



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Building For The Future

(Courtesy of CAS)
After years of dreaming, planning, fundraising and construction, Congregation Agudath Sholom is preparing to unveil its new and refurbished building with a rededication event to be held on August 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Although the synagogue has been fully functioning within the limits of COVID and building renovation restrictions, by utilizing outdoor and usable phased finished indoor spaces, the event will mark the opening/unveiling of all areas of the building to the Congregation. Among the major new features are a brand new two story educational wing, an expanded lobby and simcha room, and a revamped main sanctuary. Additional housing features include a large coatroom, stroller park, gift shop, and a new and enlarged office space. No space has remained untouched.

The chairperson of this extensive project, Rachel Dayan, together with CAS Executive Director Matt Feinberg, have overseen the project from the day construction began.



New Colonial Road entry to Congregation Agudath Sholom.

(CREDIT: MEG HARON)

Rachel shared, "It's been so fulfilling to see this project through from a vision, a dream, to the amazing reality it is today. I feel honored to have played a role in a project that will, hopefully, positively impact the lives of CAS members and the extended Stamford Jewish community for many years to come."

The project evolved from dream to reality with a large seed donation from the Sternlicht family. Through the efforts of Capital Campaign chairs Harvey Kaminski, Elissa Klapper, Howard Rothman and Shushanna Walshe, additional

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Celebrating Life & Legacy

(Courtesy of UJF)
Approximately one year ago, United Jewish Federation was accepted to Cohort 8 of the Life & Legacy® four-year program. The goal of the program is to bring legacy giving to the Jewish community and make it part of the cultural norm. UJF and the partner organizations have met this goal

with great success. On June 23rd, Life & Legacy donors and previous legacy donors are invited to celebrate the achievement of a major milestone in the Greater Stamford Jewish Community.

To date, almost 250 new legacy commitments have been made to 11 Jewish organizations including Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Chabad New Canaan, Chabad of Stamford, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Friendship Circle, Schoke Jewish Family Service, Stamford Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, United Jewish Federation and the Young Israel of Stamford.

"It took over a year of hard work to have Federation and the greater community accepted into this program. It is with great pride and excitement that I announce that our community has reached the eight



**Amy Hirshberg Lederman,
Guest Speaker**

million dollar mark of anticipated legacy gifts," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer. "What is even more inspiring is the diversity of participants. Newcomers, old timers, young and old have realized the importance of securing our Jewish future," continued Sloyer.

Each of the organizations are on the way to meeting the first goal of 18 legacy commitments, with many exceeding the second goal of

25 new legacy commitments. In doing so, the organizations are ensuring their future while also securing an incentive monetary grant that may be used currently as most needed by the organization.

To celebrate this milestone, the June 23rd event will take place at 6:30 p.m. and will include a festive meal that will be served outdoors at the Stamford Nature Center. There will also be a food delivery option for those who would like to participate virtually by Zoom. Arlene Schiff, National Director of the Life & Legacy program will join the program and special guest speaker will be Amy Hirshberg Lederman presenting "My Grandmother's Candlesticks: Leaving a Legacy of Love and Values". She is an award-winning author, nationally syndicated columnist,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

2 **Candle Lighting**

6 **JCRC News**

14 **Bits & Pieces**

17 **Life & Legacy**

20 **PJ Library**

22-23 **Voices and Views**

Solidarity Gathering

Approximately 500 people turned out to stand up in support of Israel and against antisemitism at a rally organized by United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and UJA-JCC Greenwich. The crowd gathered at Mill River Park and marched to the Stamford Government Center for speeches and songs of peace. See article and more photos on page 12-13



(CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)



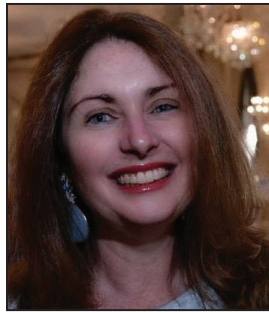
From UJF's Chief Executive Officer

Creating Community in Challenging Times and Beyond

BY DIANE SLOYER

While COVID-19 has presented us all with immense and unique challenges, there have been a few silver linings for our community. One, in particular, is the influx of new Jewish families to the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community. I cannot imagine moving to a new community when most opportunities to meet new people are not available. Our communal institutions have done their best to meet this challenge and welcome newcomers.

How do we accomplish this as a collective during a time of isolation? We want a world where community is a common and



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

enduring enterprise – where everyone can come together amid their differences to solve the complex challenges that affect us all.

Building a culture of belonging is one of the goals at the core of United Jewish Federation's Engagement Initiative. It seeks to expand the opportunities and pathways for both new and existing residents so that this sense of belonging can be accomplished. Federation has done a wonderful job, under the leadership of Sharon Franklin- Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement, welcoming newcomers through Shalom Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and engaging

young families through PJ Library. Parent Ambassadors have also added a great deal to welcoming newcomers with young children. And grandparents have recently connected to our newly formed grandparents' group.

An ongoing challenge for UJF is that we can only welcome those who we know about! So please, direct newcomers our way so we can welcome them to the Jewish community with a lovely gift bag filled with community information, a challah cover and more. The goal is to make all Jews in our community feel welcome and "at home".

UJF has also begun to form "meet- up groups." Are you single, over 50 and looking to join others for a hike, dinner, or casual conversation? Are you an interfaith couple looking to connect with other interfaith couples

and or families? Are you part of the LGBTQ community? Connecting community members together is also an important part of UJF's Engagement Initiative. And once again we need your help to have people connect to us and vice versa!

As our community continues to grow, so does our diversity, helping us create a mosaic of Jewish communal life most often seen in big cities.

Let us not miss this opportunity to engage all those new to the community and those who have been here for years. United Jewish Federation wants to bring all Jews together no matter your background, knowledge, family makeup or level of observance. Our diversity is our strength and we need your help! We are truly BETTER TOGETHER!

UJF President's Message

Solidarity and Unity

BY DAVID GORDON

We are a small people with a great history, a great story, a great impact on human-kind, and a wealth of wisdom. That greatness is found amongst other outlets, in our liturgy. And, in our liturgy, in the Shabbat afternoon service, we ask G-d, "And who is like your people Israel, a unified nation in the land?" (*U'mi kamcha yisrael, goy echad ba'aretz?*). This is a rhetorical question. By everyone's standards, both Jews and non-Jews, we are unique. Consider, in the last 120 years, over 20% of all Nobel Prizes were awarded to Jews who represented only 0.2% of the world population. So why ask the rhetorical question of "who is like us" in our liturgy every Shabbat?

Perhaps we ask the question because we need to understand and remind ourselves that no-one is like us when we are a unified (echad) nation. But, alas, unity for our people has always been the hardest task to accomplish, both here and in the land of Israel. It's easy to see in Israel. There have been four elections in the past two years and if a coalition government is not formed by the beginning of June, 2021, there will be a fifth election soon. We know, just as well as our Israeli brethren know, that the political gridlock is not healthy for Israel. As Yair Lapid, the head of the Yesh Atid (There is a Future) party recently stated: "After two years of political paralysis, Israeli society is hurting... A unity government isn't a compromise or a last resort – it's a goal, it's what we need."

It is with the express goals of unifying ourselves as a



UJF President David Gordon

Jewish community, and unifying ourselves with our Jewish brethren in Israel that our United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is planning a Chanukah community solidarity mission to Israel (which will hopefully be at peace) starting on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Our community needs to take

this trip together. We need to re-enter life and community after more than fifteen months sequestered in the safety of our homes due to COVID. We need to connect and reconnect with each other and with Israel. What better way of connecting can there be than to take a UJF unity mission to Israel so that we can be a unified nation in the land – a "goy echad ba'aretz? After all, when we are unified, we can continue to accomplish great things as a people.

Please attend our UJF Better Together Community Mission to Israel informational meeting on June 6, 10:00 a.m., and if you miss it, please call our office at 203-321-1373 and ask for information. Thank you! See you soon!

| CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| June 4 | 8:05 pm |
| June 11 | 8:09 pm |
| June 18 | 8:11 pm |
| June 25 | 8:13 pm |
| July 2..... | 8:12 pm |
| July 9..... | 8:10 pm |
| July 16..... | 8:06 pm |
| July 23..... | 8:01 pm |
| July 30..... | 7:54 pm |

Schoke JFS Can Ease the Way to the "Next Normal"

BY LYNN SALTZ, SCHOKE JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

As the community begins to re-emerge from the physical distancing and social isolation brought about by the pandemic, people are now expected to "dip their toes" back in the water and move on with the business of living.

Many are just not there yet! Sadness and even depression cloud the thoughts and the process of reemerging.

"There are many reasons for the lingering feeling of malaise," according to Betsy S. Stone, Ph.D, retired psychologist and adjunct lecturer at HUC-JIR and former Schoke JFS Board member. "We are now faced with decisions about situations that challenge and confuse us. We are still suffering deep communal grief; loss of freedoms, loss of life choices and most of all, with almost six hundred thousand dead, loss of loved family, friends or neighbors. These emotions need acknowledgment and time to heal or they could lead to deeper psychological harm."

At the same time, some people have grown and gained important self-knowledge.

Dr. Stone speaks about "COVID-keepers," those lessons about retaining values and connections. "What has COVID taught you, and how will you hold onto these new values and ideas?" adds Dr. Stone.

"Here at Schoke Jewish Family Service, we have been offering online support groups throughout the pandemic to try to lower the stressors in our lives and offer a forum to share grief emotions with others," reminded Eve Moskowitz, Director of Clinical Services at Schoke JFS, "You are not alone!"

Professional counselors are also available for one-on-one counseling sessions. To arrange for an appointment, contact Eve Moskowitz, Director of Clinical Services at Schoke JFS, at 203-921-4161 or email at emoskowitz@ctjfs.org

This is but one way that Schoke JFS is helping families return to a more "normal" way of life.

Schoke JFS continues to provide emergency services to those who find themselves devastated by job loss, homelessness or food insecurity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Dry Cleaning, Laundry, Flat work
Pick up / Delivery
All Work Done On Premises

Frank Policastro/Owner
48 Crescent Street
Stamford, CT 06905

(203) 323-0507
cleanerman@aol.com
www.crescentcleaners.com

Creating a Blueprint for UJF's Future

(Courtesy of UJF) A few months ago, United Jewish Federation President David Gordon appointed Beverly Stein to chair the strategic planning process for UJF. The long-term goal of this process is to deploy Federation's resources as strategically as possible in order to help create and sustain a vibrant future for the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish community.

Beverly Stein is no stranger to leadership in this community. She served on UJF's board for many years and most recently finished a three-year term as President of Schoke Jewish Family Service.

"Why are we embarking on a strategic planning process for UJF? Yogi Berra said it best. 'If you don't know where you're going, you might not get there.' Without a plan, even the

most brilliant business can get lost," said Stein.

"You need to have goals, create milestones and have a strategy in place to set yourself up for success. UJF's mission is building and safeguarding our Jewish community and strengthening connections to Israel and World Jewry by mobilizing our community to invest in Jewish life for today and future generations. The strategic plan's goal is to determine how to best do that by developing goals and strategies," Stein continued.

A working group called the UJF Strategic Planning Task Force, comprised of a diverse group of individuals who represent a cross section of our community, has started to evaluate our community's evolving needs and to determine how Federation can be most effective in meeting them.

Task force members include: Kerrin Behrend, Henry Bubel, Linda Gornitsky, Susan Kostin, Chris Maroc, Risa Raich, Rhonda Schaffer-Maron, Michael Schlessinger, Seth Tobin, David Gordon (UJF President), Beverly Stein (Task Force Chair), and Diane Sloyer (UJF CEO).

With the help of a professional consultant, Joy Goldstein, the task force is currently seeking input from leaders at Federation's partner agencies and local synagogues to help better inform the work of the task force. UJF is committed to ensuring that its work reflects the diversity of our Jewish community - including newcomers and longtime residents, young adults and seniors, individuals and families, people in need, and those in interfaith relationships. Individual meetings, focus groups and a

community opt-in survey will source information for the important work of this group.

According to management guru, Michael Porter: "Sound strategy starts with having the right goal."

"Strategic planning is critical to all organizations and provides a blueprint for how boards govern and how professionals manage. In Federation's case, this aspirational plan will strengthen UJF and benefit the entire community," said UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.

The UJF Strategic Planning Task Force welcomes your thoughts on the Jewish community and Federation's role. Please feel free to contact either Task Force chair Beverly Stein at bastein@optonline.net or UJF CEO Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org.

Young Israel Celebrates at Annual Gala

(Courtesy of YIS) The Young Israel of Stamford's annual gala will take place online this year, on June 6 at 8:00 p.m. The theme, Community Cabaret, is a celebration of what has kept us connected during COVID. Though the Young Israel has chosen to not honor any individuals beyond its annual tradition of honoring its graduating youth leaders — this year those youth leaders are Adin Fogel, Zev Pinker, Ben Roitman and Joey Rosenfeld — the gala will provide an opportunity for all to share their *Hakarat HaTov*

(giving thanks) for those who have helped keep the community together and the Shul running over this past year.

The Cabaret itself will feature submissions from our members and friends that illustrate their favorite Young Israel moments of 2020-2021: *Davening* (praying) outside; a youth event; cooking night; outside gatherings; new resident welcomings; and more. Submissions will be in a myriad of forms, from photos to drawings, songs to speeches, and anything in-between. Some of the submissions will be

presented during the Cabaret itself, and others will be placed in the evening's program book/ad journal, thereby creating a record of the communal good in a challenging year. Cabaret participants will receive a Dessert Box — filled with wine, decadent desserts, and other sweets and treats — to

enjoy during the online event. Donors of \$1,000 or more will receive an additional themed box with more drinks and treats. To join in on the fun, or for more information, contact Event Chairs Nofie Rosovsky at nofnat@aol.com or Janice Steinberg at janice@alfacreative.com.

Federation Solidarity Mission



Federations leaders from across the country visit trauma victims at the Israel trauma coalition and also visit Olim (new immigrants) at an Ethiopian Absorption Center.



Celebrating Life & Legacy®

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jewish educator, public speaker and attorney. Her columns have won awards from the American Jewish Press Association, the Arizona Newspapers Association and the Arizona Press Club for excellence in commentary. She speaks with humor, passion and clarity and is able to inspire and empower her audiences.

"It has been such an honor to help United Jewish Federation coordinate the Life & Legacy program. I have been in-

spired and uplifted watching all the community partners join together as one to help ensure the future of the Stamford Jewish Community. This is truly a communal program. I look forward to continuing to grow our Legacy Honor Roll and the continued success of the program," shared Life & Legacy Coordinator Lenore Fogel.

For more information on getting involved with the Life & Legacy program or to become a legacy donor, please contact Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org or 203-321-1373 x115.

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

A Forensic Approach to Holocaust Memory and Education

(Courtesy of JHSFC) Have you ever watched "Law & Order" or "CSI?" See how you can uncover your family history. Join the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County on Tuesday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m., as Ryan Lilienthal tells how he uncovered his family story as a virtual presentation.

Ryan engages his audience in a blueprint process to harness the vast array of increasingly available Holocaust-related archives to piece together the lives and experiences



Ryan Lilienthal

of Holocaust victims. In our digital age, primary source materials— including video testimonies, family letters and photographs, and institutional and government documents — are at our fingertips. Authors like Daniel Mendelsohn (*The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million*) and Sarah Wildman (*Paper Love*) demonstrate how documents can help

recover the memory of loved ones. This presentation shows how each one of us can deploy our critical analysis skills to do the same, through the example of a family murdered in the Holocaust and following

the links to the history they left behind.

It all began when Ryan's brother, Sal, dropped off for safekeeping a cardboard box storing their grandfather's fabled stamp collection dating back to his childhood in Germany. Little did Ryan know that this untouched-for-40-years heirloom would become a portal into previously obscured family history during the Holocaust. To be sure, with his maternal and paternal grandparents both fleeing Nazi persecution (from Berlin and Vienna, respectively), remembering the Holocaust had always loomed large within his family, and even inspired Ryan's drive to become an immigration attorney. The discovery of a folder packed with family members' letters buried in the stamp-collection box opened a

world of questions begging for answers. A decade of scouring archives and researching history has given shape not only to the lives behind the buried letters, but also to relationships with newly-discovered family members, and with other descendants of witnesses and perpetrators of persecution, forced deportation, and genocide.

Ryan lives in Princeton, NJ, with his wife Rachel and their three sons Noah, Evan and Jacob. He grew up in Greenwich, CT, and graduated from Greenwich High School, Tufts University and Brooklyn Law School.

To register for this virtual program, go to the JHSFC website at <http://jhsfc-ct.org/>. For more information, email info@jhsfc-ct.org or call (203) 359-2196.

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, 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) 321-1373
E-mail: sandy@ujf.org

Schoke JFS Connects Donations to Those in Need

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) The Emergency Assistance program at Schoke Jewish Family Service helps provide families in crisis with the comprehensive assistance they need. The agency is grateful to the community for their donations of furniture, food and other

services to this program and would like to expedite the delivery and transfer of these items to clients who need them. If you have a donation, please email donations@ctjfs.org with photos, dimensions and other pertinent details of your donation. The JFS case management

team will reach out and follow up with you regarding next steps and matching your gift to a client in need. If you have any questions or would like to know more about how Schoke JFS can connect your donation to a client in need, please call Lisa Rich at 203-921-4161.

Everyone Loves a Good Deal!

(Courtesy of JHSFC) If you are looking for a summer read or a gift for Father's Day, the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is hosting a one-day Book Sale in the lobby of the State Cinema movie theater located at 990 Hope Street on Sunday, June 13 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Proceeds from the event will be used to support the management of the Harry Rosenbaum JHS Judaica Library. The Library is currently in storage and will be relocated to a new site in Stamford.

A full bag of books can be purchased for \$10. Empty bags will be supplied to each attendee. The books for purchase have been donated by members of the community and include best sellers, cookbooks, mysteries, historical novels and coffee table books. You might find your favorite author among the offerings. Some of the books are practically new having been read only twice!

Masks will be required for attendees and social distancing rules will be followed. Parking is available behind the State Cinema and there is ample street parking in the neighborhood.

Any questions, call 203-321-1373 ext. 150 or email: info@jhsfc-ct.org

United Jewish Federation Invites You To:

PJ Library & PJ Our Way

MITZVAH FAIR

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND DO SOME GOOD DEEDS!

Sunday, June 6th · 3:30-4:45 pm (2 shifts)
1035 Newfield Ave. (field to the right of the building)

- **Make and decorate cards** for American Jewish soldiers
- **Food drive** for the Freedberg Schoke kosher food pantry, bring canned tuna/salmon, cereal - hot or cold, peanut butter and jellies
- **Make toys** for an animal shelter
- **Environmental project** with Keep America Beautiful
- **Clothing drive** for local children in-need (new or gently used, sizes 6 month to 12 years old)

Sign up at www.ujf.org/pjmitzvah
(Outdoors, Socially Distanced, Masks)

PJ Library & PJ OUR WAY
A Program of United Jewish Federation

For more info contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org

Elon Green to Speak at TBE Pride Shabbat

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Elon Green, author of *Last Call: A True Story of Love, Lust, and Murder in Queer New York* will speak at Temple Beth El at Kabbalat Shabbat Services on Friday evening, June 11 at 6:00 p.m. as TBE celebrates Pride Shabbat.

Elon Green grew up as part of the TBE family and has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Columbia Journalism Review*, and appears in the true-crime anthology *Unspeakable Acts*. He has been an editor at *Longform* since 2011.

In a recent review by the New York Times as the Editor's Pick, the Times called the book a "terrific, harrowing, true-crime account of an elusive serial killer who preyed upon gay men in the 1990s, perfidiously turning the safe havens of gay bars into hunting grounds, and semi-anonymous late-night hook-ups into an opportunity to kill with impunity."

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, spiritual leader at Temple Beth El, said, "Even



Author Elon Green
(CREDIT: NATALIE SPARACCIO)

at a young age, Elon Green already demonstrated the essential qualities of a superb journalist, and he has put that keen, inquisitive mind to work in this brilliant book. TBE is proud to bring him back home to teach us what he has learned. And for him to be speaking here on Pride Shabbat only adds to the significance of his message."

The community is welcome to join the services on Zoom. For further information, contact Steven Lander at execdir@tbe.org or 203-322-6901, ext. 304.

UJF's NextGen Group To Hold Backyard Nights Out

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation will hold two NextGen events this summer, providing some fun and social programming for millennials and beyond. NextGen is a UJF affinity group for community members ages 25 to 45 who are committed to building a stronger Jewish community. This affinity group offers many exciting ways to get involved and get connected, including fun social events, social action projects, and fulfilling leadership positions.

The first summer program will be held on Wednesday, June 16th, and will bring area women together for a "Ladies Night Out" of socializing, crafts, food, and specialty cocktails. Co-chairs of the event are Jessica Berger, Elisa Greenberg, Erica Safer, and Mel Vorm. "We are excited to gather in person outdoors to see friends in a social setting we haven't seen in a while without kids in tow," says Vorm.

A "Guys Night Out" will be held on Thursday, July 15, featuring food,

drinks, and of course, schmoozing. The event is being co-chaired by Adam Furmansky and David Gilboa. Guests will have a chance to learn about how spirits are made, and watch a cocktail-making demo by Litchfield Distillery, a Connecticut liquor company.

Both events will be held at private homes in Stamford and include food, plus drinks from Litchfield Distillery. Tickets are \$20, and to sign up go to www.ujf.org/ladies for the women's program, and www.ujf.org/guys for the men's outing. For more information about UJF's NextGen group or this program, contact Sharon Franklin, at sharon@ujf.org.

Get a gift bag when you're new to town!

If you know someone new to town, please contact Sharon Franklin at Sharon@ujf.org so Federation can welcome them with a gift bag!

United Jewish Federation's NextGen Invites You To A

GUYS NIGHT OUT

ENJOY A SOCIAL NIGHT OUT.
SEE FRIENDS AND MEET NEW PEOPLE!

THURSDAY, JULY 15TH | 8:00-9:30PM

In-person, outdoors, at a private home in Stamford

- Light dinner from 613 • Spirit tasting and specialty cocktails with Litchfield Distillery • Hear from an expert on how spirits are made
- Cocktail making demo • And plenty of schmoozing!

\$20 per person

RSVP by July 12th to www.ujf.org/guys

Co-chairs: Adam Furmansky & David Gilboa



(NextGen is a UJF affinity group (ages 25 to 45) who are committed to building a stronger Jewish community in Greater Stamford, Israel and throughout the world. NextGen offers many exciting ways to get involved and get connected, including fun social events, social action projects, and fulfilling leadership positions.)

United Jewish Federation's NextGen Invites You To A

LADIES NIGHT OUT

ENJOY A SOCIAL NIGHT OUT.
SEE FRIENDS AND MEET NEW PEOPLE!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16TH | 7:00-9:00PM

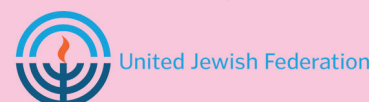
In-person, outdoors, at a private home in Stamford

- Dinner • Crafts • Spirit tasting and specialty cocktails with Litchfield Distillery • Firepit with Smores for dessert
- And plenty of schmoozing!

\$20 per person

RSVP by June 14th to www.ujf.org/ladies

Committee: Jessica Berger, Elisa Greenberg, Erica Safer, Mel Vorm



(NextGen is a UJF affinity group (ages 25 to 45) who are committed to building a stronger Jewish community in Greater Stamford, Israel and throughout the world. NextGen offers many exciting ways to get involved and get connected, including fun social events, social action projects, and fulfilling leadership positions.)

Jewish Community Relations Council Update

BY SHARON LEWIS, JCRC DIRECTOR

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is one of seven Connecticut Federations that support the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT). JFACT works with state Federations and Jewish Community Relations Councils (JCRCs) to lobby city, state and federal governments for legislation that affects Connecticut's Jewish community and Israel.

Michael Bloom, JFACT Executive Director, attended our last JCRC Committee meeting in April. He reported that in this legislative session, JFACT has successfully pushed many legislative priorities including additional funding to help asylum seekers and refugees get settled and obtain citizenship,



Sharon Lewis

and \$5 million in funding for houses of worship and threatened non-profits. Also, a bill was voted out of the Public Safety committee to create a new unit of State Police to investigate hate crimes and a bill was voted out of the Judiciary Committee to create a civil rights division in the Office of the Attorney General. In mid-April, Governor Lamont announced that his administration is opening new rounds of funding under two state grant programs (totaling

\$10 million) that will help with the costs associated with implementing needed security infrastructure improvements and upgrades to emergency communications systems at schools throughout Connecticut. Most recently, the House and Senate voted to extend the provisions regarding telehealth until June 2023. The telehealth bill should be signed by Governor Lamont soon. All of these have been legislative priorities of JFACT and we are delighted with the progress made for the Jewish community in Connecticut.

Locally, one of the goals of the JCRC is to build bridges between communities. As reported last month, the JCRC will work with the Mayor's Multicultural Committee and the Interfaith Council of Southwest Connecticut on a Walk for Unity in our Community on

August 29th and Building Bridges with Books in January 2022. Both events are designed to create opportunities to work with, meet and learn from members of other ethnic and religious communities. Watch this column and your email for further details about these upcoming events.

Recently, violence in Israel has escalated and the Federation and the JCRC has distributed information to the community regarding briefings and insights into the current situation. We hope that this recent escalation stops soon and will continue to keep the community informed as events unfold.

If you are interested in learning more about the JCRC, please contact Sharon Lewis, JCRC Director, at slewis@ujf.org, 203-321-1373, ext. 104.

Building Bridges



(l-r) Diane Sloyer, CEO of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, Shahzhad Khawaja, Stamford Islamic Center, Khurram Nomani, Stamford Islamic Center, and Sharon Lewis, Director of UJF's JCRC, pose together after a meeting to discuss upcoming JCRC events to create connections between communities.

JCRC Educates Community

(Courtesy of UJF)

On May 3, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) sponsored "Social Media Savvy & Safety", a virtual panel discussion featuring Bradley Orsini of Secure Communities Network, Chris Dunning, VP IT and Chief Security Officer of Temerity, and Marc Berkman, Organization for Social Media Safety. The panelists discussed how to keep safe online and answered many questions from the audience.

On May 11, the JCRC sponsored "Hate Speech in a Free Speech Society", a virtual panel discussion



Participants learn about social media safety.

featuring Aryeh Tuckman and Amy Feinman of the Anti-Defamation League and journalist Zoe Katz. This highly engaging panel educated participants about the hate speech that is online and on campus.

Both panels were moderated by Josh Esses, JCRC Chair.

Rep. Himes Stands in Solidarity

Congressman Jim Himes sent the following message to UJF's Jewish Community Relations Council on May 24th, the day of the rally for Israel and against antisemitism. (See article and photos on pages 12-13)

"I'm very sorry that my absence from CT makes it impossible for me to join all of you today, because it is essential that we stand as one to unequivocally, unconditionally and forcefully condemn antisemitism and the violence it engenders. Hateful violence is never acceptable in any

community. In the case of antisemitic violence, we have a special and specific duty to condemn and stop it because it has been at the core of some of the most horrendous episodes in human history. The State of Israel is the answer to those episodes, and the ultimate guarantor of the Jewish people's inalienable rights. The Middle East is a complicated place in which much can be debated. The existence in peace and security of the State of Israel is not one of those things. Thank you for making your voices heard."

UJF Convenes Jewish Organizations

On June 3rd, United Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council will convene a meeting (by zoom) with Jewish organizations from all over Fairfield County to discuss ways the agencies can pool resources to provide the best speakers and events for the Jewish community of Fairfield County.

"The use of Zoom during the pandemic has proven that events using this remote platform can stretch

geographic boundaries and increase convenience for users. It has also presented as an opportunity for an increase of top level programming and this round table of professionals can provide the opportunity to collaborate", shared JCRC Director Sharon Lewis. The June 3rd meeting will begin the discussion of this possibility and hopefully be the start of inter-agency cooperation in the county.

Senator Blumenthal Responds to Rally

Senator Richard Blumenthal conveyed to Unite Jewish Federation that he would have liked to have been at the rally in person but was "with us in spirit tonight" as he needed to be in Washington for voting. He reaffirmed and wanted the Stamford community to know that he will vote against any effort in the Senate to diminish

support for Israel whether humanitarian, military, strategic or otherwise. He is deeply committed to Israel as America's strong ally. He also wanted the community to know that as a lead writer of the No Hate Bill which was signed last week in the White House, he will do whatever he can to fight antisemitism and all forms of racism.

Celebrating Unity in Community

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) It was with broken hearts that many came to Chabad's Jewish Women Connected (JWC) Lag B'Omer event this year after hearing the news of all the lives lost in the tragedy at Mount Meron. The bonfire and drumming circle had been postponed due to inclement weather but in a show of solidarity and unity, over 40 Jewish women from all over Stamford came together to commemorate the lives lost and add some light to the darkness of the event. Many lit candles and paid tributes and shared thoughts.

The theme of unity was further enhanced by Jessie from Musical IQ who created an incredible energy using Djembe drums from west Africa in a drumming circle around the bonfire. In the beautiful outdoor setting, the women experienced connection and community as they drummed together to



Chabad of Stamford's JWC Lag B'Omer Women's celebration and drumming circle.

a beat that created a crescendo of love, goodness and shared hearts.

The evening was a multigenerational one where women of all ages came together. Please join Chabad of Stamford's JWC for their final

event of the year at 6:30 p.m. on July 6 for their summer soiree. This event will be hosted outdoors in a private home in Stamford. Contact programs@stamfordchabad.org for more details.

Gan Yeladim Celebrates Lag B'Omer



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's Gan Yeladim preschool celebrated Lag B'Omer with a family BBQ and kids' Trike-athon. Parents, grandparents,

great-grandparents and special friends sponsored each child. All the funds raised will be used to upgrade the Gan's playground and further develop the vegetable gardens.

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Meets Each Student's Needs

BY JUDIE JACOBSON

For years, it was an open secret that Jewish day schools were simply not set up to accommodate the educational needs of students with special learning styles.

Then something happened. Educators began to observe a marked increase in families interested in enrolling their children in schools with comprehensive support services for those with academic challenges.

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut took note.

Today, the Stamford pre-K through grade 12 school is among a growing number of Jewish academic institutions all across the country — and the only Jewish day school in Fairfield County — that is investing in professional development, additional staff and revised curricula to better serve students across the learning spectrum.

"As a Jewish community and as a Jewish educational institution we are committed to ensuring that our children — all our children — have an opportunity to benefit from the kind of high quality Jewish education we offer," explains Jackie Herman, BCHA head of school. For that reason she says, "Today, Bi-Cultural offers a wide array of special services and programs for students with special learning styles that help them to become independent, resourceful learners."

In keeping with Bi-Cultural's educational philosophy that focuses on personalized instruction designed to meet each student's

social, emotional, and academic needs, students who require additional support services are given individualized "Action Plans." The goal is to provide guidance and support to children with special learning issues to progress towards independence by scaffolding instruction and gradually releasing the supplemental services.

With the help of a strong educational team — including a school psychologist, speech and language pathologist, occupational therapist and social worker — students with learning challenges are mainstreamed in the classroom and participate in the general curriculum.

"The goal of our program is to ensure that all of our students grow into competent and confident learners," says Heidi Bernstein, M.S., CCC-SLP, who heads up Bi-Cultural support services program. "We focus on teaching our students strategies to access the curriculum, enhance their skills, and foster a love of learning. We also look ahead to the future and therefore tailor our program to find a balance between providing the proper individualized support services while simultaneously fostering independence."

Of course, success is not measured by academics alone. Bi-Cultural also recognizes the importance of helping every student develop healthy life skills by instituting a comprehensive social-emotional learning (SEL) program.

"Social-emotional learning is the pro-

cess by which children acquire certain key life skill sets that they will need to navigate their world - how to build and maintain strong friendships, how to problem solve, how to resolve conflict, how to self-advocate, and how to regulate big emotions," explains Dr. Kate Cik, Bi-Cultural's school psychologist and head of its SEL program.

For example, the renowned "Positive Discipline" program created by Dr. Jane Nelson, and implemented in the school's early childhood program, helps children build communicative and problem-solving class communities in which each child

feels a sense of significance and belonging.

"These skills are critical to a child's success," says Dr. Cik. "They are a prerequisite for being ready and available to learn academic skills in the classroom. If a child is struggling to control their emotions or problem solve in a difficult situation, then they will not be ready or able to focus on the teacher, to follow directions and to complete increasingly difficult schoolwork."

For more information, contact Director of Admissions Miriam Sperber at (203) 329-2186 x1310.

CAPTURING MOMENTS CREATING MEMORIES



aviva maller

PHOTOGRAPHY

WHILE THE PHOTOGRAPHER IS NEVER IN PHOTOGRAPHS;
HER REFLECTION IS SEEN IN THE EYES OR THE VERY SOUL OF HER SUBJECTS.

203-554-6758

avivamallerphoto@me.com
www.avivamallerphotography.com

Celebrations | Bar/Bat Mitzvahs | Weddings | Corporate Events
Galas | Performances | Family Photos | Headshots

Friendship Circle Dads Enjoy Jokes and Pickle Making



“Rabbi Pickle” leads Friendship Circle event.



Pickle making and jokes with Friendship Circle Dads.

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) The night of April 18, Friendship Circle Dads from Fairfield County gathered on Zoom with other Friendship Circle fathers from New Jersey and Maryland. The evening began with a D’var Torah (Words of Torah) and continued with a pair of brothers,

Rabbis Levi and Mendel Teldon, telling jokes and setting the stage for a fun and uplifting evening.

“Rabbi Pickle” (Rabbi Shmuel Marcus) from California led the participants in a pickle making session. Not only did he teach the practical aspects of pickle

making, but he also explained the history of pickles back to the days of Moses. He also related the kabalistic (mystical) aspects of pickles to the Jewish people.

Dahni Nisinzweig, a participant, said “Rabbi Pickle was amazing. I can’t believe how many things I learned tonight from

this wonderful man. As I said to my wife, if the Rabbi was anywhere in the tri-state area I would be running to him to study...about the Torah and life.”

For more information and to become involved in the Friendship Circle, please contact Malya at malya@friendshipct.com.

A Blooming Mother’s Day With UJF

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation helped make Mother’s Day a bit more colorful and fragrant for local moms with the *Orchid for a Cause* sale. Purchasing a plant allowed for the perfect gift for the holiday and provided the opportunity to give back in the process. Proceeds went to UJF’s Dignity Grows™ social action program.

Dignity Grows, which started in January of this year, provides monthly personal and menstrual hygiene products to those who cannot afford them. Founded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford’s Women’s Philanthropy, Dignity Grows embodies the Jewish values of *Tzedakah* (righteousness) and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). Totes are packed by local volunteers and delivered to a different social service agency, soup kitchen or shelter each month.

A special thank you to Oren Shapiro of Mrs. Blooms Florist.

To learn more about UJF’s Dignity Grows program, or to donate to the program, please contact Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org.



Carol Krim picks up her Orchids for a Cause before Mother’s Day.



Simone Zwany selected orchids in a variety of shades.



Mitchell Kaplan picks up his orchids, a gift for his wife Jill and mother, Dena Kaplan.



Arlene Rosen will gift the orchid she bought to her daughter.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!



The Fairfield County Connecticut Jewish Baseball League is a Jewish community youth baseball league open to boys and girls Pre-K through Grade 6 living in

Lower Fairfield County, Connecticut and Westchester County, New York. United Jewish Federation is proud to sponsor the UJF Latkes for the 2021 season.

Making Mitzvah Moments



Evan Bilenker gave a Pastry Pop to the health care worker who vaccinated him at the Lord & Taylor site.



Chris Beldotti (left) and Rabbi Daniel Cohen partner to bring Pastry Pops to health care workers.



Julia Wolfe brings Pastry Pops to the Stamford Hospital vaccination site.

(Courtesy of CAS) In the height of the pandemic, Making Mitzvah Moments was launched by Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Senior Rabbi at Congregation Agudath Sholom, to mobilize the community for instantaneous acts of kindness. Harnessing the power of WhatsApp and technology, the group of over 150 volunteers are ready to not only respond but anticipate new opportunities to spread light and goodness.

One of their latest projects is called "Preciation Pastry Pops for Shots". Making Mitzvah Moments partnered with Beldotti Bakery to inspire gratitude and giving for 12 to 15 year-olds getting vaccinated. Any teen or preteen can pick up a free "Pastry Pop" at Beldotti's and bring it to their vaccination appointment as a token of appreciation. Handmade cards, a printed poster, balloons or a gift card to give to someone working at the site are also encouraged as a way to say thanks. Making Mitzvah Moments encourages people to take photos, post on their own social media sites and tag with #makingmitzvahmoments to encourage other teens across the country to do the same.

One of the most impactful projects during the pandemic and still going strong is the delivery of *challot* to seniors on Fridays. The beauty of the

mitzvah is that it not only provided challah but created new intergenerational friendships. A special thanks to Suzannah Coll for organizing the deliveries and to all of the volunteers and sponsors.

Jennie Woltz Follkenshteyn reflected, "I intentionally timed my challah deliveries most weeks until after the children were home from school, so I could take them with me on my route. It would have been easier for me to deliver the challot without the children, but this way I could show them that even on what is normally our busiest of days, how important it is to take time to do mitzvahs for others."

Rabbi Daniel Cohen shared, "We hope to move Making Mitzvah Moments from living in a state of crisis to a state of calling. As the pandemic eases, we would like to inspire people to seek out new ways to impact our community and anticipate acts of kindness. There is so much each one of us can do if not to change the world but change the world of one person and in turn impact the world."

To join this spiritual force for exponentially increasing Mitzvot, contact Rabbi Daniel Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org.

Jeff Popper Receives JCC Award

(Courtesy of JCC) At its annual meeting on May 11, the Stamford Jewish Community Center presented Jeff Popper with the 2021 Hyacinthe and Harold Hoffman Humanitarian Award. Each year the Hoffman Award is given to the individual who best expresses the ideals of service to the community that Hyacinthe and Harold E. Hoffman, long-time JCC leaders and distinguished humanitarians and philanthropists, exemplified during their lifetimes.

"Jeff Popper was unanimously selected by the Hoffman committee, which is comprised of past Hoffman Award winners," said Marshall Kurland, JCC CEO. "Often soft-spoken and behind the scenes, Jeff's leadership for so many years has nurtured the JCC. During the tumultuous past year, the JCC certainly would not have come through the COVID crisis as successfully without Jeff's guidance, which he provided through many generous volunteer hours. Jeff's commitment is inspiring, both to staff and lay leaders alike, and we couldn't be more grateful for his selfless dedication to keeping The J strong, and ensuring that we can continue to be here for this generation and many generations to come."

Jeff has been a member of the JCC since 1993 and was involved with the JCC while growing up in Stamford. He began his volunteer involvement at the JCC as coach of the girls' soccer team for the JCC Maccabi Games in Richmond in 2005,



Jeff Popper was presented with the 2021 Hyacinthe and Harold Hoffman Humanitarian Award.

Stamford in 2006, and Orange County in 2007. Jeff was elected to the board of directors in 2007, and he has served on the executive committee for many years in various roles, including Treasurer and Secretary. He is a member of the finance committee and the audit committee, and he chairs the investment committee on the board. Jeff served as the Co-Commissioner for tennis for the 2016 JCC Maccabi Games & Artsfest. He has also volunteered as treasurer for the New Canaan Soccer Association for several years and as treasurer of The Lake Club, a local swim and tennis club. Jeff is a CPA in his own practice at Popper & Company, LLP, a firm of 25 people based in New York City.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Molecular Tweezers Take on Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

Breakthrough technology allows the immune system to prevent infection, presenting a better treatment option than antibiotics.

BY JON SCHILLER/ISRAEL21C

Scientists from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheva, along with American and German colleagues, have developed "molecular tweezers" to destroy the biofilm that surrounds and protects antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the body.

Antibiotic resistance occurs when germs like bacteria or fungi develop the ability to defeat medicines designed to kill them. Infections caused by antibiotic-resistant germs are difficult, and sometimes even impossible, to treat.

The molecular tweezers developed by Prof. Raz Jelinek, and his PhD student

Ravit Malishev from BGU's department of chemistry, change the structural and assembly properties of the biofilm surrounding antibiotic-resistant bacteria. This clears a path for the immune system to effectively combat infection.

They tested two types of molecular tweezers on Staphylococcus Aureus (Staph) bacteria to either disrupt biofilm formation or break existing biofilms. The mortality rate from Staph infections in the US is over 25 percent.

"Binding the tweezers to the biofilm disrupts its protective capabilities," said Jelinek, who is also Ben-Gurion

University's Vice President of Research & Development and a member of the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology.

"In consequence, the bacterial pathogens become much less virulent to the human body, and more vulnerable to elimination by the immune system," he added.

"Our discovery prevents infection without building up antibiotic resistance. As such, it might even be preferable to construct treatments based on molecular tweezers rather than antibiotics."

Results of the successful study were recently published in Cell Chemical Biology.



Prof. Raz Jelinek, left, and his PhD student Ravit Malishev. (CREDIT: DANI MACHLIS/BGU)

Agudath Sholom Welcomes New Families, Expands In-Person Programming

(Courtesy of CAS) Stamford is seeing a strong uptick in new families moving to the area and Congregation Agudath Sholom (CAS) has been actively welcoming them. Whether meals upon arrival, meet and greets, new programming and more, Agudath Sholom is finding creative and warm ways to connect with new arrivals. Membership committee chair Meg Haron, along with her husband Yoav, organized outdoor meetup events throughout the past year. In May, Kate and Peretz Cik hosted a well-attended event in their backyard.

In recent weeks, many CAS members have returned for the new slate of religious and social events at the synagogue. In addition to the weekly classes and daily services run by Rabbi Daniel Cohen and Assistant Rabbi Moshe Kurtz, the synagogue's lay leadership have been working passionately to reinstate its programs.

The CAS Young Adult Committee has planned for a summer of social opportunities. Lorraine Hutzler and Daniella Fisch, who moved to Stamford this past summer, are already making a difference by spearheading a "Mingle at Waveny Park" held in May, "Hiking in Mianus Park" (Sunday, June 13th at 2:00 p.m.), and "Ice Cream at Harbor Point" (Sunday, July 25th at 4:00 p.m.).

Miriam Sperber, who co-chairs the Young Adult Committee with her husband Josh, remarked, "Now that it's warmer out, the committee is excited for a summer full of outdoor events. A chance for community members to come out and mingle while enjoying good food and good company!"

Agudath Sholom has also reinstated its outdoor Women's *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers) class on Shabbat afternoons, organized by Rachel Schilowitz. Past teach-

ers have included *Yoetzet Halacha* (Jewish Law Advisor) Dena Block, Marisa Pollack Kurtz, and Channie Kamman.

Thanks to the hard work of Adult Education Committee member Sam Sroka, Agudath Sholom has introduced the CAS Young Men's Chabura. This forum gives young men a chance to share serious Torah classes (*chaburos*) with each other while also enjoying a beer and an opportunity to socialize.

Sroka stated, "The CAS Men's Chabura initiative started last summer, coinciding with CAS' hiring of Rabbi Kurtz. Rabbi Kurtz and community members present different topics, ranging from hot-button topics to text analysis to pre-chag round robins. With shuls across the country restricting participation to comply with local laws and social distance protocols becoming more commonplace, the *Chabura*

- sustained throughout the winter months every two weeks outdoors on Wednesday evenings, - became a place of measured socializing for young adults in the community and kept the flame of Torah alive."

Agudath Sholom remains committed to serving all its members and doing its best to make everyone feel safe and welcome. The synagogue currently hosts a 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., and 9:00 a.m. indoor *minyan* and a 9:00 a.m. outdoor *minyan* in its tent. The indoor and outdoor options will continue for the foreseeable future as CAS monitors the state's safety guidelines and the comfort level of its congregants. The synagogue currently offers pre-wrapped, outdoor *kiddush* refreshments after every service.

To learn more about Agudath Sholom, contact Rabbi Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org or Rabbi Kurtz at mkurtz@cas-stamford.org.

Teacher Appreciation at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Teachers at Gan Yeladim this year were treated to a jam-packed week of gifts, treats and tokens of appreciation from all the families and children at Gan. Each day the *Morahs* were surprised with something different and unique. The week kicked off with a "buzz" thanks to a Gan parent who came in to prepare whipped coffee in personalized mugs for all. Each child also brought in flowers from home during the week, to help the teachers build beautiful bouquets in their personalized vases. Wine and cheese were "paired" with a PJ themed party where the teachers could relax in their most comfortable pajamas as they enjoyed an evening of delicious food, drinks and games. The theme of rest and relaxation was extended to the following day when each teacher was treated to a luxury "spa" basket. Thanks to all the parents who sponsored the gifts, arranged



Elle and David Sperber (along with all the other children) bring flowers to Gan Yeladim during Teacher Appreciation week.

the flowers, put together the one-of-a-kind pampering baskets and helped the *Morahs* go into the weekend feeling loved and nurtured!!

Bi-Cultural Students Bring the Colonial Era to Life

(Courtesy of BCHA) One afternoon in April, after learning all about our country's colonies and Founding Fathers, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy fifth graders took a step back in time to celebrate Colonial Day. With the help of their teachers, Adrienne Robinson and Rachelli Rosenblum, the class brought to life that significant period in our nation's history with a host of Colonial-themed activities, including quilting and crafting, poetry reading (on the town common, of course) and gardening. They also played Colonial games, listened to the music of the era and, under the guidance of a New Canaan Historical Society docent, engaged in wool carding, part of the process of making yarn.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy fifth grader Eli Hoff practices writing with a quill pen during the class's Colonial Day celebration.

SJFS Awards Camp Scholarships

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Through the generosity of the Joan and Ben Zinbarg-Schoke Jewish Family Service Camp Scholarship Program, financial assistance was awarded to eligible families from the greater Stamford and Upper Fairfield County areas who were looking for a rewarding Jewish summer experience for their children. Forty-five children (at press time) will receive assistance to attend a Jewish day or away camp this summer. In Lower Fairfield County, twenty-five will receive financial support.

Schoke JFS understands that many households, during the difficult time of the COVID-19 epidemic, were looking for assistance to send their children to a Jewish summer camp program this year. Families struggled with unemployment or working from home and financial priorities were shifted to cover the essentials. 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.

The Joan and Ben Zinbarg-Schoke JFS Camp Scholarship Fund, generously established by them for this purpose, continues to provide the funding for this program. United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien generously support scholarships in Lower Fairfield County, increasing the number of scholarships able to be awarded. With more Jewish summer camps operating in 2021, the opportunity to assist more campers raised the number of the children awarded scholarships.

Anyone wishing to help support the Camp Scholarship Program, should contact Matt Greenberg, CEO of Schoke JFS, at 203-921-4161 or email mgreenberg@ctjfs.org.

Schoke JFS Can Ease the Way to the "Next Normal"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

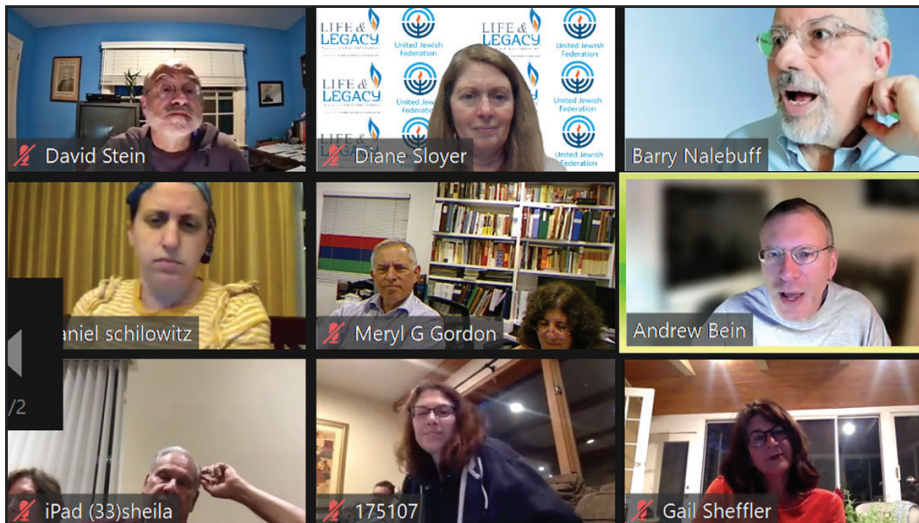
The Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry geared up to provide food and other essentials to 500% more clients than before the pandemic. For assistance, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky, Case Management, at 203-921-4161 or email at rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

The Hebrew Free Loan Program, supported by United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, is designed to offer community members the opportunity to receive interest-free loans to support

financial needs that do not qualify for funding through Schoke JFS's emergency assistance program. Community members can receive funding to support immediate, concrete needs including: emergency home or car repairs, medical expenses, funeral costs, camp tuition, participation in a gap-year or short-term Jewish or Israel education program, or attending a vocational or technical program to advance their career. Please contact Leah Schechter, Chief Program Officer of Schoke JFS at 203-921-4164 or email at lschechter@ctjfs.org.

To learn more about what Schoke JFS can do to help, please visit www.ctjfs.org.

UJF Features Honest Tea Founder



Zoom participants listen to Barry Nalebuff.

(Courtesy of UJF) In early May, United Jewish Federation's Rothchild Society participants heard from Barry Nalebuff, professor at Yale University, author of seven books, and founder of Honest Tea. Nalebuff talked about fair negotiation, which he highlights in his book, "Split the Pie: A Radical New Way to Negotiate (Based On the Talmud)." The book will be out in the spring of 2022.

Nalebuff discussed his concept of negotiating both life situations and business deals in a fair, equitable, and more principled way to come to an outcome that is proportional, no matter who may be the larger or stronger entity. "The pie frame reveals a fundamental symmetry of power and leads to the radical conclusion that the pie should

be divided evenly. The fundamental idea can be traced back 2,000 years to the Talmud," says Nalebuff.

The Rothchild Society is a United Jewish Federation business affinity group, providing educational and informative programming and networking opportunities to the local Jewish community.

"We hope to offer in-person and outdoor programs in the near future, which will provide a more social element, and the opportunity to network in person," says Sharon Franklin, Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement.

For more information about this program, or about UJF's Rothchild Society, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org/203-321-1373 ext. 109.

Bi-Cultural Students Create Oral Histories with Jewish Historical Society

(Courtesy of BCHA) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Social Studies teacher, Erin Hupal, together with the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, created an Oral History Project unit she knew would be perfect for her eighth graders. With the help of the Historical Society's Elissa Kaplan and others, they came up with a plan to launch the program at the school.

"With each passing day the opportunity to learn from the previous generation shrinks," says Ms. Hupal. "Recording their oral histories is a treasure for us and future generations."

Five weeks after conceiving the project, Ms. Kaplan and her colleagues taught students about oral histories and how to



Bi-Cultural teacher Erin Hupal assists eighth grader Lilah Gordon with her Oral History project.

complete oral histories for their families. Soon they will take their place in the Society's archive.

Says eighth grader Lilah Gordon, "Learning about our past is very important because it's a part of who we are and it helps us find our way in the future."

Young Israel Celebrates Mother's Day



Leah Perl and her daughters.

(Courtesy of YIS) Mothers and daughters gathered at Young Israel of Stamford to learn Torah and to enjoy beautiful weather, delicious food, fun games and creative arts and crafts. In celebration of Mother's Day, participants learned about women's and girls' power to draw on the holiness of their



Talía Siscovick and her daughters.

mothers and women leaders of the past and present, and to bring those messages of strength and perseverance toward an even greater future.

Thank you to Shternie Weingarten, YIS Youth Director, and to sponsor and host, Talía Siscovick.

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

Standing for Israel, Stando



Over 200 people attended the virtual community solidarity rally for Israel on Zoom

On May 13th, with rockets falling on Israel, UJF convened the community in a virtual rally for peace and in support of Israel. With over 200 people in attendance, Cantor Micah Morgovsky from Temple Sinai led the attendees in Hatikvah and the Star-Spangled Banner as well as songs of comfort and hope. The Board of Rabbis – Rabbi’s Hammerman, TelRav, Cohen and Hohl, and Reverend Mark Lingle, participated in the gathering and remarks were shared by Isaac Herzog, Chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Meron Reuben, Consul General of the Israel Embassy to New England.

While the cease fire held, antisemitic

attacks throughout the country have been on the rise. May 24th, just eleven days after the Virtual Rally for Israel, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of United Jewish Federation pivoted and joined with UJA-JCC Greenwich to convene a last-minute march and rally. The purpose was to bring the Jewish community together in response to the antisemitism that has escalated in the U.S. and around the world since the conflict between Hamas and Israel began.

Rally participants met at Mill River Park in downtown Stamford and marched peacefully to the Stamford Government Center, carrying American and Israeli flags



(CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)



ing against Antisemitism



and signs proclaiming, “No Hate, No Fear”, “Pro-Israel and Pro-Peace”, “Hate Has No Home Here”, “Stand Up for Israel”, “No to Antisemitism”, and many more. Marchers walked down the sidewalk in chants of “One-two-three-four, proud Jews forever more! Five-six-seven-eight, now’s the time to stop the hate!” and “Two-four-six-eight, we support the Jewish State!”

Martin and First Selectman of Greenwich, Fred Camillo. Sharon Lewis read messages of support from Congressman Jim Himes and Senator Richard Blumenthal. Also in attendance showing her support was State Senator Pat Billie Miller.

The rally ended with attendees singing Hebrew songs of peace, led by Yoni Israel and Rabbi Eli Kohl of Young Israel.

“It was heartening to see our rabbis and community come together on such short notice in support of Israel, and to stand up to antisemitism and hate” said UJF President David Gordon. “I hope we can continue to come together for happier occasions in the future.”



CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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 Allison & Jeffrey Brandt on the birth of a daughter, Sydney Brandt; and to the grandparents, Barbara & Warren Brandt.

Sheila Cohen on the birth of a great granddaughter.

Mussie & Rabbi Menachem Deren on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, Maryashie & Rabbi Yossi Deren; and to the great grandparents, Vivi & Rabbi Yisrael Deren.

Nikki & Matt Feinberg on the birth of a son, Austin Shay Feinberg; and to the grandmothers, Karen Feinberg and Nancy White; and to the great grandparents, Esta & Ray Kreisman.

Jami & Scott Fener on the birth of a daughter, Talia Evelyn Fener.

Shirley Firestein on the first of a great granddaughter, Joey Olivia Firestein.

Elana & Yossie Friedman on the birth of a daughter, Tair Zion Friedman.

Karen Lander Lafferty & Kevin Lafferty on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, Lieba & Steven Lander.

Erin Hupal & Kaity Lambracht on the birth of a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Hupal.

Adena & David Levkovich on the birth of a daughter, Maya Devorah Levkovich.

Rachel & Josh Licht on the birth of a son.

Danielle Morgulis & Shawn Rasmussen on the birth of a son, Ephraim Morgulis-Rasmussen; and to the grandparents Julie & Richard Morgulis.

Irene & Mike Okun on the birth of a granddaughter.

Irma & Allan Paull on the birth of a grandson, Finnley Samuel Mulligan; and to the great grandmother, Estelle Fruchtman.

Rebecca & Daniel Rakowitz on the birth of a daughter, Maggie Juliet Rakowitz; and to the grandparents, Julie & Lenny Rakowitz; and to the great grandparents Rhea & Alan Comen and Phyllis Rakowitz.

Rebecca Shapiro Ruberg & Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg on the birth of a son, Jonah Daniel Ruberg; and to the grandparents, Naomi Hersh, Miriam & Rabbi Archie Ruberg and Bernard Shapiro.

Chelsea & Etay Sahar on the birth of a son, Ari Joseph Sahar; and to the grandparents, Yael & Shalom Sahar.

Marisa Levi & Andrew Staines on the birth of twins, Natalie Emma Staines and Evan David Staines; and to the grandparents Marcia and Mark Staines.

Shayna Liba & Yishai Walk on the birth of a daughter, Geula Esther Walk; and to the

grandparents Debra Warburg Victor and Rabbi David Walk.

MAZEL TOV: ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

Carl & Ed Abrams on the marriage of their daughter, Jenna Abrams to Patrick Miles.

Richard & Debra Nemchek on the engagement of their son, Kyle Nemchek to Annie Gumpel.

Marina Sapir & Alex Podelko on the engagement of their son, Lev Podelko, on his engagement to Masha Meira Vorochkova, daughter of Anna Vorochkova & Igor Pekar.

Molly Schrag & Adam Rafalowitz on their marriage.

Malya & Rabbi Zalman Shmotkin on the engagement of their daughter, Chaya Shmotkin to Levi Feller.

MAZEL TOV TO:

Alberto Eyzaguirre on being honored by Temple Beth El for 47 years of service.

Hadassah Lieberman on her new memoir, Hadassah: An American Memoir.

Dr. Hugh Mainzer on receiving the U.S. Public Health Service Distinguished Service Medal.

Samuel Schulman, son of Nancy & Gary Schulman, on receiving a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Penn State.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Elyakim Yehuda Adest, son of Abbi & Meir Adest; grandson of Lillian & Sandy Shapiro.

Liam Haron, son of Meg & Yoav Haron; grandson of Kamal Haron.

Michal Kanefsky, daughter of Rebekah & Brian Kanefsky.

Tzippy Kanefsky, daughter of Rebekah & Brian Kanefsky.

Sarah Strom, daughter of Lisa & Eric Strom; grandson of Roberta & Barry Strom.

Lesley Wilen, daughter of Michelle & Adam Wilen; and to the grandparents Linda & Joe Rothman.

Noam Wolfe, grandson of Barbara & Ron Ashkenas.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Rebecca Aminoff: sister-in-law of David Bessaleli.

Eileen Ehrlich: mother of Talia Goldsmith and Marisa Siegel.

Sondra Gold: wife of Leo Gold.

Shragar Phillip Lazarus: father of Gary Lazarus and Sean Lazarus.

Rita Lodise: sister of Peggy Kalter.

Sam Marks: husband of Noreen Marks and father of Sharon Chimes.

Lynn Schacher: sister of Susan Shapiro.

Jan Weingrad Smith: daughter of Murph Weingrad; mother of Michelle Perry; and sister of Deborah Weingrad.

Saul Stockman

Mae "Pam" Tillman: mother of Bruce Tillman.

Combining Mitzvahs with Professional Staff Development



Teachers at Gan Yeladim combined professional development with a Mitzvah project, making yarn wigs for children with cancer through the Magic Yarn Project.

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) This April, the Morahs (teachers) at Gan Yeladim preschool held a special evening of professional development and team building which combined learning and community mitzvah projects with fun and inspiration. In keeping with the Gan's Reggio Emilia-inspired philosophy, the teachers presented in teams on various topics including how to best implement child-centered "messy play", integrating Hebrew into the day to day curriculum, applying different art strategies, and understanding infant directed language development known as "motherese", which refers to the spontaneous way in which

parents and caregivers speak with infants and young children.

The highlight of the evening, however, was a very special activity led by Linda Jonas, Gan Yeladim's assistant director. She led the Gan Morahs in a special team building Mitzvah activity. Together, the teachers created "homespun wigs" for children with cancer through "The Magic Yarn Project". In total, a dozen wigs were made and sent to Ohio where they will then be shipped out to hospitals all over the world. Linda has been involved in the Magic Yarn Project since 2017 and has helped make over 35 yarn wigs for children with cancer.

"Kaddish: Women's Voices" Heard in Israel

Kaddish Women's Voices was published in 2013, conceived and edited by Stamford residents Barbara Ashkenas and Michal Smart. The book features the heartfelt words of 52 women authors who express their personal and profound feelings of mourning and saying Kaddish - doing a mitzvah that they didn't have to own.

The book was most recently brought to the surface again as one of its chapters is to be featured in a course at the acclaimed Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Judy Snowbell Diamond, The Director of Curriculum Development, writes: "The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning is in the process of developing its *Living Wisdom: Engaging, Soulful Jewish Learning Series*. Debuting this spring is a course titled 'Love, Loss and Wisdom,' an exploration of Jewish wisdom and traditions that can help us cope with the challenging moments of life and death.

"In searching for modern perspectives for the lesson on mourning, we wanted to include voices that framed our tradition from a contemporary lens, addressing issues that our current learners could identify with as

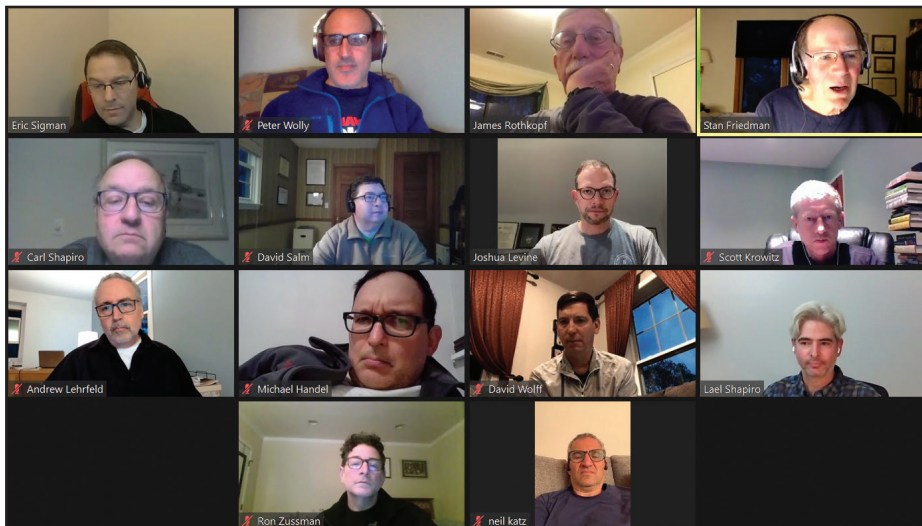
well as providing expression of practices from diverse Jewish communities.

"When the author, Dr. Sandra Lilienthal, was compiling the course, she included a beautiful piece titled, 'Pray for Me' by Aviva Ephraim Maller (of Stamford), a beautiful reflection on Aviva's year of reciting Kaddish for her father. Aviva's essay appears in an anthology titled, *Kaddish: Women's Voices*. This personal account breathed life into our timeless traditions with passion and poignancy.

"So, among biblical texts, rabbinic writings, liturgy, and contemporary Jewish thought is Aviva's moving piece! I am delighted to have Aviva's writing enhance our course and know it will be a source of strength and inspiration to many!"

Due to the current awakening and attention to the book, Shelley & Eddy Senker, members of Congregation Agudath Sholom, were inspired to sponsor books to be donated to women mourners who recently experienced a loss and may be inspired to say Kaddish so that they may be comforted by the multitude of diverse women's voices in the collection. This donation is in memory of their parents Albert & Miriam Lipnick Barouh and Jerome & Helen Gans Senker.

TBE Men's Club Begins "Hearing Men's Voices"



Temple Beth El men participate in "Hearing Men's Voices" Zoom program.

(Courtesy of TBE) The Temple Beth El Men's Club has begun a new program for its members called Hearing Men's Voices (HMV). The program was created by the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, an international umbrella organization whose mission is to involve Jewish men in Jewish life. FJMC is part of the Conservative/Masorti Movement.

HMV promotes intimacy among men through dialog that is rich and enjoyable. Aided by a facilitator, men meet in small groups to discuss common issues of concern and relevance to them.

The first session of HMV was held on March 11 and focused on "Navigating Family Relationships During COVID." With the advent of the pandemic, men have had to simultaneously work from home, help their wives, participate in their children's daily care and education, and assist with elder or disabled family members. For many men, this upheaval in their pre-COVID routines and responsibilities has often been overwhelming and frustrating, fueled by the

anxiety over the virus itself.

Eleven Temple Beth El men talked that night about the rewards and challenges these new dynamics created for each of them. At times, the conversation was surprisingly open and honest, at other times, light and humorous.

There is a list of rules participants follow for each HMV session. Among them are: what is said in the room stays in the room; listen and don't act defensively; speak from the heart; keep your ego out of it.

The second session, held on May 4, was entitled, "Work & Worth," during which attendees discussed such questions as: How crucial is work to your self-definition? How do you measure success in your life? Does your work enhance or get in the way of your family relationships?

Due to the pandemic, sessions are held using Zoom breakout rooms rather than in person. A short survey taken by attendees showed an overwhelming desire to continue with the program and to see it expand among the men at TBE.



35QAURE volunteers deliver weekly bags of food to those in need as part of this UJF communal outreach program.

Honoring Jewish War Veterans



(l-r) Sammi, Grant and Jessica Golove Bradley, Sarna, Olivia, Jennifer, Eve, Mason, Garret and Seth Lapine, Fred Golove, Mark Lapine and Jill, Mitchell and Ethan Kaplan.

Leading up to Memorial Day, it has been a long-time tradition of the local Jewish War Veterans Post 142 to have the Boy Scouts place American flags on Jewish veterans' graves at each of the Jewish cemeteries in Stamford. For over 20 years, the late veteran Les Meyers performed that task at Independent Lodge Cemetery in Darien. When Les passed away in 2016,

that mitzvah was voluntarily done by two youths, Sammi and Grant Bradley (then 9 and 5) and assisted by their mother, Jessica Golove Bradley and grandparents, Fred and Sandy Golove. This is the 6th consecutive year that the Bradley/Golove family have performed this good deed; and this year, they were joined by the Lapine and Kaplan families.

United Jewish Federation Grandparent Group Presents:

"The Importance and Impact of Passing on Family Stories."

Featuring Professor **Marshall P. Duke**, of Emory University

Tuesday, June 29th at 7pm
To register go to www.ujf.org/story

Free program, **Zoom** link will be provided with registration

The entire community is welcome. This program will provide helpful insights for parents with children both young and old, including grandparents.

Duke is a beloved and renowned professor at Emory University who is interested in personality theory, family relationships and storytelling. During the program, he will talk about the importance of passing on family stories to kids and grandkids, touching on his research through Emory University on the Holocaust and 911. Duke has found that how you tell family stories and the mix of stories you tell can create an emotional reserve for younger generations as they face their own challenges, while also helping to pass on a legacy and unite a family.

For more information, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373 ext. 109

Bi-Cultural Upper School Launches Career Series



Daniel Kraus of DanielCare Caring Choice addresses BCHA Upper School students.

(Courtesy of BCHA) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy launched its career series on Tuesday, April 13th with a talk by Daniel Kraus, Executive Director of DanielCare Caring Choice, a company that provides private duty, in-home care for the elderly and disabled. Mr. Kraus shared with students the story of how and why he launched his business,

emphasizing how every student can find their own path if they set their mind to it. Sponsored by a grant from the B. L. Manger Foundation, future sessions in the career series will include presentations by professionals in a broad range of fields, including food service, real estate, electrical, automotive, plumbing—and more.

Building For The Future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

funds have been raised from hundreds of generous donors.

Toby Schaffer, president of Agudath Sholom, commented, “The Agudath Sholom building that was built in the 1960’s has served our members well for close to sixty years. This stunning renovation will hopefully see us through to the next generation, and will be another reason for young families to be drawn to join this exciting congregation.”

Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Senior Rabbi at CAS, reflected, “We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support from our membership and recognize that we stand on the shoulders of genera-

tions in Stamford who built upon the modest beginnings of Agudath Sholom in 1889. God willing, the new building will serve our community and future generations as a blessing and beacon of Judaism. May it serve many as a house of joy, prayer, Torah, and light not only for the Jewish community but the city of Stamford and beyond.”

The dedication event will be subject to prevailing COVID policies, but it is anticipated to include tours of the building, speeches of gratitude, and delicious refreshments. Mark your calendars and join the celebration.

For further information contact mfeinberg@cas-stamford.org.



New stairway to sanctuary level. (CREDIT: MEG HARON)

Bi-Cultural First Graders Receive Siddurim

(Courtesy of BCHA) First graders at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy celebrated receiving their first *siddurim* (prayer books) at a special ceremony attended by their families on Friday, May 7th. Traditionally, the Siddur celebration — known as *Chag HaSiddur* — is highlighted by a class performance of prayers and more. This year, however, COVID protocols brought the party outdoors, as parents parked in the school’s lot and watched as each student was called up to receive their Siddur. The ceremony was followed by singing and dancing led by the school’s music teacher, Sandy Shmueli.

On Monday, students used their Siddurim for the first time, when the school hosted a Zoom family *tefillah* (prayer) to mark *Yom Yerushalayim* — Jerusalem Day.



Bi-Cultural first graders Rebecca (left) and Eliza Ostroff show off their new Siddurim at the school’s Chag HaSiddur, as their proud parents, Allison and (Bi-Cultural alum) Jonathan Ostroff, and their babysitter, Julia Kryslak, look on.

Temple Sinai Graduates New Leadership Class

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) Leaders are made, not born. Temple Sinai has been proving this adage for over ten years through its Amidah Leadership Initiative (ALI). Every other year, a new group of prospective congregational leaders is recruited to join ALI for an intensive leadership development and training program, and the latest cohort of future Temple Sinai leaders has just “graduated.”

The cohort members are Myles Block, Amy Fischer, David Fischer, Ellen Luntz, Katherine Magyarody, Jan Marquard, Beth Shaulson, Lisa Smith, and Rebecca Wood. Each of them brought leadership experience from other venues, together with a deep commitment to growing and sustaining Temple Sinai. Their mix of backgrounds and expertise meant that they learned from each other as much as from ALI.

The program began with a series of webinars during the fall and winter led by current congregational leaders and clergy as well as two guest experts, Jonathan Fass and Michael Markovits. The group then split into two teams to work on projects that the Temple wanted to pursue. The program culminated in reports by each team of their findings and recommendations at the April meeting of the Temple Sinai Board of Trustees.

This year’s projects focused on membership recruitment and retention and on evaluating and enhancing the recently added Sinai Circles program. If the experience of prior ALI classes holds true, these projects likely will become ongoing

congregational activities with continued participation by this group.

ALI was started by then-president Meryl Japha, who recalled a “deer-in-the-headlights” feeling when she joined the temple board and wanted future leaders to be better prepared for the experience. ALI participant David Fischer noted, “The Amidah Leadership Initiative is a smart approach to introduce lay leaders to Temple Sinai’s governance, leaders, finances and programs....Members of the program are exposed to the issues, processes and challenges that a leader within the organization needs to be aware of and navigate.”

ALI has become an invaluable pipeline of lay leaders for the congregation. According to current president Alan Cohen, “ALI is our principal source of recruits for board members and committee chairs. We work to identify new prospects to invite into the program, and we have been very successful in turning them into the next generation of temple leaders.”

Participants typically are a diverse group, with a wide range of ages and membership tenure. “We want to always be bringing new energy and ideas into our congregational leadership, and the Amidah Leadership Initiative has been very successful in this effort,” said Rabbi Jay TelRav.

Temple Sinai congratulates the new class on completing the program and looks forward to their continuing engagement in congregational life.



DON'T FORGET TO USE THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR.

THE CALENDAR CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTANT TO AVOID CONFLICTS.

WWW.UJF.ORG

QUESTIONS? EMAIL TALY@UJF.ORG

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 and Legacy Program. Through our communal efforts, the following individuals have

made a commitment to one or more Jewish communal institutions to secure our future.

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

Anonymous (16)
Adrienne and Michael Alexander
Jeri Appel
Mark Appel
Erica Snow Arbron
Suellen Bache
Monica Becker and Edieal Pinker
Rachel Tyd and Robert Beldock
Gayle and Mitchell Bell
Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz and Parry Berkowitz
Berkun Family
Darona and Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
Melody and Claude Bernstein
Bruce Blasnik
Judith B. Block
Marcia Braunstein
Amy and Henry Bubel
Alan Cohen
Andrea and David M. Cohen
Diane and Rabbi Daniel Cohen
Malerie Yolen-Cohen and Jeff Cohen
Judy and David S.* Cohen
Mimi Cohen
Rachel and Ephraim Cohen
Roberta Cohen
Saul Cohen*
Arthur Cramer*
Janice Steinberg and Stephen Davidson
Elayne Dener
Helen and Marty Donner
Fran and Bob Dorf
Shoshana Dweck
Debra and Daniel Faizakoff
Michelle Fanwick
Esta and Jay Feinsod
Sharon and Michael Feldstein
Peggy and Jerry Fensterstock
Robin and Jason Fischel
Stephanie and Howard Fogel
Lenore and Dr. Ilan Fogel
Miriam Lavinsky and Morton Folb*
Sharon Franklin
Connie and Alan Freeman
Susan Frieden
Rachel and Keith Friedman
Marc Friedman
Donna and Edward Fuhrman
Nancy and Mark Funt
Lesley and Dennis Gehr
Carole Gladstone
Herbert Gladstone*
Sylvia and Herb Gladstone*
Leslie Glenn
Robin Frederick and Michael Gold
Cyndy and Eric Goldberg
Alicia and Jason Goldstein
Caryl Goldstein*
Meryl and David Gordon
Nan and Paul Gordon
Linda B. Gornitsky
Sharon and Larry Greenberg
Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg

Grecia and Ron* Gross
Scott Handelman
Jacqueline Herman
Dr. Shara and Rabbi David Israel
Sari and Alan Jaffe
Meryl and Ron Japha
Judith and Grant Kallen
Helene and Harvey Kaminski
Chanie Kamman
Dr. Jan Kaplowitz
Jason Kaplowitz
Roni Kaplowitz
Jessica and Ilan Katz
Joy Katz
Judith and Sheldon Katz
Larry Katz
Betsy and Peter Kempner
Liz and Marc Kitay
Elissa and Philip Klapper
Harris Kligman
Susan Kostin
Arthur Kramer*
Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher
Elizabeth and Scott Krowitz
Jackie and Marshall Kurland
Lorraine and David Kweskin
Helen and Ed Kweskin
Lieba and Steve Lander
Shelley Leibowitz
Lois D. Stark and Gary P.Lessen
Elizabeth Libner
R. and J. Licht
Vered and Mark Links
Eleanor and Mark Lowenthal
Stu Madison
Lisa and Jeff Manheim
Norma and Milton Mann*
Susan and Len Mark
Chris Maroc
Melanie Massell
Michal and Rabbi Levi Mendelow
Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun
Marsha and Louis Panzer
Leah and Doni Perl
Dr. Robin Evans and Dr. Jeffrey Perry
Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser
Enid Randall*
Bonita and Stephen Rappoport
Judith Raymond
Lisa and Harry Rich
Judy and Adam Rin
Betty and Dan* Roberts
Sonia and Brian Roitman
Arlene and Carl Rosen
Arlene Rosen
Irma Ross
Sandra Ross
Sally and Jim Rothkopf
Ruth Rothseid
Linda and Leonard Russ
Bonnie Russo
Edith Samers
Sharyn and Richard Sarner

Hilde Scheraga*
Jayne and Bud Schiff
Carol Ruth and Herman Shepherd*
Nancy Schiffman
Monica Smyth and Michael Schlessinger
Elayne and James Schoke*
Chaya and Levi Segal
Myrna and George Sessa
Jessica and Laurence Sheinman
Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
Stephanie and Bob Sherman
Malya Shmotkin
Ronnie Ness Sichel
Dr. Steven Sichel
Paula Simon
Diane Sloyer
Diane and Elliot Sloyer
Ed Smith
Greta Solomon
Miriam and Steve Sosnick
Sandy and Moshe Speter
Ed Spilka
Eileen and Fred Springer
Beverly and David Stein
Betsy and Michael Stone
Gladys and Greg Teitel
Dr. Julie and Rabbi Jay TelRav
The Estate of Sheila Carmine*
The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin*
The Estate of Ronald Gross*
Annie and Jeremy Watman
David Wayne
Ellen and Richard Weber
Linda B. Gornitsky and Harvey Weber
Dana and Carl Weinberg
Leon Weisburgh
Janet Welkovich
Robyn and Mark Winarksy
Neda Khaghan and Robert Yaghoubian
Rita and Abe Yellen
Sheryl and Dan Young
Lauren and Joe Zalis
Joan Zinbarg*
Renee Zinn

**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.

UPCOMING DEADLINE

September/High Holiday Issue
Deadline: August 2, 2021

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

UJF LIFE & LEGACY Testimonials

In early 2020, United Jewish Federation was selected to join the Life & Legacy Program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Ten additional Jewish communal organizations have joined UJF in securing the future of our Jewish Community.

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 an organization in the Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish community.

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 Jewish community we love!

DAVID AND MERYL GODON TESTIMONIAL

We both grew up with strong Jewish identities in the New York City suburbs. We met at the Yale University Kosher Kitchen and married after college. In 1980, we moved to Stamford for jobs and quickly got involved in the Jewish community, both with synagogue life and UJF. We found that our Jewish community needed funds and volunteer work, and that there were a myriad of ways to contribute. Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz, z"l, explained to us that according to Jewish law, 10% of income (after taxes) didn't really belong to us but was ours as guardians to distribute as tzedakah. Being that we came from charitable families, that resonated with us and guided us through the years.



David & Meryl Gordon

We believe that Stamford is a very unusual Jewish community in that it is small, but extremely rich in Jewish life and Jewish activity. There are numerous Jewish institutions, organiza-

tions, and synagogues that we support including Schoke JFS, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Friendship Circle, the JCC, etc., but the "glue" and "grease" for our community is United Jewish Federation: UJF binds us together and makes things run better. We know that there is no way to leave this world alive, and very few people are remembered by history. Our legacy will be our children and their descendants and the 10% of our estate that we will leave to strengthen the Stamford Jewish Community for generations to come.

SUSAN KOSTIN TESTIMONIAL



Susan Kostin

My husband Ed Kostin z"l and I moved to Darien in 1992 with our then 2-year-old son Andrew. We attached ourselves to the "greater Stamford" Jewish community by joining Temple Sinai and the JCC, I grew up in a very small Jewish community of about 200 families in western Pennsylvania. It was possible to know every Jewish family across three congregations: Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. We celebrated life cycle events and socialized together. My brothers and male cousins particularly enjoyed helping the Orthodox shul make a minyan on Shabbat mornings because they allowed the underage boys to sip schnapps after the Kiddush. Or so they said!

As a teen I was active in our Jewish youth groups (BBYO and PAFTY). There is a long history of active involvement in the Jewish community on both my maternal and paternal sides of the family. On my mother's side, my grandfather Barnett Sapiro z"l was the very

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Hope in a Complicated Middle East

Emek Medical Center in Afula, Unite Jewish Federation's sister city, is a Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Bedouin, Circassian gathering of professionals, executives, physicians, professors, nurses, technicians, administrators, secretaries and support staff.

In a region peppered with rioting, cities, towns, villages and main highways are littered with the stain of frustration and unrest. But at Emek, the work of saving lives goes on – shoulder to shoulder, Jew and Arab, pushing against the current of those who would tear it all down.

"We all have family and friends in shelters and protected areas, huddled against the maelstrom raining down upon them from

an unparalleled darkness. And as I'm writing this, reports are just coming in that several missiles were launched from Lebanon at Israel. We are well aware of these implications and can only hope our northern region does not erupt and descend into a place we have been before," writes Larry Rich of Emek Medical Center.

"So, why bother to write about Emek, its staff and what they're trying to do? Who cares? Look what's happening throughout our country!

"Well my friends ... I refuse to give in and join the mindless mob. Emek and its medical heroes are my anchor. They are examples of



Jews, Muslims and Christians work side by side at Emek Medical Center in Afula.

humanity at its best, while the worst of the human race is having an orgy of hate and bloodshed. If we don't focus on these little flickering sparks of people doing something right, then we risk being swept away.

"Yes, this Emek hospital is an island of

sanity. You have a choice: Focus on the darkness or look for the light. It's there, believe me ... you just need to look a bit harder."

Excerpts taken from an update by Larry Rich, Director of International Relations, Emek Medical Center, Afula.

Crisis In India: Federation Responds!



(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, in coordination with the Indian Jewish community through partners at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), is responding to the devastating COVID-19 surge in India by deploying ventilators to hospitals in Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The ventilators, manufactured in Israel, are in high demand by increasingly overburdened medical services.

Through JDC, Jewish Federations have been working in India since 1950 and have

been responding to COVID-19 related needs there for the last year.

JDC with its Federation partners will raise additional funds to provide desperately needed oxygen, filtered masks, and other medical supplies, and telemedicine support for ICU doctors and nurses to consult with their peers in the U.S. and Israel.

"Our heart goes out to the people of India at this desperate time. While the needs are overwhelming, we know the critical importance of providing these life-saving supplies and training as quickly as possible. We're privileged to work with

the local Jewish community and longtime Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partners to expand our current pandemic efforts to address the new COVID-19 surge. Together, we'll put into action the Jewish principle that to save even one life is to save an entire world," said Ariel Zwang, the CEO of JDC.

Thanks to JDC's work in India,

United Jewish Federation supports efforts with the 4,500-person Indian Jewish community, including care for its neediest and Jewish cultural and educational opportunities, as well as support of vulnerable populations, like the poor in urban slums and women breadwinners, through economic empowerment and skill-building programs with local NGOs.

UJF LIFE & LEGACY Testimonials

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

first President of Temple Emanu-El in Honolulu, HI which was established in 1938, and joined the Union for Reform Judaism in 1952. On my father's side, my grandfather Louis Finkelstein z"l was the President of the reform Beth Zion Temple in Johnstown, PA in 1952 when its building was constructed. That building still stands today as the home of the Beth Shalom Congregation that resulted from the merger of the Beth Zion and Rodef Shalom congregations. According to the Beth Shalom website: "Fully .2% of every dollar raised for Israel has been generated from this synagogue. Although we are few in number,

our Diaspora still clings to the extraordinary traditions created by our warm and caring Jewish members many generations ago." My own father Seymour Finkelstein z"l was a lifelong supporter and past President of those congregations and spearheaded the UJA annual dinner, Israel Bond Drive and other fundraisers for over 50 years.

So when I think about legacy giving, I remember the legacy that was passed down to me from my grandparents and parents. And I want to ensure that I will be a strong link in that same legacy chain to protect and preserve our Jewish community for all of our Jewish children and grandchildren for generations to come. *L'Dor Vador!*

LIFE & LEGACY® Year One Celebration

June 23rd 7:00pm (Rain date June 24th)
Stamford Nature Center - 151 Scofieldtown Road
Zoom participants welcomed!

Join United Jewish Federation in celebrating the 100's who have committed legacy gifts to the future of our Jewish Community!



Guest Speaker:

Amy Lederman

"My Grandmother's Candlesticks:
Leaving a Legacy of Love and Values"

Invitations coming soon.



For more information call **Lenore Fogel**, LIFE & LEGACY Coordinator **203-321-1373 x115** or email **lenore@ujf.org**

Detecting Water Contamination Before It Reaches Your Tap

Contaminated drinking water is a major issue around the world. Now Israeli researchers have found a way to detect contaminated water in real time before it reaches our homes.

BY IDO BERN/ISRAEL21C

In most cases in Israel, the water that flows from the tap is completely safe and can be drunk without a second thought. Elsewhere around the world, however, this is not the case. According to the 2020 UN Global Water Development Report, around two-thirds of the global population experience severe water shortages for at least one month out of the year.

And even when water does reach the tap, it is not always safe to drink due to contamination – a widespread issue affecting roughly 500 million people worldwide.

In 2012 alone, an estimated 842,000 deaths from middle and low-income countries stemmed from contaminated drinking water.

“In the United States, for example, water pollution of various kinds leads to tens of thousands of hospitalizations a year, and the estimated cost of treating these diseases and infections is over \$1 billion,” says Prof. Shlomo Sela of the Department of Food Science at the Volcani Center, Agricultural Research Organization at Rishon Lezion.

This problem also extends to Israel where pesticides have historically been the major agrochemical pollutants contaminating the country’s groundwater aquifers, as well as pollution from sources like sewer line malfunctions or damaged pipes.

The possible catalysts of pollution are especially numerous when it comes to water from surface-level sources.

“In the past, when most of our water supply was from the Sea of Galilee, there was fear of pollution because of floods, which could mix with animal excrement or pesticides from agriculture in the area,” says Sela.

“Currently, a test is performed in Israel that aims to detect the presence of bacteria in water once a day, and only after 24 hours can the results be seen,” he explains.

Due to the length of time required

to obtain the test results, there may be cases where fluid contaminants will only be detected after they have already reached the tap in the consumer’s home. “That’s why we sometimes hear on the news about polluted drinking water from a particular area, and why citizens are asked to boil the water to kill the bacteria.”

For a country that has routinely experienced chronic water shortages, rectifying this issue is imperative. Now, an Israeli study has developed an innovative method to quickly detect bacterial infections in drinking water supply systems before it reaches the consumer.

Funded by the Israeli government’s Water Authority, the new study aimed to assess fluorescence spectroscopy as a tool to rapidly measure and evaluate the microbial quality of water.

“The new method we have developed offers the possibility of knowing about an adverse change in the quality of the water in the drinking water supply systems in real time,” says Sela.

It is intended to prevent situations in which water contaminants are detected too late, and to ensure that water free of bacterial contaminants reaches the consumer’s home.

The method is based on a combination of fluorescence measurements alongside advanced statistical tools and machine learning.

Sensors illuminate the bacterium at a specific wavelength and obtain a reflection at another wavelength. This makes it possible to detect infections up to the level of 10,000 bacteria within one milliliter of water.

According to Sela, the sensors will be scattered at critical points of the national water transport system. “The wider the layout, the easier it will be to identify the affected area,” he says.

“The contamination alert will be received on the main computer and the mobile phones of the operating personnel of the water supplier,” he explains.

“In a later phase, we are considering

developing a cheap, but less smart sensor, which can connect to a domestic water filter machine in one’s apartment and warn of a decrease in water quality due to a filter not being replaced in time, for example.”

Another advantage of the technique is that it is able to detect all types of contaminating bacteria as opposed to just one particular type and can detect a general decrease in water quality if contamination does occur.

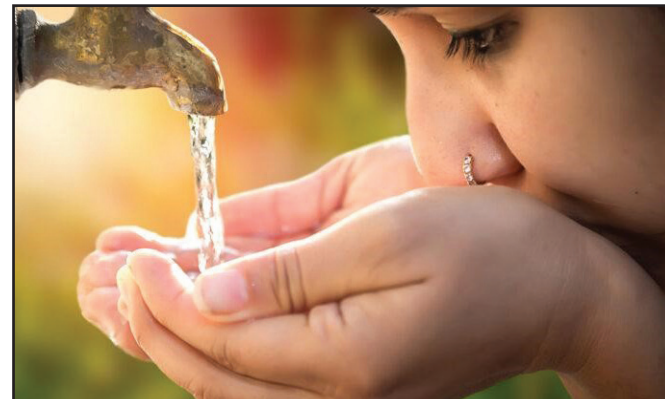
“While the method doesn’t specifically detect pathogenic bacteria at this stage, it is able to alert general water quality damage in real time and direct system operators to the area where the infection occurred,” he says.

Despite the optimism surrounding the development’s functionality, Sela notes it is currently not possible to immediately apply the technique to the water supply systems in Israel due to various technical difficulties, and that it will likely take another three to five years before this is done.

It is clear that preventing water pollution is a crucial step in tackling the global water shortage. This shortage has intensified in recent decades following various processes of urbanization, increased irrigation of agricultural land, and changing patterns of precipitation, resulting in, among other things, the global climate crisis.

The problem is only likely to worsen in light of the growing global population, which is on track to reach approximately 9.7 billion by 2050.

Luckily, technological development has provided many tools and strategies to better manage overall water scarcity. Israel, for instance, has been well-known for its seawater desalination and



One in three people worldwide do not have access to fresh water. (CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK)

reusing purified wastewater or effluent, in agriculture, stream restoration, and forest fire extinguishing as a way to cut back on its freshwater use.

In order to address water scarcity problems and pollution, ensuring clean water access and sanitation for the entire world population has been included as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by UN-affiliated countries in 2015.

According to the UN, one in three people do not have access to clean drinking water, which could result in the displacement of roughly 700 million people by 2030. In addition, two in five people do not currently have access to a basic hand washing facility, which has serious implications for the spread of COVID-19 and many other pathogens.

Current data suggests there is still a long way to go to achieve the UN sustainable goal, which begs the question: can the nations of the world really achieve it?

Technological and scientific developments such as the one presented in the Israeli study may prove successful, but there is also a need to inform and raise awareness of the issue among the public, which has the potential to help both Israel and struggling countries better cope with the crisis.

Ido Bern writes for the ZAVIT Science and Environment News Agency.

Skin Cancer Diagnosis Is About to Undergo a Revolution

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN/ISRAEL21C

When Ofir Aharon was finishing his PhD in electro-optics engineering, his mother was diagnosed with melanoma, a serious form of skin cancer.

He decided to channel his knowledge into inventing a potentially lifesaving device that

could detect unique patterns of light movements in the skin before visible signs such as changes in pigmentation show up on the surface.

“Physicians say 50 percent of skin cancer starts out ‘innocent’ and then becomes cancer, but pathologists familiar with tissue structure say 95% of lesions that look innocent already

started as cancer. I wondered why there was no tool that could show the early deterioration of lesions well before they became pigmented,” Aharon tells ISRAEL21c.

Aharon’s revolutionary discovery is that the movement of light scattering back to the imaging camera from a cancerous lesion looks much different than from a benign lesion.

“In skin cancer we see a lot of lateral movement, mainly circular. If the lesion is normal, or if there is no lesion on the skin, this lateral movement looks random, with no prominent movements and thus no directional patterns. But in skin cancer the movement of the back-scattered light goes from the middle outward

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

PJ Library Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

New and exciting things are happening at PJ Library and PJ Our Way in our community, providing more ways for your family to share Jewish stories and experiences!



Sharon Franklin

- UJF's PJ Library invites you to a "Mitzvah (Good Deeds) Fair" on Sunday, June 6th at 3:30 p.m. - in person! Write letters to American Jewish soldiers, donate to a food drive for Schoke JFS's Freedberg Family kosher food pantry, do an environmental project, make toys for an animal shelter, and more! Sign up at www.ujf.org/mitzvah. JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave. Free program.

- Remember- 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 a couple of months. For children ages 6 months to 8 years old.

- PJ Our Way offers children ages 8 ½ to 12 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 can now receive a free subscription of PJ's PROOF Magazine and 2 free books each year. Sign up at: www.pjlibrary.org/grandparent-enrollment.

Summer Craft: Hand crafted markers for your flower or vegetable gardens.

What you need:

- Large Stones/Pebbles
- Black porcelain pen or Black Acrylic Paint (for letters and outlines)
- Porcelain/acrylic permanent pens or Acrylic paints

Directions:

- 1) Clean and thoroughly dry your stones - flatter stones are easier to write on and color.
 - For younger kids, help them with letters and the outlines of the plant.
 - For older children they could copy/write the words, draw the fruit, vegetables, or flowers themselves.
- 2) Write the name of the plant:
 - For younger kids, help them with letters and the outlines of the plant.
 - For older children they could copy/write the words, draw the fruit, vegetables, or flowers themselves.
- 3) Color in the image- use porcelain pens or acrylic paints (acrylic pens dry quickly and make it a quick and simple craft with little wait between stages).
- 4) Once dry, place in your garden!



Creating art from stones.

PJ Library & PJ Our Way Feature Family: The Weisser Family

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

The Weissers are a busy family of five! Mom, Alisa is a stay-at-home mom, whose job never truly ends. In addition to taking care of her three kids and husband, she volunteers with different synagogues and local organizations. She enjoys cooking, baking, and eating and likes doing crossword puzzles during her free time. Dad Jeremy is the owner of an IT consulting firm, who is an avid Yankee fan and has passed on that love of the game to his sons. Yoni, a 5th grader at BCHA, loves playing baseball, reading, and has been playing the piano for 5 years. Eli, a 2nd grader at BCHA, is an artist at heart and likes to draw, sketch, paint, and build with legos. Noah is a preschooler at Gan Yeladim and, when not wreaking havoc, loves playing basketball, trying on his shorts and t-shirts, and reading.



The Weisser Family

1. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PJ LIBRARY BOOK?

We have lots of favorites, it would be hard to choose just one! My youngest son loves the book Noah's Bed because it's silly and has his name in it, of course. Other favorites are *Meet the Latkes* and *Joseph's Overcoat*.

2. HOW WAS THE TRANSITION TO PJ OUR WAY CHAPTER BOOKS FOR YOUR OLDEST CHILD?

The transition was as smooth as can be. Yoni enjoys being able to choose his own

book each month and devours it the day it comes. He's a bookworm and has been known to read the entire book while sitting at the breakfast table.

3. DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PJ LIBRARY OR UJF PROGRAM YOU HAVE ATTENDED?

Our favorite event by far was the one that featured a book being read by a Holocaust survivor. We think intergenerational events are so important because they connect the young and old in a very special and necessary way. We have lots to learn from the older generation!

4. WHY IS PJ LIBRARY IMPORTANT IN YOUR HOME?

PJ Library books are important in our home because they give us something to look forward to and they help expose our kids to different holidays, traditions, historical events in new and thoughtful ways. It provides a great springboard for further discussion.

PJ Families Have a Blast For Shavuot



Maria Franklin and her daughters work on the flower craft and sample ice cream.

(Courtesy of UJF) In early May, United Jewish Federation's PJ Library partnered with Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy for an outdoor "Pre-Shavuot Bash". It was a beautiful sunny day, and families had a chance to see friends, "schmooze" and enjoy a variety of activities to celebrate the holiday. The program included an interactive bubble show and a flower

craft. With an ice cream truck on hand, all were able to enjoy the Shavuot tradition of eating dairy.

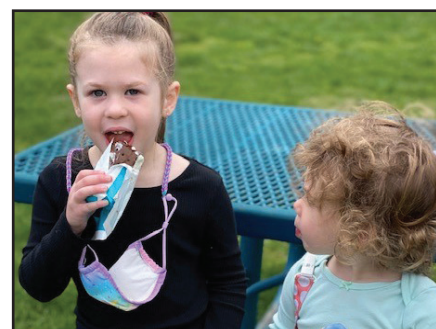
For more information about upcoming PJ Library programs or to find out how to subscribe to PJ books, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373 ext. 109.



Children enjoy an interactive bubble show.



The Ring family crafts a flower for Shavuot.



The Feldman girls take a break from the bubbles to enjoy an ice cream treat.



Jessica Sosnovich and her children enjoy a Shavuot treat.

Standing for Israel, Standing against Antisemitism

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13



Skin Cancer Diagnosis Is About to Undergo a Revolution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

or circles the middle of the lesion.”

Aharon established Patternox to develop and commercialize his PatScope scanner, powered by an algorithm that extracts rotational movements from the scan.

The product’s technical description is “a multifunctional device for imaging surface/volume irregularities on a skin lesion by shadow gradient pattern imaging.” Having filed a US patent application in early 2020, Patternox will launch a seed round in July with hopes of having PatScope FDA approved and commercialized in about two years.

Aharon envisions a unique artificial intelligence (AI) system and reimbursement strategy so patients will be able to perform the scan at home with virtual assistance from their dermatologist.

Florida-based dermatologist Dr. Barry Galitzer is performing clinical trials using a PatScope prototype.

“About a year ago, I read an article about Ofir’s technology to test for melanoma in advance, and I contacted him because I was excited about this,” Galitzer tells ISRAEL21c. “It’s a new concept enabling us to see something we’ve never looked at before.”

Since December 2020, Galitzer has built

a database of almost 200 scanned images. Each lesion is then biopsied and studied under a microscope to compare histological findings with the PatScope scans.

The more he uses the scanner the more easily he can discern what he is seeing, Galitzer says. Once there’s a large enough sample database to learn from, AI could interpret the scanned images.

“That is the exciting part,” he says. “AI would be incredible in giving us the answers we need.”

This technology could reduce unnecessary biopsies, Galitzer adds.

“We could evaluate the spot and immediately see if it has signs of abnormality and then take a biopsy to confirm that suspicion.”

Another study will begin soon under the direction of plastic surgeons Yoram Wolf and Ofer Arnon at Hillel Yaffe Medical Center in Hadera. Arnon is medical director of Patternox.

In addition to detecting skin cancer, the PatScope also could be used to reveal changes in the deeper layers of skin over time, monitoring degradation from, for example, sun damage and aging.

The first place this application may be trialed is in outer space.

“It is known that astronauts experience accelerated aging in space. One of the main



Dr. Ofir Aharon at work on the PatScope. (CREDIT: PATTERNOX)

reasons is the change in blood flow, which first affects the papillary layer under the epidermis,” says Aharon.

“The method developed by Patternox would help astronauts monitor the behavior of their biggest organ — the skin — as an indicator of their exposure to microgravity, radiation dose, and stress during their missions in the International Space Station,” he explains.

Aharon is seeking private or public investment to pursue a proposed collaboration with ICECUBES space application services to send a PatScope to the International Space Station for experimentation.

The PatScope also has potential for cosmetic purposes. “For instance, dermatologists and aestheticians could use the scan-

ner to monitor the effects of a prescribed skin cream,” Aharon says.

But due to his mom’s history with melanoma, Aharon’s main focus is on detecting skin cancer earlier than ever before possible.

“The PatScope shows not just underlying irregularities in patterns of lesions but also why the patterns are considered as a distortion utilizing PatScope’s algorithm analyzing the backscattered light’s lateral movements,” he says.

“If we can identify unique characteristics of lateral movements for healthy skin versus skin cancer, we can probably develop artificial intelligence to diagnose skin cancer based on these kinds of movement.”

The Jewish Tragedy of the Hamas-Israeli Conflict: American Jews Question Israel's "Right to Exist"

BY RABBI MARK S. GOLUB

The most recent rocket attacks in the ongoing series of Hamas acts of war against Israel has exposed a serious sore in the body of the American Jewish community. A significant number of American Jews on the left find they no longer feel sympathetic to Israel and are critical of Israel for killing Palestinian children.

Some are American Jews who conflate their feelings for Prime Minister Netanyahu with their feelings for Israel and the Israeli people. There are American Jews who so despise the Netanyahu government -- and a number of religious and social domestic Israeli policies -- they refuse to join in pro-Israel community rallies meant simply to express solidarity with the Israeli *people* who are forced to endure the terror, injury and death of rockets falling near and in their homes, their hospitals and their school yards.

Some American Jews have been persuaded by main-stream media reports that *Israel provoked* these Hamas rocket attacks by distorted stories of an Israel assault on the Temple Mount or the eviction of East Jerusalem Palestinian families refusing to pay rent for months on end (neither story has been reported accurately). These Jews are then convinced that Hamas is somehow "justified" in perpetuating the double war crime by firing rockets into a sovereign country from within their own civilian neighborhoods.

Is there any other context in which American Jews would argue that a skirmish with police or a real-estate disagreement would justify firing 4,000 rockets into another country?

Jews have always disagreed -- often vehemently. Jews have disagreed about Israeli politics and Israeli policies. Such disagreements are a given of Jewish life. And there are far more vituperative disagreements on every one of these issues among Israelis!

But on one thing there was a web of agreement: an American Jewish commitment to an enduring State of Israel. This Hamas-Israeli conflict is threatening to do immeasurable damage to the American Jewish fabric.

The terrifying -- if not incomprehensible -- reaction of a significant segment of the American Jewish community to this Hamas-Israeli conflict is that a larger question is being voiced -- even in public: Should the Jewish State of Israel exist?

Now, for many Jews and non-Jews the question is "crazy" -- it makes no sense. Of course the State of Israel should exist. It is a nation-state of the United Nations. It would be like ask-

ing should the Muslim state of Syria exist - or should Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan - not to mention China, Russia, Cuba - all exist? Or how about Rwanda and Tanzania - should they exist?

To most Americans, the thought that any of these countries should not exist - regardless of their record on human rights -- would never cross their minds.

But sadly, the question is being asked by a startling number of American Jews -

who think the answer should be "No" when it comes to the ongoing existence of Israel.

The most high-profile proponent of Israel's demise is Peter Beinart. Until recently, Beinart was a most eloquent voice arguing for a two-state solution that would secure both a Palestinian state and a Jewish state of Israel.

But in a New York Times Op Ed piece published last July (with a follow-up in May), Beinart renounced his support of a two-state solution and now advocates one state from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. This one state would consist of a Palestinian Muslim Shiite majority which, Beinart argues, would be welcoming of a Jewish minority.

Clearly, Beinart is now publicly calling for an end to the Jewish State of Israel -- and he did so in the pages of the New York Times!

Anyone has the right to agree with Beinart. But for all of us who passionately believe in the State of Israel and her right to exist in secure perpetuity, the fact that there are American Jews who would be happy to see an end to Israel is terribly sad. In many ways it is incomprehensible given the sweep of Jewish history and the history of national Jewish rebirth over the past 150 years of modern Zionism. And most terrifying of all, it calls into question the reality of a Jewish People united as one, each caring for all other Jews as "family."

The perspective American Jews bring to the latest armed conflict between Israel and Hamas reflects where an American Jew truly stands on Israel's right to exist. A Jew who is critical of Israel's response to 4,000 Hamas rockets is validating the Hamas claim that there should be no Israel!

For here is the tragic reality underlying this Hamas attack and all those in the past or those yet to come.

The purported explanations of what caused Hamas, this time, to fire some 4,000 Iranian sponsored rockets into Israeli towns, villages and cities all dissemble the one fundamental truth of the conflict. Hamas - and other pro-Jihadist Muslims leaders - believes to the core of its being that there should be *no*

Jewish State of Israel anywhere in the Middle East.

What every Jew and non-Jew need understand is that there is nothing Israel could ever say or do - nothing Israel could "give up" - no compromise Israel could ever make -- none! -- which would move Hamas (and Mahmoud Abbas' Palestinian Authority) to agree to live in peace alongside a Jewish state.

Bottom line: Hamas agrees with Peter Beinart (though Hamas would probably demand their one state be *Judenrein!*). The only end to the conflict for Hamas is for Jews to turn out the lights on the State of Israel and leave the land.

Thus, by siding with Hamas in any of their acts of war against Israel is to validate Hamas' perspective and goal: that Israel has no right to exist.

So when an American Jew is fooled into thinking that Israel did something to provoke Hamas' act of war -- be it an Israeli defensive response on the Temple Mount or the eviction of Palestinian families refusing to pay rent -- they are guilty of a degree of naïveté and ignorance of which they would be embarrassed in any other context.

Hamas' 4,000 rockets have nothing to do with anything Israel did. And for American Jews, these 4,000 rockets should have nothing to do with whom the Israeli Prime Minister is!

Again: there is *nothing* Israel could do or give to Hamas that would create peace between them. That is the true "human tragedy" all people of good will -- and especially American Jews -- must accept.

That's the real human tragedy Jews should be talking about whenever the subject comes up: the irredentist religious Muslim ideology that believes it is morally acceptable to fire 4,000 rockets at civilian targets *because Israel has no right to exist!*

This does not mean that all Palestinians

think and feel as Hamas does. But sadly, no movement for peace has emerged in the Palestinian world. There is no Palestinian movement equivalent to Israel's Shalom Achshav ("Peace Now"), nor do Palestinian intellectuals publish Op Ed pieces in the New York Times criticizing Mahmoud Abbas or Hamas for their irredentism.

The veteran journalist Geraldo Rivera, criticized Israel roundly on television for the death of Palestinian children. But he felt no need to speak of the horror of Israelis living under a barrage of 4,000 rockets, nor could he accept the fact that not one Palestinian child had to die from Israeli fire if Hamas simply had not attacked Israel with 4,000 rockets.

Sadly, Rivera's perspective is shared by many American Jews who view themselves as moral, righteous people.

As David Harris of the AJC has so aptly put it: this is like blaming the fireman for the work of the arsonist.

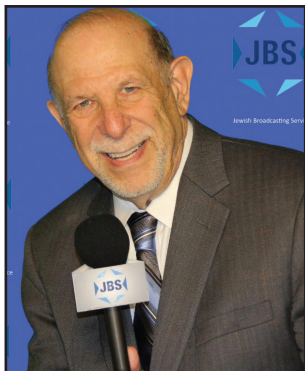
The most important thing for every American to remember - Jew and non-Jew alike -- is that regardless of the pretext given by the media for Hamas attacks on Israel, there is only one overriding cause to the Hamas-Israeli conflict -- Hamas' unyielding determination that there should be no Jewish State of Israel.

And any American Jew who sides with Hamas is implicitly saying the same thing.

Few conflicts in life are black and white. This one is -- given the fact that there is nothing Israel can do to make peace with Hamas -- short of ending its existence.

In this conflict, Hamas is pure black and it's time for all American Jews to see this reality.

Rabbi Mark S. Golub is the founding president, CEO and Executive Producer of JBS (The Jewish Broadcasting Service), America's premiere Jewish television network available as a free channel across America, as well as Rabbi of Chavurat Aytz Chayim in Stamford.



Rabbi Mark S. Golub



WATCH THIS 24/7 JEWISH TELEVISION NETWORK ON OPTIMUM CH 138, DIRECTV CH 388, SPECTRUM CH 830, ROKU, APPLE TV and FIRE TV

- Daily News directly from Israel
- Live event and conference coverage
- Outstanding Presentations From the 92nd Street Y
- Children's Programs Every Morning and Afternoon
- Movies, Music, Authors, Travel, Comedy, Cuisine
- Interviews of Major Jewish Leaders
- Jewish Studies
- Round Tables on Timely Issues
- Live Shabbat Services every Friday evening & Saturday morning.

WHY I CARE...

Focus on: Josh Esses

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”
– Muhammad Ali



Josh Esses

Jewish organizations in the community and elsewhere?

Josh Esses is a Stamford native who moved back to town three years ago. According to Josh, when not at work as a bankruptcy lawyer, or causing trouble in state and local politics, he is a volunteer basketball coach for the Stamford Youth Peace Basketball League. He gets his basketball fix at the JCC’s “pick-up” game on Sunday mornings at 8am and has played with the group since 2007. The JCC “pick-up game” is what he most looks forward to returning to once the various coronavirus restrictions have been lifted.

Here’s Why He Cares:

Describe your current and past involvement with UJF and how long you have been involved.

I am the newly appointed chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). Since moving back to Stamford in 2018, I have been involved with UJF in development, including hosting a NextGen Chanukah party in Harbor Point in 2019. I recently joined the UJF Board of Directors. As chair of the JCRC, I am looking forward to a more formal involvement with UJF, working with both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities in and around Greater Stamford.

Have you been involved with other

Many, many years ago, I was a junior counselor at the Stamford JCC summer camp, where I have been a member since around 2000. On high holidays and (occasionally) on Shabbat, you can find me at Chabad, either in Chelsea, Manhattan, or in Stamford’s very own Harbor Point.

Why is it important for you to give back in this way?

Stamford is home for me. I am a Stamford native and Stamford public school graduate. Stamford and its neighboring towns and cities are absolutely wonderful, and our vibrant Jewish community is a large part of that. I want to continue to build and grow the relationships and sense of community that make Stamford feel like home to so many people, whether you are first generation or you hail from our community’s founding generation.

TEEN VOICES

How Bible Study Shaped My Guiding Principles

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

My first encounter with the Dr. Shimshon Isseroff USA *Chidon HaTanach* National Bible Competition was in the sixth grade, when I saw my friend’s mile-wide smile as she recounted her experiences with *Chidon*. She told me that I needed to join the *Chidon* Club the next year. During the remainder of middle school, I learned for enjoyment, happy to study parts of *Tanach* (Bible) that I was not exposed to in my school’s curriculum. But as I approached my tenth-grade year, seeing another Frisch student win the nation-wide competition, I realized that I wanted to get more serious about it.



Tamar Rosenfeld

This year has been a test in flexibility with so much unknown due to the pandemic, but one certain thing that remained was learning for the *Chidon HaTanach* Competition. In preparation for the three regional tests, my friends and I studied fervently, learning many chapters of *Tanach*. After qualifying for the national cumulative exam in the spring, I took my studying to the next level as my excitement increased exponentially, studying thousands of practice questions.

The long-anticipated day finally arrived, filled with *Tanach*-themed activities, shurim, and classes- a great way to interact with and meet contestants from around the coun-

try. The day culminated with the concluding ceremonies, highlighting finalists’ favorite verses from the material, and announcing the winners. I was so enthralled to see my hard work had paid off, placing sixth in the country!

Reflecting on my journey through the *Chidon*

HaTanach, I realized that I have grown tremendously from the opportunity I was given with this club. The lessons from the biblical characters I learned in depth have shaped my character and help me understand my priorities. These morals have guided me specifically in my experiences in the Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps, a teen leadership program of United Jewish Federation. Our group has determined our guiding principles when later in the year we will select which worthy organizations to allocate our funds. These values, learned through *Chidon*, and solidified through Kuriansky, have shaped and enhanced my outlook on life.

Tamar is a sophomore at Frisch High School in Bergen County, New Jersey, and lives in Stamford with her parents and five siblings. She enjoys playing the piano, reading, and volunteering.

Better Together

BY RACHEL KLEIN

The first time I visited Stamford was to view the house that would quickly become my home. I am a New Jersey native whose professional life is deeply rooted in Westchester. Add to the mix that I am a deeply passionate, secular Reform Jew in an interfaith relationship where my Judaism is an integral part of my identity, which is an aspect that attracted my lapsed-Catholic fiancé to me and one of the blessings I cherish most in our relationship.



Rachel Klein with her fiancé, Brian Stapleton

when I was invited to join the Board of United Jewish Federation in 2018, I jumped at the opportunity. Since then, Federation has become an important part of my life. I am proud to be part of an impactful community organization – one that sustains foundational programs throughout the lifespan and adeptly responds when crises arise. It is truly thrilling to exercise my volunteerism and activism muscles with the vibrant people who comprise the UJF family.

A new transplant in the Nutmeg State, I wanted to find my people. But how does a forty-something, full-time professional without children or synagogue affiliation meet other busy, like-minded people? So,

The good news: I have received more than I ever imagined from my Federation involvement.

The bad news: I am still a Jew in search of my people.

So I am using this platform, this infrastructure, this connector of Jewish life to invite my people

- ...for Shabbat.
- ...for a walk or hike.
- ...for a drink.
- ...for a study buddy to learn Yiddish (thanks, Duolingo).
- ...for a conversation about being in love with Judaism and a non-Jewish partner, or on being a DINK (dual-income, no kids).
- ...for new friends.

If you are – or know of anyone – on the periphery of Jewish life, this is an invitation. We are here. And I want to meet all of you. We are a part of the tapestry of Jewish life, and I want to build our community. Together. Better.

Rachel Klein (she/hers) is the Executive Director of Hillels of Westchester. She lives in North Stamford with her fiancé, Brian, English Bulldog, Lucy, and rescue cat, Oliver.

If you would like to contact me, email DianeSloyer@ujf.org.

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

Advertise with us & reach the Jewish community of Greater Stamford!



Call Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373, ext. 105 or email dianesloyer@ujf.org

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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

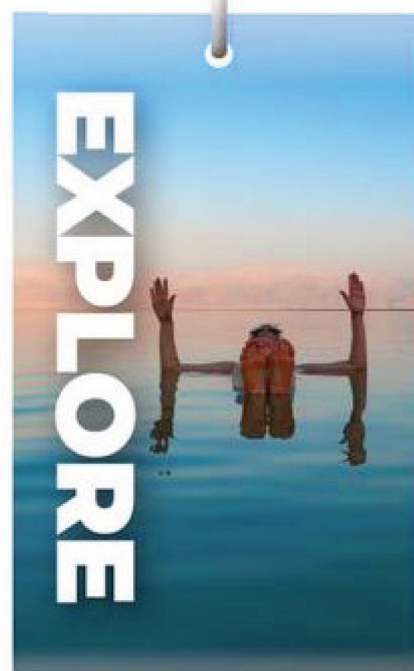
Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Flushing NY
Permit # 19357



Journeys of Inspiration, Education & Jewish Connections

IT'S TIME TO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

Join United Jewish Federation's Community Trip
Chanukah, late November, 2021



**Join us for an informational meeting
Sunday, June 6th at 10:00am via Zoom.**

Email Dianesloyer@ujf.org to RSVP and receive the link

