy.

Participants were greeted by firefighters offering tours of a firetruck, with the opportunity to sit in the engine. Families were able to fill out a mitzvah card in honor of our brothers and sisters in Israel. Teen volunteers enjoyed the fun day out with their special friends, participating in the different events together. Some teens even volunteered for the dunk tank in the spirit of celebrating the day! Adult volunteers helped run the bumper ball

Friendship Circle Director Malya Shmotkin said, "Today was a wonderful and moving community event! It was so special to have all the different parts of our community who help to make the Friendship Circle successful come together for a few hours. As I looked around the crowd, it was amazing to me how each and every person there had a part in our success that would be sorely missing without them. The walk truly lived up to the theme: 'United We Walk.' It was also beautiful to see people take on *mitzvot* for our brothers and sisters in Israel, as they of course are always at the front of our minds. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for this amazing community and our Friendship Circle."

To learn more about the Friendship Circle and how you can become involved, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com



Firetruck fun with Chana Goldstein and Firefighter Cronin.



(l-r): Daniel Goldberg, Evan LaForte, Gil Vadel, "Dovi The King" Dovi Zucker and Matthew Goodman.

C Teens Grand Finale

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's CTeen youth group closes out the year with a drum circle, bonfire, music, s'mores and lots of fun.



Schoke JFS Celebrates with Stamford's Citizen of the Year

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service's Chief Program Officer Leah Schechter, Chief Operating Officer Erika Gadson, and Director of Food Programs Jen Bernstein attended the City of Stamford's 2024 Citizen of the Year Award and Scholarship Presentation Dinner honoring Sgt. Adrianna Molina.

Sgt. Molina is a cornerstone of the Stamford community, having served on the police force for nearly two decades. In addition to overseeing the department's behavioral health unit, she has been an invaluable ally to Schoke JFS.



(l-r) Jen Bernstein, "Citizen of the Year" Sgt. Adrianna Molina, Leah Schechter, and Erika Gadson.

New Around Town

Craig Adler, Schoke JFS Major Gifts Officer

Craig Adler joins Schoke Jewish Family Service as the Major Gifts Officer, bringing with him over 20 years of experience in the financial industry, with a specialization in Asian equities. Following his completion of the Encore program at the University of Connecticut's School of Public Policy, Craig transitioned to the nonprofit sector in 2016, where he has since gained significant experience working with underprivileged populations. A graduate of the University of Rochester, Craig has resided in Fairfield



County for 26 years.

Expressing his excitement about joining Schoke JFS, Craig reflects on his familial ties to the organization, with both his mother and father having been involved in similar endeavors. He shares, "I'm thrilled to be joining Schoke JFS because

my mother worked for JFS in New Jersey when I was in my teens and 20s, and my father did a ton of volunteer work, so I feel like I'm coming home."



Arlene and Carl Rosen.



UJF Life & Legacy Director Lenore Fogel with guest speaker A.J. Jacobs.



Ronnie and Steve Sichel.



Marian Weinberg and Brenda Smith.



Alan and Carol Krim.



George Sessa, Sharon and Bruce Goldstein, and Mark and Jeri Appel.



Terry Newman and Linda Gornitsky.



Lieba and Steve Lander with author A.J. Jacobs.



Edith Samers and Ed Smith.



Judy & Howard Goldstein, and Ilan Vogel.



Peter Poser, Caryl Ferber Poser, Nan Gordon, and Paul Gordon.

Life & Celebrates

(Courtesy of UJF) On Thursday night May 30, almost 150 people gathered to celebrate the success of Year Four of United Jewish Federation (UJF) and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Life & Legacy Program. Life & Legacy promotes legacy giving as a cultural norm and is a communal effort to help Jewish Organizations build their endowment funds to ensure their future into perpetuity. UJF successfully launched the program four years ago in the midst of the COVID pandemic and has experienced tremendous success in all aspects of the program.

To date, the Stamford New Cannan and Darien Community have 562 legacy commitments, over 60 percent of which have been formalized. The ten participating organizations include Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy, Chabad of Stamford, Congregation



Eli and Mort Lowenthal.



Aviva Maller with author A.J. Jacobs.



Sandy Speter and Connie Freeman.

Legacy Four Years

Agudath Sholom, Friendship Circle, Schoke Jewish Family Services, Stamford Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, United Jewish Federation, and Young Israel of Stamford. These ten organizations will continue into the Life & Legacy Plus phase of the program that will begin in August.

The Celebration took place at the Farmhouse at the Stamford Nature Center. Dinner and drinks were catered by W on a beautiful summer evening. Arlene Schiff, immediate previous Director of the Life & Legacy program was in attendance to congratulate the community. A.J. Jacobs, New York Times best selling author and journalist was the guest speaker for the evening. To learn more about how to make your legacy commitment, please contact lenore@ujf.org



Marsha and Louis Panzer.



Gayle and Mitchell Bell.



Art Wernicke, Barbara Kasman, Judy Kallen, and Grant Kallen



Malerie Yolen-Cohen and Jeff Cohen with author and guest speaker A.J. Jacobs.



UJF Immediate Past President David Gordon reads the certificate awarded to UJF by the 2024 Life & Legacy Leadership Conference.



Julie TelRav, JCC Development Director Rebecca Isenstein, and Schoke JFS Chief Program Officer Leah Schechter.



Mark and Nancy Funt, Helen and Marty Donner.



Monica Smyth and UJF President Michael Schlessinger with author A.J. Jacobs.

Bits & Pieces



BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Sandy Golove

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

Suellyn Bache on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Lennon Nix Schulman.

Emily and Tzvi Dubitzky on the birth of a son.

Lea Winter & Daniel Gordon on the birth of a daughter, Reyna Julia; and to grandparents **Meryl & David Gordon and Ellen Mackler & Michael Winter**; and to great-grandmother **Yvette Gordon**.

Sara Fay & Shmuel Goldis on the birth of a daughter, Avigayil Shira.

Rebecca & Seth Greenberg on the birth of a son.

Theresa & Elie Herman on the birth of a daughter.

David Levine on the birth of a granddaughter, Adira Yarden.

Lorraine and James Marcus on the birth of a son.

Adira & Izy Muller on the birth of a son and to grandparents **Shani Cohen & Gil Orbach**.

Kate & Steven Ratner on the birth of a daughter, Eliza Lily; and to grandparents **Lori & Stuart Ratner**.

MAZEL TOV TO MARRIAGES/ ENGAGEMENTS:

Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker on the engagement of their son, **Elisha Pinker to Adara Rosenbaum**, daughter of **Alyssa & Jay Rosenbaum**.

Michelle & Alan Genn on the engagement of their son, **Adam Genn to Jessica Lieberman**, daughter of **Lori & Daniel Lieberman**.

Rachel & Dan Haron on the marriage of their son, **Nathan Haron to Micaela Reznik**, and to grandparents **Kamal**

Haron and Linda Rezak.

Liz & Scott Krowitz on the marriage of their son, **Zachary Krowitz to Sydney Cohn**.

Gayle & Howard Rothman on the marriage of their son, **Michael Rothman to Lydia Basque**.

Ivy & Marvin Schildkraut on the engagement of their daughter, **Mira Schildkraut to Benjamin Kotner**, son of **Nadine Kutner**.

Natalia Summa & Aaron Feld on their marriage.

MAZEL TOV: OTHER:

Kimmie Warmflash on the publication of her new book *People We Miss*.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Jules Alexander: daughter of **Natalie & Jeffrey Alexander**; and to grandparents **Rose & Edward Schuster**.

Claire Hannum: daughter of **Julie Bernstein**.

Mateo Marcus: son of **Gabriela & Benjamin Marcus**.

Alexander Patel: son of **Liz Hersham & Raj Patel**.

Sofia Schiff-Feuerstein: daughter of **Kara Schiff-Feuerstein & Joseph Feuerstein**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Peggy Barton: mother of **Cathy Zales**.

Eve Berni: sister of **Steve Berni**, aunt of **Mark Berni and Leigh Claypool**.

Avery Gabriel Cohen: son of **Sam Cohen**.

Claire Fishman: mother of **Jonathan Fishman and Simon Fishman**.

Rachel Glotzer, mother of **Liz Lebo**.

Lidya Korshunov: mother of **Yelena Ruvinshteyn**.

Janet Morris: mother of **Larry Morris & Mark Morris**.

Sylvia Mymon: sister of **Gadi Mimoun**.

Judge Stanley Novack, father of **Stephen A. Cohen**.

Jane Price: "grandmother" of **Wynd Harris**.

Betty Roberts: mother of **Jeri Appel**.

Ann Lewitus Rousso: mother of **Vicki Kobliner**.

Ingrid Tocher: mother of **Bradley Lowenstein**.

The Hebrew Corner

A Monthly Primer by Robert Abrams, UJF Education Committee Chair

By the time you read this edition of *The New Jewish Voice* we will have celebrated Shavuot, had some cheesecake, said Yizkor, stayed up all night to study Jewish texts in celebration of receiving the Torah, and most, will have heard the Book of Ruth chanted in their temples and synagogues.

You probably remember some of the names of the people in that book. They defined their roles in the drama. A quick recap of the story for context:

A family leaves the town of Beit Lechem/Bethlehem during a famine and crosses the Jordan to the area of one of our ancestors' traditional enemies of the time, Moab, probably located in today's country of Jordan. The family consists of Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons, Machlon and Chilion. The sons marry Moabite women by the names of Ruth and Orpah. The men of this family die and Naomi leaves Moab to return to Beit Lechem. Initially, both Ruth and Orpah attempt to join Naomi, but she tries to discourage her daughters-in-law. Orpah returns to her own parents' home, but Ruth prevails upon Naomi and travels back with her across the Jordan to the land of Israel.

Upon their return, Naomi and Ruth live in poverty.

Ruth goes to glean any leftover barley and other grains or produce dropped by harvesters. She happens to be gleaning in the fields of a man named Boaz, one of the deceased Elimelech's relatives. He is a close enough relative to carry out a Levirate marriage and redeem Ruth (and her mother-in-law) from a life of poverty. But before he can do so, Boaz must allow a closer relative than he to have that opportunity. And that person - who refuses to do so in fear of damaging his reputation - is "Ploney Ahlmohni."

There's some context and the cast of characters, but there's so much more to glean from the Book of Ruth.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Beit Lechem/Bethlehem - means "bakery" or more literally "House of Bread." A tragic irony that the family leaves the bakery during a famine!

Elimelech - My god is king. Elimelech is considered by our commentators as a judge during the times of the Judges in Israel. And, if Elimelech would have lived up to his name, we would have expected him to remain in Beit Lechem to fulfill the leadership role of someone so



Robert Abrams

eponymously named.

Naomi - translates into English roughly as "pleasant one" or "my delight." She departs Beit Lechem pleasantly and delightfully "full" of family and returns bereft of the original family members. Indeed, upon her return when asked if she is

the same pleasant one who left a decade or so beforehand, she responds that her name is no longer Naomi, but "Mara" or bitter one, as God has dealt bitterly with her.

Machlon and Chilion are both truly disturbing names to give to children. One might think that after they perished, Naomi changed their names to reflect that they died much too young. Machlon means "sickly" or "sick one" while Chilion roughly translates into "vanishing one." Very thankfully, these names *never* made it into any baby name dictionary that I've ever seen.

Orpah turns and leaves Naomi and Ruth, what do we see when she does so? We would see the back of her neck as she walks away. And that is what her name means - "her neck."

Ruth's name, however, does not have a clear English translation. Some have opined the name is related to the word ray-ah/to befriend, ra'ah/to see, or ray-oot/vision. Each of these three possibilities make sense given the story line, although I think the translation based on friendship fits best.

Boaz is a construct of two words: boh, meaning "in him" and ohz, meaning "strength." He is truly the relative of true strength, and he is that upright person who does the right thing by offering the closer relative the opportunity to redeem Ruth and Naomi even though he would rather do so right away.

Finally, as we learn, the other relative refuses to marry Ruth. His name? "**Ploney Ahlmohni**," the Hebrew equivalent of "John Doe." His rationale in declining to marry Ruth is his concern about his reputation. Fittingly, the text does not give us his *true* name. He received the everlasting reputation he *deserved*. John Doe. So much for reputation.

I believe one of the morals of the story is, "Do the right thing; never mind the reputation." How apt is that moral for a holiday that celebrates the guidebook for good behavior.

Tribute Gifts to Federation



are a meaningful way to honor, remember, or celebrate a friend, family member, or someone in the community.

www.ujf.org/tribute

A Message from UJF's Community Shaliach Finding a Home Away from Home

BY YOAV YARON

I'm in Jerusalem.

It's a February morning in 2022.

Spring is just around the corner and the weather's starting to warm up. With anxious anticipation, I'm heading toward the Citadel Hotel for an interview that will change my life. As I'm walking into the hotel, I'm looking for a person I have never seen before but who will become my mentor. I met Diane Sloyer that morning and a few minutes into the interview we started to chat about beer, Russian literature, Zionism, and the love we both hold for Jerusalem and Israel.

That moment was a turning point in my



Yoav Yaron

life, for the good.

Two and a half years later, I'm slowly starting to reflect on the journey I embarked on without knowing much about the new adventure that awaited me. It felt like the right choice, both then and now. Even more importantly, it was about finding the right community. Over these

past two years, I have learned so much. I have met and gotten to know so many in our beautiful and warm community. I made life-lasting friendships. I grew as a person and as an educator.

Deep down, I feel that I have always belonged to the Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien communities. And as one, I will always stay part of it.

Every program I participated in and led helped me find my voice. I discovered the tools to better strengthen the community's connection to Israel and one another. From Israeli film and TV show classes to teaching Hebrew, having coffee with people in the community, hosting cooking workshops, leading outreach trips, and mentoring teens, there was no area left untouched. Creating Israeli curriculum, beer sipping and homebrewing, and exploring Israeli nature and culture, the role of UJF Community Shaliach is one I take to heart.

Together with this special community, we found our Israeli and Jewish connections thanks to an established and thriving young adult community. A variety of Israeli voices provided unique perspectives, presented political discussions across Shabbat tables,

and allowed us all to remember and honor our fallen and many more. But most importantly, it was about becoming part of our *Kehila* (community).

I have had countless opportunities to learn, engage, teach, laugh, cry, think, and grow over this time, and I could not have done it without each and every one of you. I'm grateful for the hospitality, the open-mindedness, the love, and the friendships we have made.

Even though I am returning to Israel, I will be carrying all of you with me, and will forever be a proud part of our community. I do not like goodbyes, but I do believe in saying *lehitraot* (see you later) – and a promise that we will meet again.

UJF's Jewish Community Pride Celebration

(Courtesy of UJF) In honor of June being Pride Month, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) hosted its first-ever Jewish Community Pride Celebration on Friday, June 14th at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, with over 100 in attendance.

The word "pride" is an integral concept within the LGBTQ+ community, representing solidarity, collectivity, and identity, as well as resistance to discrimination and violence. Since 1970, June has been celebrated as Pride Month to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, a series of gay liberation protests in June of 1969. Pride Month is also an annual celebration of the many contributions made by the LGBTQ+ community, to history, society, and culture worldwide.

During his opening remarks, UJF



UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross and his daughter Sapphire welcoming the audience.

Deputy Director Eric Ross stated, "One of the big reasons that my family and I chose to move here to Stamford last summer is that we loved how open and accepting this community is. We were amazed by the beautiful diversity we saw here, and the vibrancy of the love that everyone in the Jewish community seems to have for one another. However, one thing that our Jewish community was lacking, was a

platform to proudly celebrate our diversity together, on a grand-scale."

Participants enjoyed a brief program, including a "Torah Minute" by Ari Linder, a thoughtful prayer offered by Temple Beth El Cantor Katie Kaplan, meaningful readings and testimonials by Nadav Shachmon, Toby Lazarus, Liat Feller, and Leo Linder, and a presentation by Keshet's Chief Development Officer, Jon Grabelle

Herrman, highlighting the importance of ensuring that today's Jewish LGBTQ+ youth are made to feel welcome in the Jewish community. Children were treated to several activities, including making colorful Shabbat candles, making edible Pride flags, and rainbow face-painting.

UJF would like to thank its generous event sponsor, Melissa Friedman, and the members of the Pride Planning Committee: Sharon

Feintuck Feller, Elise Feldman, Liat Feller, Rhoda and Avram Freedberg, Cantor Katie Kaplan, Toby Lazarus, Ari and Leo Linder, Dinah Miller Marlowe, Dayna Patashnik, Jaime Ross, and Nadav Shachmon.

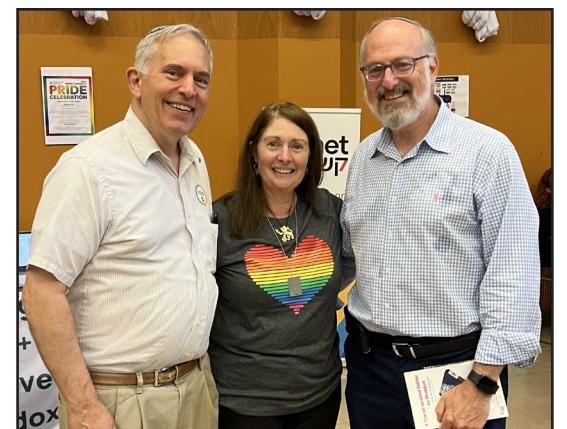
If you would like to help with the planning of next year's Jewish Community Pride Celebration, please contact UJF's Eric Ross at eric@ujf.org.



Children making colorful Shabbat candles with Cantor Katie Kaplan.



Dancing to the live music.



UJF Immediate Past President David Gordon, UJF CEO Diane Sloyer, and Schoke Jewish Family Service CEO Matt Greenberg.

JFNA Rabbi Speaks on Israel's Complex Past

**BY MELANIE VORM,
UJF NEXTGEN DIRECTOR**

In a thought-provoking lecture hosted by United Jewish Federation's NextGen and JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council), Chief Learning Officer of Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) Rabbi Mike Uram delved into the intricate layers of Israel's history, captivating an audience of over 100 individuals at the Stamford Jewish Community Center (JCC).

Titled "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: Decoding Israel's Complex Past," Rabbi Uram's discourse traversed through

pivotal moments in Jewish history, offering profound insights into the evolution of Zionism and the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Among the enlightening topics discussed was Europe's emancipation of Jews in 1791, a landmark event that Rabbi Uram explained was the catalyst for the emergence of Zionism. Delving into the diverse schools of thought within Zionism, he highlighted the contrasting ideologies of prominent figures such as Theodore Herzl, advocating for geographic and demographic majority, Ze'ev Jabotinsky, emphasizing military power, and Eliezer Ben Yehuda, championing the revival of

Hebrew as a living language.

Rabbi Uram's explanation of the Balfour Declaration and the ramifications of the British Mandate provided attendees with a deeper understanding of the geopolitical landscape that shaped the region. However, it was his empathetic perspective on the Israel-Palestine conflict that stuck out for the audience. Expressing a nuanced viewpoint, he characterized the conflict as a struggle rooted in land rather than religion, acknowledging the historical oppression faced by both Israelis and Palestinians.

"In my opinion, the [Israel-Palestine]

conflict is not a religious dispute but a multifaceted struggle for land and identity," remarked Rabbi Uram, underscoring the complexity of the situation.

As Rabbi Uram concluded his lecture and the evening ended, the audience was left eager for more, with conversations continuing outside after the event concluded. Attendees remarked on the depth of insight provided by Rabbi Uram and expressed a desire for further exploration of the topics discussed.

To learn more about upcoming UJF events, please visit our community calendar at www.ujf.org/calendar.



Rabbi Mike Uram engages the audience in dialogue.



(l-r) Mike Tau, UJF NextGen Director Melanie Vorm, Rob Schlissel, Rabbi Mike Uram, and David Berkun.



(l-r) Carl and Arlene Rosen, Rabbi Mike Uram, and UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross.

BCHA Celebrates the Class of 2024

(Courtesy of BCHA) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) proudly celebrates the extraordinary achievements of its Class of 2024.

"This remarkable group of students has demonstrated unparalleled dedication, academic excellence, and a commitment to making a difference in their communities. Their journey at BCHA has been filled with memorable experiences, impactful projects, and a steadfast pursuit of knowledge and growth," said BCHA Head of School Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein.

The entire graduating class of 2024 has shown a diverse range of talents and interests. Their commitment to excellence is reflected in their various accomplishments, both inside and outside the classroom. These students have balanced rigorous academic schedules with a variety of extracurricular activities.

Their achievements are not limited to academic success alone. The Class of 2024 has been actively involved in

community service, demonstrating a deep commitment to social responsibility. They have organized and participated in numerous charitable events, from food drives to fundraising campaigns for various causes.

"Their dedication to giving back to the community is truly commendable and sets a high standard for future graduates," remarked Rabbi Bernstein. "The graduates have also shown remarkable resilience and adaptability, especially in navigating the challenges posed by the global pandemic. Their ability to maintain academic rigor and pursue extracurricular activities in the face of unprecedented obstacles speaks volumes about their determination and perseverance. This resilience will undoubtedly serve them well as they move forward in their academic and professional journeys."

Looking ahead, the future is bright for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

BCHA 8th Graders Return from Memorable Trip to Israel



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy eighth graders at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

(Courtesy of BCHA) In a culmination of their academic and cultural education, twenty-three eighth graders from Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) embarked on a journey to Israel. This trip, marking the zenith of their middle school experience, provided the students with an opportunity to bring their classroom lessons to life and connect deeply with their Jewish heritage.

The trip, which spanned fourteen days, was planned to encompass a blend of historical, religious, and modern

experiences, reflecting the rich tapestry of Israel. The students visited iconic landmarks such as the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Masada, the Dead Sea, and the bustling city of Tel Aviv. Each location offered a unique learning opportunity, reinforcing the lessons taught throughout their years at BCHA.

Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, Head of School, emphasized the importance of this journey, "At this time, when global events

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Life & Legacy Honor Roll

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

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

20 Anonymous
28 Anonymous
Craig Adler
Adrienne & Michael Alexander
David Amsellem
Alice & David Andersen
Jeri Appel
Mark Appel
Ricky Snow Arbron
Suellyn Bache
Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
Rachel Tyd & Robert Beldock
Gayle & Mitchell Bell
Debra & Michael Berg
Dina & Paul Berger
Karen & Ira Berk
Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz
Lynn & Harvey Berman
Berkun Family
Daron & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
Jen & Andy Bernstein
Melody & Claude Bernstein
Bruce & Nancy Blasnik
Judith Block
Ilana Springer Borkenstein & Daniel Borkenstein
Jodi & Richard Boxer
Amy Bubel
Henry Bubel
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Joan Zinbarg*
Renee Zinn
Navah & David Zizmor
Shira & Mitchell Zucker

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

Did You Know?

Jewish Americans are significantly more likely than other Americans to have a will, and to have charitable provisions and causes affiliated with their religion in their will. (Jim Gerstein and J. Shawn Landres, "Connected to Give: Jewish Legacies," Los Angeles: Jumpstart 2013.)

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE



Life & Legacy Testimonial

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

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

RABBI MOSHE AND LEAH SHEMTOV TESTIMONIAL

Rabbi Moshe and I have been Shluchim (Chabad emissaries) in Stamford for 27 years. We are proud participants in the Life & Legacy program.

I initially moved to the Stamford community in 1996 and married Rabbi Moshe the following year. Although our move to Stamford was initially temporary,

we decided to make it permanent after three years as we absolutely loved this incredible community

Having both been born into *shluchim* families in Michigan and Johannesburg, we were immersed in Jewish communal life from birth.

Growing up I always thought that Jewish

institutions and organizations were just there – and always would be.

As I got older, I started to understand that our institutions were not “just there”, but had dedicated people behind them, who were investing time, vision and incredibly hard work to ensure that they would flourish, thrive, grow and be there for others. I also understood that financial stability was necessary for strong growth and continuity.

Inspired by the Talmudic tale of Choni and the carob tree, I have come to understand the importance of ensuring future generations inherit strong Jewish institutions through our labor, dedication and investment.

As I continue to grow and expand my understanding and involvement in Jewish life, I always marvel at “the ready-grown carob trees” - the strong and vibrant Jewish organizations - we have right here in Stamford.

Both Rabbi Moshe and I realize that our job is not enough to simply invest time and effort, we all have to invest financially to ensure there are ready-grown and strong institutions (“carob trees”) now, and for the generations to come. The Life & Legacy program has provided us with an easy framework for us to contribute and share what we can to ensure strong, flourishing Jewish organizations in the years to come.



Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov, Directors of Chabad of Stamford, with their family.

Check Out Some Volunteer Opportunities With UJF!



Dignity Grows

Pack and distribute totes of essential hygiene goods to women in need with UJF's Dignity Grows chapter.



Herbert & Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners

Provide tutoring and support during the school year to help young students grow as readers through Reading Partners.



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Fight food insecurity by packing and delivering nutritious meals to local school children thanks to 3SQUARE.

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BCHA Celebrates the Class of 2024

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

the Class of 2024. Many graduates will be continuing their education at prestigious institutions, where they will further hone their skills and knowledge. Their diverse interests and career aspirations promise to bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to various fields.

As they prepare to leave BCHA and embark on new adventures, the Class of 2024 carries with them the values and lessons learned during their time at BCHA. They are well-equipped to face the challenges of the future and to make significant contributions to their chosen fields. The faculty, staff, and entire BCHA community are immensely proud of their achievements and are confident that

they will continue to excel in all their endeavors.

Reflecting on the achievements of the Class of 2024, David Giver, Upper School Principal remarked, “The Class of 2024 has not only excelled academically but has also shown an incredible commitment to our core values of community, resilience, and social responsibility. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will undoubtedly make in the world.”

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy remains dedicated to providing a comprehensive education that nurtures both the intellect and the spirit, preparing students to face the future with confidence and a strong sense of identity.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy twelfth grade graduating class.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy eighth grade "moving up" class.

A Timeline of the Gaza Strip Since 1906

Starting with a line in the sand in 1906, how a terrorist group won control of a piece of land on Israel's Mediterranean coast.

BY NAAMA BARAK / ISRAEL21C

1906: A line is drawn between Egypt, ruled de facto by Britain, and the rest of the Ottoman Empire. Its northern part delimited the present-day Gaza Strip from the southwest.

1919: The British ruling Mandatory Palestine adopt the 1906 line as the boundary separating Egypt and their mandatory territory, including the Gaza area.

1947: The UN partition plan allocates the area of Gaza to a future Arab state.

1949: The armistice agreements ending Israel's War of Independence determine the modern-day Gaza Strip as a military occupied area under Egyptian control.

1950: Minor land swaps between Israel and Egypt in the Gaza Strip form its current

configuration.

1956: The Gaza Strip is occupied by the Israeli military for a few months during a military conflict.

1967: Israel occupies the Gaza Strip as part of the Six-Day War.

1967-2005: Israel establishes settlements in the Gaza Strip, where Israelis reside until the 2005 disengagement.

1994: The newly established Palestinian Authority receives civil control of most of the Gaza Strip.

Early 2000s: Terror organizations in the Gaza Strip begin shooting Qassam rockets at Israel's south.

2005: Israel disengages completely from the Gaza Strip, withdrawing all Jewish residents and security forces, leaving Gaza

under Palestinian control.

2006: Hamas wins the elections in Gaza. It continues to shoot rockets at southern Israeli towns, and also carries out cross-border raids. In one of these, Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit is kidnapped by Palestinian terror organizations, including Hamas. He is only released from Gaza in 2011 in exchange for 1,000 terrorists held in Israeli jails.

2007: In June, Hamas kills 161 members of rival party Fatah, and imprisons or expels other members of the party in an armed coup, taking over full control of the strip.

2008: Israel launches Operation Cast Lead after Gazans fire dozens of Qassam rockets at southern towns. It ends in a ceasefire after 22 days.

2014: The IDF's Operation Protective

Edge, a seven-week conflict, once again aims to stop constant rocket fire from Gaza.

2023: Hamas terrorists attack Israeli communities and army bases in southern Israel, killing 1,145 people and kidnapping more than 250 people, injuring thousands and destroying farms and homes.

2024: In the war triggered by the Hamas massacre, more than 1,500 Israeli civilians have been killed along with hundreds of soldiers. Approximately 120 people remain captive in the Gaza Strip. More than 100,000 Israelis remain displaced from their homes in Israel's north and south. The Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza reports that 35,000 Palestinians have been killed in the war, while Israeli estimates stand at 14,000 Hamas militants and 16,000 Palestinian civilians.

Coming September 15th

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Michael Rapaport
Jewish Advocate, Actor,
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More details coming soon!

Freed Israeli Hostage Inspires Song Celebrating Resilience

Veteran journalist David Brinn was moved to write a song about Rimon Buchshtav Kirsh after seeing her heroic release from Hamas captivity.

BY YULIA KARRA / ISRAEL21C

When Israeli hostage Rimon Buchshtav Kirsh was released from the 53-day Hamas captivity in November 2023, she became a symbol of Israeli defiance in the face of evil.

Unlike other hostages, who were understandably too fearful to protest against their captors during the release, Buchshtav Kirsh made headlines for giving a “death stare” to the Hamas terrorist who was transporting her.

Buchshtav Kirsh, 36, and her husband, Yogev, 34, were kidnapped from their home in Kibbutz Nirim on October 7 by Hamas terrorists.

Rimon was released nearly two months later as part of a limited hostage deal that included women and children. Yogev remains captive in the Hamas-controlled enclave to this day.

Hamas documented the release, and the footage was broadcast worldwide by various Arab-speaking media outlets.

SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE

The bravery and defiance demonstrated by Buchshtav Kirsh inspired many Israelis looking for a glimmer of hope following the October 7 attacks.

Among them was veteran American-Israeli journalist David Brinn, ISRAEL21C's editor in chief until 2008.

“Like the rest of the country, I was watching the hostages being released in November on TV, and the image of Rimon stuck in my mind,” Brinn tells ISRAEL21C. “It was very symbolic of the resilience of the Israeli people.”

Over the next two months, Brinn workshopped a few song ideas that would pay tribute to Buchshtav Kirsh and the other hostages.

“I wanted the song to be told in Rimon's voice — what she was thinking about being in captivity and what she was thinking walking away,” he explains.

THE RECORDING

Brinn, today a senior editor at The

Jerusalem Post, delved into songwriting during the Covid pandemic, recording songs at his home studio in Ma'aleh Adumim, near Jerusalem.

He recorded the initial version of the track himself, but ultimately decided that in order for the song to resonate it had to be sung by a professional singer, preferably a woman.

“I consider myself quite a good songwriter, but not such a great performer,” he laughs.

Brinn turned to his lifelong friend Joe Brien, who lives in the United States. Brien and his wife, Jane, are part of a Maine-based band, Libbytown.

“I sent them the song, and asked if Jane would possibly record the vocals over my instrumental track,” Brinn recalls.

Joe and Jane loved the song so much that they decided to record and produce the entire song from scratch.

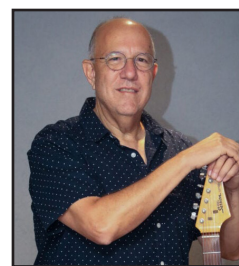
“There were about 30 versions of the song. The 34th version was the one that stuck,” says Brinn.

RIMON'S SONG

“Rimon's Song” was all but ready.

Brinn, however, didn't feel comfortable having Buchshtav Kirsh's name in the title without receiving an approval from her.

“I found a way to make contact with the family, particularly Rimon's mother. I sent her the song and she played it for Rimon,”



Journalist David Brinn wrote a song honoring Israeli hostages.

(PHOTO CREDIT: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM)

says Brinn.

“She said the song perfectly captured what she was going through, and she would be honored to have her name attached to it. That was a sigh of relief for me,” he adds.

Brinn's son, Koby, a professional graphic designer, then created a video for the song, compiling footage of the hostages being released, and uploaded it to YouTube.

HOSTAGE ANTHEM

Brinn, who has lived in Israel for over 40 years, says he wanted the song to be in English rather than Hebrew in order to help raise awareness globally of the issue of hostages.

“More and more people, especially outside of Israel, don't want to hear about it anymore; it's just not in their consciousness,” says Brinn.

“Having a song in English that reminds them that the hostages are still there and something has to be done, was very important to me.”

Buchshtav Kirsh's relative, who works in the music industry in Israel, is currently helping Brinn promote the song.

“Rimon's Song” recently became part of the Hostage Family Forum's campaign and is expected to be played at one of its upcoming weekly rallies.

Brinn says his next goal is to have the song played on Israeli radio.

United Jewish Federation

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PJ Library NEXTGen

Rimon's Song By David Brinn

Don't know how long we've been here or even where we are.
I can't recall the last time I saw the stars.
Sitting here in a dark room, can't tell night from day.
If I get out, I imagine what I'd say.
I say take my hand mama, just a little more to go.
Keep your head up high, walk proudly nice and slow.
Hold me tight mama, daddy's waiting by the phone.
A few more steps and we'll be coming home.

They took us just past midnight.
Shut up, get out, I waited for a slap.
As I stared into his empty eyes, peering out above that mask.
There were no words for me to say and nothing for him to ask.
I'd say take my hand mama, just a little more to go.
Keep your head up high, walk proudly nice and slow.
Hold me tight mamma, daddy's waiting by the phone.
A few more steps and we'll be coming home.
A few more steps and we'll be coming home.

Looking out the window, am I awake or is it a dream.
Could all of these memories just become unseen.
Only with warmth and grace did it seem like it was real.
I hope someday those left behind can feel what I feel.
I say take my hand mama, just a little more to go.
Keep your head up high, walk proudly nice and slow.
Hold my hand mama, daddy's waiting by the phone.
A few more steps and we'll be coming home.

Courtesy of David Brinn www.youtube.com/@davidbrinn8675

Israeli Film Focuses on Family History and Hope

BY LINDA HURWITZ

On Tuesday evening June 4, my husband and I had the opportunity to view the screening and discussion of the Israeli film *Ben (son of) Kfar Etzion* at Young Israel of Stamford. The film documents the journey of Ben-Etzion Yaron, uncle of United Jewish Federation's own *Shaliach*, Yoav Yaron. Filmed by Yoav's cousin and Ben-Etzion's son, Nissan Yaron, viewers are invited into the deep search for family discovery.

Ben-Etzion, was born after his father died in the last battle of Kfar Etzion in Israel's War of Independence. Ben-Etzion's mother had been held hostage twice in Israel's fight for freedom, once in 1948 by the Arabs and again in 1967 by the Jordanian Army. While captive, she learned of her pregnancy.

Sadly, her husband didn't live to see the birth of their son. Ben-Etzion never knew his father and the topic was a closed subject within the family. No one talked about what happened and Ben-Etzion was told little to nothing about his dad.



Linda Hurwitz

Nissan, Ben-Etzion's son, tells this story by documenting a family's emotional journey through testimonials, interviews, and personal reflections in an effort for Ben-Etzion to learn more about his father.

Special moments in the film highlight how meaningful it is to dig into your family history, no matter how difficult it may be. Ben-Etzion travels through the town where his father once lived. He also meets his long lost cousin, Shlomo Levinbron. He talks with relatives Menachem Levinbron and his wife Yaffa Yaron as they share their remembrances of Ben Etzion's father, describing his personality and interests.

These shared remembrances bring to life the father Ben-Etzion so desperately wanted to know.

Now at 70 years old, Ben-Etzion documents his personal journey and narrative in search of the father and grandfather lost like so many others on that fateful day in 1948. Made over 10 years ago, *Ben (son of) Kfar Etzion* is a compelling film filled with self-discovery, heartache, hope, and a chance to honor a strong family history in Israel.



Shani Cohen, Shara Israel, UJF Shaliach Yoav Yaron, and Ashley Mail attend the screening of the Israeli film *Ben (son of) Kfar Etzion*.

BCHA 8th Graders Return from Memorable Trip to Israel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

cast a shadow over our sense of security, it was crucial for our students to experience Israel firsthand. This trip not only solidified their connection to their heritage but also demonstrated the resilience and vibrancy of the Jewish state."

The trip also included a special Shabbat in Jerusalem, where the students experienced the profound sense of

community and spirituality that the city offers. Participating in prayers at the Western Wall and engaging in discussions with local scholars provided them with a deeper understanding of their faith and traditions.

Students also took part in volunteer activities, such as visiting a local soup kitchen and assisting in a reforestation project. These experiences were designed to instill a sense of responsibility and

community service, aligning with BCHA's mission to develop well-rounded, socially conscious individuals.

Returning from Israel, the eighth graders looked forward to their Moving Up Ceremony, which took place on June 10. This event celebrates their transition from middle school to high school, recognizing their academic achievements and personal growth. Families, friends, and faculty gathered to honor the students' hard work

and to wish them well as they embark on the next phase of their educational journey.

"As the eighth graders reflect on their transformative trip to Israel and prepare for high school, the entire BCHA community can take pride in the accomplishments of its students. These milestones are a testament to the school's commitment to excellence in education and its role in shaping the leaders of tomorrow," said Rabbi Bernstein.

TEEN VOICES

Stamford BBYO Chapters Introduce New Board Members



Tikvah BBG Board Members: Sarah Gilbert, Sylvie Rosenberg, Chloe Last, Ilana Gilbert, Isabelle Binger, Brooke Wolly, Sabrina. Weisel, and Elissa Tobin.

BY ISABELLE BINGER AND COBY CITRON

Isabelle: Hi all! My name is Isabelle Binger and I am the upcoming *N'Siah* (president) for Tikvah BBG in BBYO (B'nai B'rith Youth Organization.) As a sophomore in high school, BBYO has been a very beneficial and life changing opportunity for me. I joined BBYO the summer going into my freshman year of high school. Over these two years, I have not only made tons of friends, but I have shared and expanded my pride in my Judaism with others across the order. In doing this, I have made lifelong friends and memories through several activities such as fundraisers, shabbats, sports, baking, and so much more.

Coby: Hello everyone! My name is Coby Citron, and I am thrilled to announce that I will be serving as the

upcoming chapter *Godol* (president) for Leviticus AZA, our local BBYO chapter here in Stamford. Throughout my high school career, Leviticus AZA has been the foundation of my Jewish identity, consistently offering a supportive and safe environment to participate in Jewish-related activities and forge friendships that will last for a lifetime. BBYO has had an amazing and powerful impact on my life, and I hope to share its influence with all of you. I am so excited to continue building a vibrant, fun, and connected chapter, and I hope that all of you will join me.

Isabelle Binger is President of Tikvah BBG and is a rising junior at John Jay High School in Cross River. Coby Citron is President for Leviticus AZA and is a rising senior at Greenwich High School.



Leviticus AZA Board Members: Coby Citron, Harrison Tronick, Austin Eisenstein, Wesley Levine, Noam Ben-Zvi, and Ben Schacher.

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Wednesday, July 17

4:30-5:30pm

Barrett Park
Newfield Ave & Burdick St, Stamford

Wednesday, July 24

4:30-5:30pm

Chestnut Hill Park
354 Chestnut Hill Rd, Stamford

Wednesday, July 31

4:30-5:30pm

Czescik Marina Park
Shippan Ave & Harbor Dr, Stamford

www.ujf.org/wackywednesdays

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