

- 4** Community synagogues and organizations announce their Purim celebrations.
- 5** The ADL's David Harris will discuss "A Changing Global Landscape" on March 13 at TBE.
- 11** Temple Beth El Sisterhood will host health care professionals discussing "Managing Mood Without Medicine."

# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

MARCH 2014/ADAR I-ADAR II 5774  
VOLUME 16, NUMBER 2

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

## Temple Sinai Concert Celebrates Children

### Five Singers Join Together

"Children, whether or not we have given birth to them, cared for them and raised them, are our future," says Cantor Micah Morgovsky, of Temple Sinai in Stamford. "Every child, in the beauty of their innocence, holds the promise of hope and untapped potential. It's up to us, as adults, to teach them about the world and set them on a path of growth and discovery." For that reason, Temple Sinai's annual cantor's concert is titled "Children Will Listen." On Saturday, March 8, at 7 pm, the community is invited to enjoy a night of music celebrating children.



L-r: Appearing again in this year's concert are Jenny Jurek, Cantor Shayna DeLowe, Alex Ruvinstein, Cantor Micah Morgovsky and Ilana Davidson.

The repertoire will include many Broadway favorites, art songs from the last century and works by contemporary composers, all of which focus on the theme of children. Some songs will be sung from

the perspective of the child, while others will express the thoughts and sentiments of the adult. "The concert includes songs

See "Concert" on page 7

## Russian Immigrants a Rare Case of Successful Aliyah

BY BEN SALES

TEL AVIV (JTA) – Growing up in the Urals, Pavel Polev was a precocious ice skater and a member of the Soviet Union's national youth figure-skating team. But in 1992, at age 15, Polev's life was upended when he joined the massive wave of Jews immigrating to Israel from the crumbling Soviet Union. After serving a mandatory three years in the Israel Defense Forces following high school, Polev took a job as a custodian.

Two decades later, Polev is a successful small-business owner and rising politician. He runs an air-conditioning store and serves as deputy mayor of Ariel, the Israeli West Bank settlement city home to a large Russian-speaking population. "It's impossible to compare now with the situation 22 years ago," said Polev, a member of the Russian immigrant-founded Yisrael Beiteinu party.

Polev's immigrant success story resembles those of many of the one million Russian-speaking immigrants who

See "Russian" on page 6

## The First Magic Decade

### Insights for Parents with Young Children

BY LUISA VILADAS

"The First Magic Decade: Insights Into Your Child's Fantastic Elastic Brain" will be the subject of this year's JCC Early Childhood Scholar-In-Residence program, to be held on Tuesday, March 4, at 7:30 pm, at the Jewish Community Center.

Parents with children ages birth to 10 years are invited to hear nationally recognized educator and psychologist JoAnn Deak, Ph.D., share her insights and advice on structuring children's environments and experiences during the first decade of life.

"JoAnn Deak has 30 years of experience in helping children develop into



JoAnn Deak, Ph.D.

confident, competent adults," said Sandi Waldstreicher, educational coordinator for the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School. "She is known for her ability to demystify the issues of child development, learning, identity formation and brain research, and her presentations offer humor, understanding, parenting philosophy, and well-founded words of wisdom."

Deak is the author of three books: "Your Fantastic Elastic Brain for Children," "How Girls Thrive" and "Girls Will Be Girls: Raising Confident and Courageous Daughters."

Deak sees parents and teachers as guides or "brain sculptors" of children

See "First" on page 2

## Stamford Women Receive National Jewish Book Award

BY MARA DRESNER

"Kaddish, Women's Voices," by Stamford residents Michal Smart and Barbara Ashkenas, has received the 2013 National Jewish Book Award in the category of Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice. Smart and Ashkenas will receive the Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award for Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice at a ceremony on Wednesday, March 5, at the Center for Jewish History in New York City, when awards will be presented in more than 18 categories.



Michal Smart

"It is a great honor to receive the National Jewish Book Award and to share this year's award with such wonderful writers in other categories," said Smart, director of Jewish studies at Bi-Cultural Day School, who worked on the book for three years. "Working on the project was a labor of love. I am so pleased it is being read and valued."

Ashkenas said she was "ferklempt" when she first heard the news. "It was a pleasant shock. Just the fact that we put

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### Behrend Institute Reunion

Alumni of the Behrend Institute for Leadership gathered in January to hear Dr. Steven Cohen speak about his interpretation of the Pew Research Center's survey of American Jewry and to explore the implications for the future of American Jewry. For full story, see page 2.

### CEO's Message

## Our North Star

BY JAMES COHEN

Former Prime Minister Sharon passed away in January, but the man and his legacy are still very much on my mind. In speaking of his legacy, I refer not to any political stance or policy decision, but rather what Vice President Biden referred to as "his north star": his passionate and unwavering dedication to the survival of the state of Israel and the Jewish people.



James Cohen, UJF CEO

I have been recounting some personal memories as well. I met Ariel Sharon in the autumn of 2005. I was staffing Secretary Rice's visit to Jerusalem during the dispute over the Raffah crossing closure. It was a very tense trip indeed. Through all of the

meetings and negotiations, Sharon was the coolest individual in the room. He was purposeful and direct and consistent. But what I remember most was the breakfast meeting at his home. I was in an adjacent room to the small policy meeting and as such was not served a meal. When the prime minister discovered this, he quipped, "Get this young man a plate. How can he help us save the world on an empty stomach?" And when Sharon gave an order, it was carried out quickly.

The following day, the powers that be solved the problem du jour and the border crossing was opened. Granted, it had nothing to do with my being served breakfast. It had a lot to do, however, with Sharon sticking to his "north star." If something was in Israel's interest, he worked for it with great gusto.

The lesson we at Federation should take from this is that we, too, have a "north star" and it is not dissimilar

from Prime Minister Sharon's. We remain fully dedicated to maintaining a vibrant, healthy Jewish community at home, in Israel and around the world. This means paying attention to all of the segments of our community and keeping "the big picture" in mind. It is not a coincidence that the only Jewish organization in the Western hemisphere whose leadership was asked to comment on Sharon's passing in *Haaretz* the morning after Sharon's passing was the Jewish Federations of North America. Only a quote from the organization whose stated purpose is "the big picture" would do when discussing such a topic.

All of the creative changes we are making here at UJF, most notably the impact areas introduced in last month's *New Jewish Voice*, are designed to support our "big picture" work so that we keep our eyes keenly focused on our "north star." I think Prime Minister Sharon would be pleased.

## Behrend Institute Alumni Explore Pew Report

### Implications for the Future of American Jewry

More than 60 alumni of the Behrend Institute for Leadership, senior executives and rabbis gathered in January at Temple Sinai to hear Dr. Steven Cohen speak about his interpretation of the Pew Report and the implications for the future of American Jewry.

Cohen is a research professor of Jewish social policy at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. He is also director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archives at NYU Wagner and has been called an expert on the topic.

Cohen talked about the findings in the first major study of American Jewry in 10 years. His wake-up call to the group was about what he termed "the shrinking Jewish middle," those located in the center of the spectrum, between those who identify as Orthodox and those who identify as partially Jewish, or Jewish, but with no religion. The "Jewish middle," which includes those who call themselves Conservative, Re-

constructionist or Reform, is considered vital to the sustenance of so many major institutions and cultural aspects of Jewish life.

One big reason for the shrinkage of the "middle" is the low birthrate of non-Orthodox Jews, which is about 1.7 per couple (less than the 2.1 required to maintain a stable population). While almost all children born to two Jewish parents identify as Jewish, the data shows that fewer than 50 percent with one Jewish parent identify as Jewish. The shrinkage is exacerbated because of the high inter-marriage rates in recent years. About 72 percent of non-Orthodox Jews intermarry. Those who want more information can contact Rabbi Molly Karp at [RabbiKarp@ujf.org](mailto:RabbiKarp@ujf.org) for a recent article by Cohen on this subject.

After Cohen's presentation, the attendees gathered in groups to discuss a variety of questions: What should we do locally to address issues and trends highlighted

in the Pew Report? Should resources be focused differently? What should we, as a community, do to embrace inter-married couples and reverse the drift away from Jewish identity? Report-backs, which concluded the evening, presented a number of ideas.

The Behrend Institute for Leadership was founded in 2007 to help develop potential leaders for the Jewish community. Nominations for participants are invited from all local organizations. Participants undertake a year long program of periodic lectures and workshops to improve their leadership skills and broaden their understanding of the local community and the wider Jewish world. One of the goals of the program is to build relationships that will help enhance community cohesion and respect for all. There are now more than 100 alumni of the program. The Institute is run by the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

This was the first time that all the graduates of the Institute had been invited to participate together in a formal learning and interactive event and the evening included time for the participants to socialize, interact, and strengthen relationships across the years.

**Book**..... the book out was wonderful. This was like the cherry on the sundae," she said.

The book was inspired when Ashkenas' brother and mother passed away several years ago and she was saying *Kaddish*. Searching for support, she was unable to find any books about saying *Kaddish* by women. "There was a gap in the information," said the founding member of the Women's Tefillah Group at Congregation Agudath Sholom and a Bi-Cultural Day School alumni parent.

As editor, Smart worked with Ashkenas and with 50 contributing authors from around the world to develop "Kaddish, Women's Voices," published in September 2013 by Urim Publications. The book features 52 essays, in which diverse authors share their experiences of mourning, including the family members they lost; how they struggled to balance the competing demands of child-rearing, work and grief; what they learned about tradition and themselves; and the disappointments and challenges they confronted as women.

"Visually, it's meant to mirror the year of mourning," said Smart. "Yet it doesn't need to be read cover

to cover; each essay can stand on its own." **Continued from page 1**

In fact, Ashkenas said that people have found different ways to use the book. "Some people read it in one sitting and say they couldn't put it down. Others say it's so emotional, they could only read one essay at a time."

The collection features a variety of viewpoints from around the world. While the majority are women, there are also a few essays by Orthodox rabbis: Stamford's Rabbi David Walk and Rabbi Daniel Cohen, and Rabbi Mark Dratch, formerly of CAS and the Executive vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America.

"The response to the book has been enormously positive. It is very moving for me to hear from people who are currently in mourning that our book has been a treasured source of support and insight," said Smart. "I hope that 'Kaddish, Women's Voices' will also share the wisdom of Jewish tradition with a wide audience, and add insight into the communal conversation about Jewish women's spirituality and religious experience."

**First**..... and believes that every interaction a child has during the course of a day influences the adult that child will become.

The lecture is part of the 2013-2014 Modern Parenting series of lectures on child rearing and related topics, presented by the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School.

Tickets to the lecture are \$12, or \$10 for JCC members. Register online at [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org) or call the JCC welcome desk at 203-322-7900.

For more information, contact Sandi Waldstreicher at 203-322-6541 or [swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org).

This program is part of the JCC's annual Early Childhood Scholar-in-residence program, which is underwritten by the Charles M. Karp Memorial Fund, through the generosity of Douglas and Sharon Karp and Arnold and Lisa Karp.

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

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Attendees of Chai Society are members of the Young Leadership Division who have committed to give a minimum tax deductible contribution of \$100 per household to the 2014 Annual Community Campaign.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Congregation Agudath Sholom's Festive Dinner

### Seven Community Leaders to be Honored

Congregation Agudath Sholom will hold its annual Festive Dinner on Sunday, March 23, at 5 pm. This year's theme is "Celebrating Unity in Community: Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Lazeh – All of Israel is Responsible for Each Other." Tickets and journal ads can be purchased at [www.congregationagudathsholom.org](http://www.congregationagudathsholom.org).

The guests of honor are Rachel and Jay Jubas; the Chai Award will be given to Joe Gold; Stephanie and Bob Sherman will receive the Community Service Award; and the Young Leadership Award will go to Meredith and David Cohen. Dinner chairs are Rachel and Nimrod Dayan, Stella and Isaac Cohen. Journal chairs are Diane and Elliot Sloyer, Claudia and Howard Rimerman.

Rachel and Jay Jubas joined CAS in 1996. Rachel served as chair and co-chair of the Mikvah Committee, a member of the Ritual Committee, chair of the B'nai Mitzvah Committee and on the Board of Directors. Jay frequently *leins* (reads Torah) and occasionally gives classes.

Joe Gold is celebrating 97 years of membership in the congregation. He first attended Agudath Sholom when it was housed on Greyrock Place. He played the violin with numerous local symphony groups over the years and continues to be part of the Agudath Sholom High Holiday Choir. Joe was married to Phyllis Solomon Gold for 52 years.

Stephanie and Bob Sherman are involved in Stamford's Jewish community. Stephanie served as president of the JCC's Center Women, sat on the board of the JCC and co-chaired the Maccabi Games Housing. At Bi-Cultural Day School, she has been a class mother and served on the Gala Committee. Stephanie received the Harold Hoffman Humanitarian Award in 2006. Currently, she teaches nursery school at Temple Sholom in Greenwich. In addition to his role as chief operating officer of Shenkman Capital in New York, Bob has coached for the Stamford Youth Basketball League, served on many Agudath Sholom board committees, and co-chaired the local delegation of the

Maccabi Games. Bob also served on the UJF board and its Allocation Committee. Bob currently serves on the boards of the Jewish High School of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Foundation. Bob and Stephanie were members of the Parents Advisory Council and co-chaired the Parent's Fund Council at Choate Rosemary Hall. They also sponsor Agudath's AIPAC Policy Conference teen scholarships.

Meredith and David Cohen joined Congregation Agudath Sholom in August 2010. Meredith held several positions in human resources before becoming a full-time mom. David grew up near Toronto, Canada, and completed his undergraduate studies at Oxford University. He obtained law degrees at McGill and Harvard universities, and is currently a principal and associate general counsel for Deloitte LLP in New York City. Since joining CAS, Meredith has been chair of CAS's Chesed (Kindness) Committee. Meredith has served as PTA chair at the Gan Yeladim preschool. David is a regular participant in Shabbat morning services at CAS, often *ba'al tefilah* (leader of the prayer service), a "stand-in" *gabbai* and a *haftarah* reader.

For further information, contact Saul Skolnick 203-358-2200.

## Temple Sinai Honors Betsy and Mike Stone

BY REBECCA ISENSTEIN AND SHARYN SARNER

Temple Sinai of Stamford will host its annual fundraiser, "Comedy Night at Spring for Sinai," on Saturday, April 5, at 7 pm, at Temple Sinai. The temple will honor Betsy and Michael Stone for their contributions to the temple and broader community. The evening will feature an honoree journal, live and silent auctions, and a raffle drawing for a grand prize of \$5,000.

The Stones joined Temple Sinai in 1994, two years after they moved from Dallas. They said they wanted to educate their children, Deborah, Sarah and Daniel, and be part of a vibrant and liberal Jewish community.

Betsy immediately got involved in the JCC and initiated the challah program at Sarah Walker Nursery School, which continues to this day. At Temple Sinai, she has been coordinating the High Holiday honors and teaching both children and adults for many years. She has twice served on the Board of Trustees, participated in two rabbi search committees, and served as vice president of education. She initiated the hiring of a full-time educator, and participated in the establishment of the seventh-grade and women's retreats, as well as the creation of the sixth- and seventh-grade parent education program. In the greater community, Betsy has served on the JCC Board of Directors, chaired the Kulanu Board, and re-established Stamford's participation in the March of the Living trip, which she led three times, taking 37 community teens to Poland and Israel. She is currently a practicing psychologist and a teacher of human development at Hebrew Union College.

Mike has been blowing the *shofar* at Temple Sinai for more than 15 years. Soon after joining the temple community, he got involved in Merkaz Torah, the predecessor to Kulanu, and served as chair during the formation of Kulanu. He has served as vice president and later president of Temple Sinai, helped establish the spring fund-raising event and annual campaign, and served as co-chair of the Experiment in Congregational Education, which helped lead to the hiring of a full-time educator and from which the current temple

See "Stone" on page 6



Mike and Betsy Stone



Steve and Hersh Dotkin

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## Deadlines for articles

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

Monday, February 24 ..... April  
Monday, March 24 ..... May  
Monday, April 28 ..... June

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

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# Triangular Food Fit for Purim

BY RONNIE FEIN

Although I must confess that hamantashen is among one of my favorite “cookies,” there’s more to Purim food.

But consider why we eat them. Hamantashen are triangles, meant to remind us of the hat our enemy Haman wore as he tried to annihilate the Jews.

## ► Cantor Bokov and The Bagles – Purim Eve Performance

Cantor Rafael Bokov, the *chazzan* at Congregation Agudath Sholom, will appear with The Bagles on Purim evening, Saturday night, March 15, at Congregation Agudath Sholom, for the synagogue’s annual Cantor’s Concert.

The concert will begin at 9:30 pm following the reading of the megillah, which will start at 8:15 pm. The evening will feature a combination of Jewish, Israeli and Mexican music. Light refreshments will be served.

The Bagles is a three-member local band, with Sid Nachman on guitar, Bob Abrams on vocals and bass, and Harold Tzvi Bernstein on drums.

Admission will be free.

## ► The Purim Project

One of the four *mitzvot* (commandments) celebrated on Purim is sending gifts of food to friends. *mishloach manot*, or *shalach manot*, are food items that contain two different ready-to-eat foods and are sent, usually by a third party, to a friend on the day of Purim.

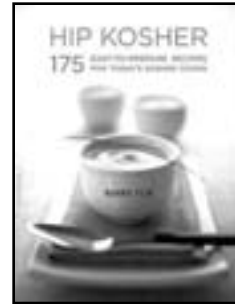
The Purim Project at Chabad of Stamford offers three ways to observe this mitzvah. First, a Purim gift is available for purchase at \$25 per *shalach manot*. There are limited quantities, so the gift will be offered on a first come, first-served basis only. Second, *Sshalach manot* cards are available to be mailed to friends and family at \$10 for the first card and a package of five for \$35. A percentage of these proceeds will be distributed to the poor in Israel on Purim day. Finally, Chabad of Stamford will send out *shalach manot* care packages to the entire community, providing the opportunity to add a greeting to anyone selected on the member list. Contact Rachel Weingrow at [programs@chabadhousestamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadhousestamford.org) for pricing and for a personal user name and login to make selections online.

We eat the “hat” to rid ourselves and the world of this man and his evil ways.

So really, any triangular food will do. Kreplach is also popular. But I’m going to vote for Spanakopitas. Spinach-filled, phyllo dough pastries that you can make large, for dinner, or small, as hors d’oeuvres. These are absolutely wonderful and freezable – make a bunch and keep them (well wrapped) for months to eat well past Purim.

## SPANAKOPITAS

1 10-ounce package frozen chopped spinach, thawed  
 2 Tbsp. olive oil  
 1 small onion, chopped  
 1 large egg  
 4 ounces feta cheese, crumbled  
 3 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese  
 2 tsp. minced fresh dill  
 Freshly ground black pepper to taste  
 ½ pound phyllo dough, approximately  
 4-6 tablespoons butter, melted, approximately  
 Preheat the oven to 400°F. Squeeze



The cover of Ronnie Fein’s cookbook, “Hip Kosher”

as much water out of the spinach as possible and set aside.

Heat the olive oil in a saute pan over medium heat. Add the onion and cook for 2-3 minutes. Stir in the spinach and mix well.

Remove the pan from the heat. Add the egg, feta cheese, Parmesan cheese, dill and pepper and mix well.

Cut the phyllo leaves into strips about 1¾ inches wide.

Working with one or as many as four strips at a time, brush the strips with a film of melted butter. Put a small amount of filling at the bottom of each strip. Fold the strips diagonally so that the short edge meets the long edge and covers the filling. Continue folding into triangle shapes as you would a flag. Place the triangle on a cookie sheet. Brush with more melted butter. Bake for about 18 minutes or until golden brown.

Makes 30-36 pieces.

Ronnie Fein is the author of the cookbook “Hip Kosher” and is a cooking teacher in Stamford. Visit her food blog, *Kitchen Vignettes*, at [www.ronniefein.com](http://www.ronniefein.com).



# PURIM AROUND TOWN



## CHABAD

Purim in the Palace

Saturday, March 15, 2013 | 8:15pm | at Chabad, 770 High Ridge Road

\$10 per person; \$45 max per family; \$180 Sponsor

(Open to All)

Music by the royal musicians and dancing • A royal banquet hors d’oeuvres • Come dressed as a royal guest!

Megillah reading followed by live music and dancing, entertainment & MORE!

Family Purim Extravaganza

Sunday, March 16, 2014 | 11:45pm - 1:45pm | at Chabad, 770 High Ridge Road

\$10 per person; \$45 max per family; \$180 Sponsor

(Open to all)

An enchanting afternoon of royal festivities • A king’s feast in a boxed lunch • Queen’s jewelry making • Mordechai’s Megillah with simultaneous slideshow • Palace Tour • Royal treasure for every palace guest dressed in costume!

For more information or to RSVP visit [www.ChabadHouseStamford.org](http://www.ChabadHouseStamford.org), email [morahleah@chabadstamford.org](mailto:morahleah@chabadstamford.org) or call 203 3CHABAD ext 418.

## CONGREGATION AGUDATH SHOLOM

Megillah Reading & Concert | Saturday, March 15

Megillah reading at 8:15 pm | Women’s Megillah Reading at 8:15 pm |

Late Megillah reading at 9:30 pm

Concert with Cantor Raphael Bokow and the Bagles (featuring Bob Abrams, Tzvi Bernstein and Sid Nachman) at 9:30 pm.

Megillah Reading - Sunday, March 16

Megillah readings 7:30 and 9:00 am | following shacharit 7:00 and 8:30 pm

Purim Seudah Brunch | 10:30 am - 12:30 pm |

Free and open to the community except the brunch, for which there is a charge.

Sign up at [www.cas-stamford.org](http://www.cas-stamford.org)

## JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

JCC 22nd Annual Purim Carnival: a day of fun and games ‘Under the Big Top’

Sunday, March 9 | 1:00 - 4:00 pm | at the JCC | Admission is free. Hamantaschen and other delicious treats. Cotton candy, lunch and other refreshments will be available for purchase. Purchase tickets and bracelets for games and attractions

This year, the JCC will be transformed into a circus-themed carnival with circus performances, authentic arcade games and attractions, and plenty of prizes. For younger children there will be inflatables, crafts, and much more.

Volunteers are needed. For more information or to volunteer, please contact

Virginia Clark at 203-487-0973 or [vclark@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:vclark@stamfordjcc.org).

JCC FamilyPlace Purim Party

Wednesday, March 12 | 5:30 - 6:30 pm | at the JCC | Pizza will be served to

children and adults. Early Registration before March 5th: \$12 per person / JCC

members \$9. Beginning March 5: \$14 per person / JCC members \$11.

1-8 years old, with parent or caregiver

Wear a Super Hero costume, bring your friends and enjoy a JCC FamilyPlace “sing along, sup along” evening featuring guest entertainer Amy Rogell in a concert tailored to young children. Visit the JCC welcome desk or call 203-322-7900.

## SELAH

Megillah reading and beer tasting

Saturday, March 15 | 8:00 pm | at Half Full Brewery | \$35 per person includes a

tasting glass to keep, unlimited beer tasting and refreshments. Please register

on our website: [www.selahfairfieldcounty.org](http://www.selahfairfieldcounty.org)

## TEMPLE BETH EL

Purim for Adults

Saturday, March 15 | Adult Megillah Reading at 7 pm followed by speaker

Special Scholar, Glenn Dynner, the Professor of Judaic Studies at Sarah Lawrence College and the 2013-14 Senior NEH Scholar at the Center for Jewish History. He will talk about the book: *Yankel’s Tavern: Jews, Liquor, and Life in the Kingdom of Poland* followed by a scotch tasting with Ron Zussman.

TBE Purim Family Celebration:

Sunday, March 16 | 10 am Family Service Megillah Reading. Costume parade and Purim fun! | 11 am - 1:00 pm | Annual Purim Carnival | Entrance fee: \$18 per child (\$40 maximum per family). Pizza, sodas, and snacks will be available for purchase.

Giant slide and bounce house, games, prizes, goldfish, pizza, popcorn, sodas, hamantaschen for everyone, and more. Participants will also have the opportunity to fulfill the mitzvot of *mishloach manot* (Purim gift food packages) and *matanot le’evyonim* (packages for the needy). Questions? For more information, email Lisa Gittelman Udi at [eddir@tbe.org](mailto:eddir@tbe.org).

Beth El Teens Purim Shul In

Saturday, March 15 | 8:30 pm to | Sunday, March 16 to 9 am

8th through 12th grade ages students are invited for an all night teen Purim shul in. Make hamantaschen and invent the hamantasch sundae! We’ll set up for the Purim carnival and play all the games! Sunday morning, all teens are encouraged to help us run the Purim Carnival! Bring your PJs, a sleeping bag, and your Purim costume for Sunday! For more information and to find out how to RSVP, email Lisa Gittelman Udi at [eddir@tbe.org](mailto:eddir@tbe.org).

## TEMPLE SINAI

Temple Sinai’s Purim Party

Saturday, March 15 | 5:00 pm | Temple Sinai | Free

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## YOUNG ISRAEL OF STAMFORD

Friday, March 14 | maariv at 8:10 pm | First Megillah reading at 8:20 pm |

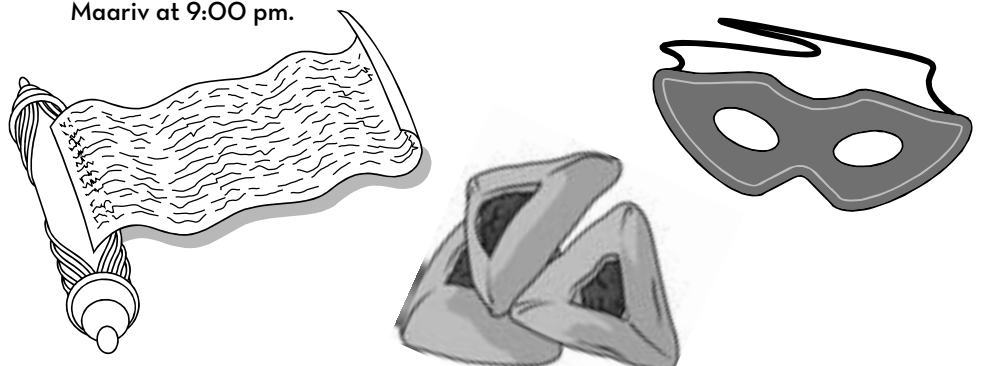
Second Megillah reading will begin 15 minutes after the conclusion of services (approximately 9:45 pm)

Saturday, March 15 | Shacharit at 8:00 am | Megillah reading at approx. 8:20

am | Second Megillah reading at 9:40 am. There will be subsequent readings

throughout the day | Mincha at 3:30 pm | Shul Purim Seudah at 4:00 pm |

Maariv at 9:00 pm.



# Dr. Ruth to Share Her Story

## Women's Philanthropy Spring Dinner

Mark your calendars: On Thursday, May 15, United Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy organization will welcome Dr. Ruth Westheimer as its keynote speaker to its annual Spring Dinner at Temple Beth El. Westheimer, AKA "Dr. Ruth," is a world renowned psychologist, author, broadcaster, and family and sex counselor. She's a Women's Philanthropy Lion as well.

Westheimer will speak about the events of her life, which span from her beginnings in Germany, her stay in Switzerland during World War II, her emigration to Palestine where she became a member of the Haganah, her eventual arrival in the States, and her commitment to the Jewish people, Israel and religion. "Her story is both amazing and inspirational," said Shoshana Dweck, UJF president.

Jill Kaplan and Janet Welkovich, co-chairs of the event, say they are very excited to be part of "what is sure to be a unique and memorable experience."

"Dr. Ruth is an amazing woman who has accomplished so much in her 85 years. She might only be 4'7", but she's a giant to us all!" said Kaplan. Welkovich added that, "Dr. Ruth has made a significant mark on both radio and television, and has had honest discussions with people in ways never done before. She is truly a pioneer in her field."

Ellen Weber, Women's Philanthropy president, extends special thanks to the Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation for its sponsorship of Westheimer's appearance for the Women's Philanthropy event.

Further information will follow in next month's issue.

# "Hope vs. Fear: A Changing Global Landscape"

## AJC's David Harris at Temple Beth El

AJC National Director David Harris will address the Stamford community on Thursday, March 13, at 7:30 pm, at Temple Beth El. The title of his address is "Hope vs. Fear: A Changing Global Landscape." The event is free and all are welcome, but RSVPs are required.

Harris will focus his remarks on some of the global issues facing world Jewry today, as he returns that week from a trip to Europe and Central Asia. Topics will include Iran's nuclear program amidst the interim nuclear deal, the rapidly changing situation in Syria, the political crisis in Egypt and the rise in European antisemitism.

"Mr. Harris has a long and very impressive resume," said Rabbi Joshua Hammerman. "He is regarded as one of the leading advocates and most eloquent spokesmen for the Jewish people and for Israel's political and diplomatic standing."

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

Among the highlights of his work, he was involved in the emigration of more than one million Jews from the Soviet Union and was twice detained by Soviet authorities and once expelled from the country. He served as the national coordinator for the 1987 Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jewry demonstration



David Harris, AJC national director

in Washington that drew more than 250,000 participants.

As examples of results achieved, his specific efforts were credited by the Japanese government for changing Tokyo's position from long-standing adherence to the Arab boycott against Israel toward a more balanced approach to the larger Arab-Israeli conflict. He was a key figure in the successful 16-year struggle to repeal the "Zionism is racism" resolution adopted by the

U.N. General Assembly in 1975, and he spearheaded AJC's successful campaign to correct Israel's anomalous status at the U.N., where it had been the only nation ineligible to sit on the Security Council, and to include it in one of the U.N.'s five regional groups that determine the all-important committee assignments.

He has been invited to speak at some of the world's most prestigious forums including the World Economic Forum in Davos, and to testify before the United States Congress on several occasions on matters related to the Middle East, NATO enlargement, Russian and Soviet affairs, and antisemitism, as well as before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the French Parliament.

Harris has been honored by the governments of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Spain and Ukraine for his many international activities on behalf of the defense of human rights, advancement of the

See "Hope" on page 6

# Carmel Academy: Academic Excellence and a Commitment to Accessibility

### Dear Members of Our Community,

This is an exciting time for Carmel Academy. Our enrollment is at an all-time high, our unique integrated General and Judaics studies program is recognized as a leader by day schools across the country, and our academic standards are reflected in our exemplary accreditation rating by the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools.

When Carmel Academy opened its doors 16 years ago, its founders sought to create a true community school — inclusive of all levels of religious observance, responsive to all types of learners and encouraging of families of all economic backgrounds to be part of our community. For the 2014-2015 year, we are taking additional steps to deliver on this promise.

Our desire to provide an exceptional and meaningful day school experience to all Jewish children has been the cornerstone to our existence. We celebrate our religious diversity every day by encouraging our students to be curious about the choices other people have made while instilling a sense of pride in their own family's practices. When it became apparent that there were no Jewish day school options for children with learning disabilities, Carmel launched a one-of-a-kind program to address that need. Today, our PALS program is unprecedented in the world of Jewish education, and, importantly, enables families to send all their children to one Jewish day school.

Our goal is, and always has been, to be a school that is truly responsive to the needs of our entire community. We believe that cost should not be a barrier. Affordability is often a hurdle for many families seeking a private Jewish education. Carmel Academy's Board of Trustees has taken several steps to address this issue, knowing that economic diversity enriches the educational opportunities for all families, and prioritizing accessibility is a reflection of our community's core values.

Through the generous support of the community, our annual tuition assistance budget has grown to more than \$2.5 million — more than double the amount provided just four years ago.

In an effort to assist young and middle class families, Carmel now offers a graduated tuition ladder, which starts at a significantly lower cost for children in our younger grades.

Finally, Carmel Academy is now offering a multi-child tuition discount of \$5,000 per child for families who have three or more children enrolled at Carmel at the same time — an effort to alleviate a piece of the significant financial commitment for larger families.

We invite you to take a tour of our campus and see a Carmel education in action, or visit [www.carmelacademy.com](http://www.carmelacademy.com) to learn more about the many programs that make Carmel Academy a treasure in our Jewish community.

Sincerely,

David Messer  
Carmel Academy President

Evan Levy  
Carmel Academy President Elect



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# BITS AND PIECES

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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



**Lauren Eppinger and Luis Lopez** on the birth of a son, Adrian Arne Lopez; great-grandparents are **Paula and Bob Eppinger**.

**Rachel and Ros Gotler** on the birth of a grandson, Jacob Nathaniel Gotler; grandparents are **Fran and Bob Dorf**.

**Laura and Daniel Moreno** on the birth of a daughter, Juliet Taylor Moreno; grandparents are **Shelley Taylor and David Swerdloff**.

**Ruhama and Yuval Sinai** on the birth of a son.

**Leah and Nolan Zeide** on the birth of a daughter, Aviva Marie Zeide; grandparents are **Dorothy and Steven Zeide**.

MAZEL TOV TO:

**Michal Smart and Barbara Ashkenas** for winning a 2013 National Jewish Book Award for their book, "Kaddish: Women's Voices." They will receive the Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award in the category of Contemporary Life and Jewish Practice.

**Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg and Orit and Phil Jackier**, of Staten Island, NY, on the engagement of their children, **Gabriella Zur and Raviv Jackier**.

**Wendy and John Fitzgerald** on the engagement of their daughter, **Rachel Fitzgerald**, to **Sean Calahan**.

**Jean Niedober and Irwin Niedober and Jayne and Barry Miller**, of Riverdale, NY, on the engagement of their children, **David (DJ) Niedober and Eve G. Miller**.

**Sherri and Allen Rosenthal and Marlene Sussman**, of Baltimore, MD, on the engagement of their children, **Jason Rosenthal and Sharon Sussman**.

**Hedy and Maury Siegel** on the engagement of their son, **David Siegel**, to **Rebecca Guber**.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

**Lily Abrams**, daughter of **Margie and Bob Abrams**; grandparents are **Harold Abrams, Rita Edelston, and Dorisanne and Jack Wasserman**.

**Hunter Barocas**, son of **Beth Fraikorn and Robert Barocas**.

**Carolyn Melanie Breakstone**, daughter of **Julie and Warren Breakstone**; grandparents are **Eileen and Bob Breakstone**.

**Adam Cohen**, son of **Rachel and Ephraim Cohen**.

**Alexandra Gold**, daughter of **Barbara Levine and Frederick Gold**.

**Rebecca Schwartz**, daughter of **Cindy and Gregg Schwartz**.

CONDOLENCES TO:

**David Blank** on the loss of his father, Paul Blank.

**Rabbi Yisrael Deren** on the loss of his mother, Keny Deren.

**Marilyn Gershon** on the loss of her husband; and **Neil Gershon and Allison Opperman** on the loss of their father, Isadore Jack Gershon.

**Marvin Gold** on the loss of his sister, Ruby Becker.

**Benjamin and Jessica Green** on the loss of their father, Julius Green.

**Noah Horowitz** on the loss of his wife; **Jonathan Horowitz** on the loss of his mother; and **Bonnie and Roy Strunin** on the loss of their sister, Jessica Strunin Horowitz.

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

**Jonathan Lese** on the loss of his father, John Henry Lese.

**Albert Lilienfeld** on the loss of his mother, Helen Lilienfeld.

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

**Katy Meyers** on the loss of her mother, Jane Watell Meyers.

**Martin Michlin** on the loss of his sister, Barbara Lynn Michlin.

**Sherri Rosenthal** on the loss of her mother; and **Lauren Zalis** on the loss of her grandmother, Miriam Weinstein.

**Robin Selden** on the loss of her grandmother, Pearl Selden.

**Paula Simon** on the loss of her husband, Frank Simon.

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

**Bernice Wolodarsky** on the loss of her husband and **Bonnie Nyman** on the loss of her father, Al Wolodarsky.

**Harris**... Continued from page 5 transatlantic partnership and dedication to the Jewish people.

Harris has a regular spot on the CBS Radio Network and a blog on international affairs at The Huffington Post and *The Jerusalem Post*. He is the author of seven books and has written hundreds of articles, op-eds, letters and reviews in leading newspapers and magazines.

The event is co-sponsored by AJC and Temple Beth El. To RSVP, call 914-948-5585 or visit [www.ajc.org/westchester/harris/tbe](http://www.ajc.org/westchester/harris/tbe).

**Russian**... Continued from page 1

arrived in Israel in the 1990s. Along with their descendants, Russian speakers now comprise nearly one-fifth of all Israelis.

Unlike other immigrant groups that moved en masse to Israel only to find themselves poor and socially marginalized, two decades on Russian *aliyah* is by many metrics a story of resounding success. The Russian influx has had a palpable impact on Israeli society, from the countless storefronts with signs in Cyrillic characters to the many Russian-speaking immigrants who have assumed critical roles in the highest echelons of Israeli politics.

Though many Soviet immigrants, especially older ones, still face poverty and significant cultural barriers, overall statistics show a community on the rise. According to a 2013 report by the Adva Center, an Israeli social policy think-tank, 56 percent of Russian immigrants in 1992 were in the poorest third of Israeli society – below the poverty line or at risk of poverty. By 2010, the figure had dropped to 38 percent. Over the same period, the percentage of Russians in the upper third of Israeli earners grew from 10 to 27 percent.

"With any group of new immigrants in any country, you won't find such a huge success," Natan Sharansky, the famous Soviet refusenik who now serves as chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, told JTA. "If you look at service in the army, at medicine and science, you can see how deeply it's entering Israeli society."

Russian immigrant success stands in marked contrast to the ongoing challenges faced by Ethiopian immigrants, who arrived in Israel in large numbers at around the same time. More than half of Ethiopian Israelis live below the poverty line, according to the Adva report. Ethiopians also lag the broader Israeli public in education and have salaries about one-third lower than the average Israeli.

The Russian success owes at least in part to the education and skills that enabled them to succeed in a modern economy. Ethiopians emigrated from an agrarian subsistence economy and have struggled to adjust their traditional lifestyles to a Western society. "The education there was at a high level," said Chen Bram, an expert on Russian Jewry at Hebrew University's Truman Institute. "So their ability to direct themselves was very high."

Russian success is all the more startling considering how ill-prepared Israel was to absorb them when they first arrived. At the time, stories abounded of highly trained Russian scientists forced to take jobs cleaning streets. "They got here and they felt that there was no one who was caring for them," said Betzalel



*Ariel Mayor Pavel Polev, a rising star in Israeli politics, worked as a custodian when he first arrived in Israel in 1992.*

Shif, a law professor who immigrated from Tashkent, a Soviet city in Uzbekistan, in 1971. "Thank God they understood how to survive in Russia and survive here."

Shif was a founding member of the Zionists' Forum, a Russian immigrant advocacy group that was the precursor organization to Israel B'Aliyah, a Russian immigrant party founded by Sharansky that won seven seats in its first Knesset election in 1996.

The party merged with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud

party in 2003, helping to cement the mounting political influence that has been a hallmark of Russian success and another distinguishing feature of Russian integration.

Moldovan-born Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman's Yisrael Beiteinu party, a faction that also counted Russian immigrants as its primary constituency, won 15 seats in the 2009 elections before joining lists with Likud last year. Liberman is one of two Russian-speaking ministers and one deputy minister in the governing coalition, compared to just two Ethiopians in the entire Knesset.

Polev said Yisrael Beiteinu has passed the stage of appealing only to narrow Russian interests and is now aiming to present itself as a mainstream party – a shift that also speaks to the success of Russian integration. In their first years in Israel, Russian politics focused largely on securing government support for communal priorities. Now Russians are beginning to deal with the consequences of their successful integration.

"There are some kids who grow up here and feel bad about their Russian-ness, they want to forget their language," said Alexey Tashaev, an organizer of the Russian Israeli youth organization Fishka. "That's a problem. On the other hand, some don't identify with Israel."

Even as the community grows more successful, challenges remain for elderly Russians and those living in Israel's economically disadvantaged periphery. Nadejda Tatarenko, 70, who moved from Ukraine at 47, said that older immigrants often do not receive all of their government benefits and encounter disrespectful conduct at government offices. But as the Russian community continues to integrate, she added, such challenges likely will become a thing of the past.

"For a long time there will still be a difference between people without roots here and people who do have them and who know their rights," said Tatarenko, the founder of the nonprofit Immigrants for a Successful Absorption. "Now we have the third generation, and they're Israeli. I don't see many differences between them and sabras."

**Stone**... Continued from page 3

by-laws were drafted and implemented. He also served on a rabbi search committee. Mike (and Betsy) provided the seed money for the *Ruach* service, for which he currently plays trombone. In addition

to Merkaz Torah and Kulanu, Mike has served on the board of the Jewish Community Endowment Foundation, and is currently on the board of Jewish Family Service and the Planned Giving Committee at Temple Sinai. Mike is senior tax counsel at General Electric.

Temple President Arlene Rosen said: "Mike and Betsy have had such a positive impact on Temple Sinai. They have gained the love and respect of our members with their tireless devotion and passion for the Jewish community. We are grateful and delighted to honor the Stones."

For more information about Comedy Night at Spring for Sinai, or to place a tribute in honor of Betsy and Mike Stone, contact Shelly Sodaro at Temple Sinai at 203-322-1649 or [assistant@templesinaistamford.org](mailto:assistant@templesinaistamford.org).

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

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Feb. 21	5:17 pm
Feb. 28	5:25 pm
March 7	5:33 pm
March 14	6:41 pm
March 21	6:49 pm
March 28	6:56 pm
April 4	7:04 pm
April 11	7:11 pm
April 14	7:14 pm
April 15	after 8:16 pm
April 18	7:19 pm
April 20	7:21 pm
April 21	after 8:22 pm
April 25	7:26 pm
May 2	7:34 pm
May 9	7:41 pm
May 16	7:48 pm

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

# Shabbat Across America at Agudath Sholom

## Rabbi Chaim Marder to Speak

BY MICHAEL FELDSTEIN

On Friday night, March 17, Congregation Agudath Sholom is joining with other synagogues throughout North America in sponsoring the annual Shabbat Across America program, a nationwide effort coordinated by the National Jewish Outreach Program to share Shabbat with unaffiliated Jews.

Rabbi Chaim Marder, spiritual leader of the Hebrew Institute of White Plains, will be the featured speaker. He will speak three times over the course of the Shabbat weekend.

"In the past, Shabbat Across America has been enormously successful at Agudath Sholom, with as many as 300 participants enjoying a truly beautiful Shabbat together," said Rabbi Daniel Cohen, the spiritual leader of the congregation. "This year, I hope we can equal that total!"

On Friday night at the Shabbat Across America dinner, which will start at 6:30 pm, Rabbi Marder will deliver his first talk. He will also deliver the sermon on Shabbat morning, March 18, after morning services. Finally, he will give a Torah class on Shabbat afternoon at the synagogue.

Rabbi Marder has served as the rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of White Plains since 1995, having formerly served as the rabbi of Congregation Beth Sholom in Providence, RI, and associate rabbi at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale. He is



Rabbi Chaim Marder

a graduate of Yeshiva University, holds a master's degree in Jewish history, and received his rabbinical ordination from RIETS, the rabbinical seminary of YU.

Rabbi Marder has served as a vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America and the Westchester Board of Rabbis, and is a member of the Orthodox Caucus. In addition to his work at the Hebrew Institute, he is also the associate chair of the Department of Leadership and Professional Training at YCT Rabbinical School, an open Orthodox Rabbinical Seminary.

During Rabbi Marder's tenure, the Hebrew Institute of White Plains has seen growth and revitalization, and is considered a model Orthodox synagogue in the New York area. Under his guidance, the Hebrew Institute continues to seek out ways to deepen the religious and spiritual lives of its congregants, both in and outside the synagogue walls. He has helped spearhead numerous community-building efforts, including the White Plains B'Yachad Series with other synagogues in the community.

In terms of the Shabbat Across America weekend, Rabbi Cohen is asking people to think of people who might be interested in coming to the dinner. "Everyone probably has at least one Jewish friend, family member, co-worker, or other person who has not truly experienced Shabbat in a long time, if at all. Tell them about Shabbat Across

America and urge them to participate," said Rabbi Cohen.

Those who would like more information about reserving a place at the Friday

night dinner, and/or the schedule and titles of the presentations, should visit [www.agudathsholom.org](http://www.agudathsholom.org) or call the synagogue office at 203-358-2200.

## Shir Madness Klezmer Shabbat

Temple Beth El will host a Shabbat Across America event, Shir Madness Klezmer Shabbat, on Friday, March 7. The Shabbat will feature Cantor George Mordecai and his klezmer friends in a requested return engagement. Dinner (by reservation only) will begin at 6 pm, with klezmer Shabbat

services starting at 7:30 pm.

The cost for the dinner is adults \$20 each and kid's meal \$12 each. Checks should be sent to Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford, CT 06902.

The Shir Madness Klezmer Shabbat service is open to all at no charge.

## Concert.....Continued from page 1

that will make you laugh out loud, as well as pieces that will send you reaching for a tissue," says Cantor Morgovsky.

The concert is the annual fund-raiser for Temple Sinai's music programs, so there is a suggested donation of \$36, which can be paid in advance by calling the temple office (203-322-1649), or at the door. Wine, hors d'oeuvres and homemade desserts will be served. Complimentary babysitting at the temple will be available.

In addition to Cantor Morgovsky and Temple Sinai's accompanist, Alex Ruvinstein, the concert will feature four additional singers: Cantor Rebecca Garfein, senior cantor at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Manhattan; her col-

league, Cantor Shayna DeLowe, also from Rodeph Sholom; Ilana Davidson, Grammy Award winning classical soprano; and Jenny Jurek, who, among her credits, has appeared as Frenchy in the national tour of "Grease." Cantor Morgovsky also shared that she is "excited to feature the sweet voices of members of Temple Sinai's youth choir in the concert as well."

Cantor Morgovsky continues, "There is a wealth of beautiful and poignant music about children, and this concert weaves each piece together into a glorious tapestry which expresses the hopes and dreams, worries and regrets, joys and sorrows of children and the adults who care for them."

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BETTER TOGETHER

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

## For Separated/Divorced Parents in High Conflict

BY EVE MOSKOWITZ

No one would be surprised to hear about the toll that divorce takes on children, especially in situations where a divorce occurs in a high-conflict situation. It is just such an environment that the state of Connecticut and Jewish Family Service is attempting to neutralize in order to provide parents with the skills necessary for effective emotional development of healthy individuals.

Focus on K.I.D.S. (Knowledge, Insights, Decisions leading to Solutions) is a statewide program for sepa-

rated, divorced or divorcing parents who experience high conflict around parenting decisions. Developed by the Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies, the program is based on principles and training provided by Beacon Behavioral Health Services Program.

The goal of the program is to have high-conflict couples who are going through this process learn what they need to do in order to give their children the care they need. Parents who are successful at this learn skills they can use to fight less, communicate better and problem solve for the benefit of their child(ren).

Focus on K.I.D.S. is not therapy; it is structured parent counseling with an emphasis on communication. While working with both parents, a therapist teaches them strategies that help them communicate in a non-hostile manner, so that they can make joint parenting decisions that are in the best interests of their child(ren). Divorcing parents will learn how children feel about divorce, find ways to make the process less painful and help them accept the divorce without feeling they had a part in the break-up of the marriage. The intended result of the program will be to learn how to raise happy, healthy, well-adjusted children who are ready to live life to the fullest and turn obstacles into opportunities.

Why take this approach? It is based on the belief that parents are responsible for the decisions that affect their children. However, high-conflict divorcing or divorced parents often find it very hard to get beyond their own emotions about their divorce. In these cases, their children suffer.

And while the focus of a divorce is often on the parenting plan "W's" (who, where and when), the way parents relate to and about one another when they are with their kids, has the biggest impact – good or bad – on their kids.

The program works by teaching parents how to interact in ways that are focused on what the kids need, not

on old hurts and anger. "Does it work? Absolutely. The majority of participants who complete the program do not return to court on child-related issues," according to the Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies.

Jewish Family Service, located at 733 Summer St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Stamford, offers the Focus on K.I.D.S. program. For more information or to register, contact Erika Garcia at 203-921-4161, ext. 105, or erikag@ctjfs.org.

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

*Eve Moskowitz is director of clinical services at Jewish Family Service.*

## January Reading Partners' Workshop



Reading Partners enjoyed a literacy workshop, "Making the Most of Read-Together," with award-winning teacher Betsy DeSantis. DeSantis emphasized the opportunity that reading volunteers have to motivate children with their one-on-one relationships. L-r: DeSantis; Meg Mooar, event organizer; Marlyn Agatstein, director of Reading Partners; and Sissy Stein, event organizer.

### ► Betsy's Buddies

Loaves of Love, a program of Chabad House Stamford, will present "Betsy's Buddies," a new initiative pairing volunteers with homebound, elderly, sick, handicapped or lonely members of the Stamford Jewish community to be their "buddies."

The program is in memory of Betsy Polakoff, a supporter of Loaves of Love. The commitment required is to call your buddy once a week and to visit your buddy twice a month.

To recommend someone in need of a buddy, or to volunteer, visit [www.ChabadHouseStamford.org](http://www.ChabadHouseStamford.org), e-mail [morahleah@chabadstamford.org](mailto:morahleah@chabadstamford.org), or call 203-3CHABAD, ext. 418.

### ► Carmel Celebrates Leadership at Erev Tov Dinner

Carmel Academy will hold its annual Erev Tov Celebration at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase on Sunday, March 2, at 5:30 pm. The Erev Tov festivities, which include cocktails and dinner, is an evening of community celebration. This year, Carmel Academy is celebrating generations of leadership. The honorees are Gloria and Marc Bieler, Leah Bieler and Rabbi Ron Fish, Eva and Dr. Ivan Horak, Miriam and Ari Loren, and Eve and Cary Goldstein. The honorees represent multiple generations of leadership at Carmel Academy.

The event will take place at the Brae Burn Country Club, 39 Brae Burn Dr., Purchase, NY. For more information or to place a journal ad, visit [www.carmelacademy.com](http://www.carmelacademy.com) or call 203-863-9663.

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

### ► Sylvia Plotkin Memorial Mah Jongg Tournament

Master Mah Jongg players and novices alike are invited to play in the second annual Sylvia Plotkin Memorial Mah Jongg Tournament, to be held at the Jewish Community Center on Wednesday, March 26, from 9:30 am-3:30 pm.

"All levels are welcome," said Lorraine Kveskin, Sylvia Plotkin's daughter and chair of the event. "This is a day of friendly competition and serious fun."

Bridge, Canasta and Scrabble games are also welcome. "Not a game player?" Kveskin added. "Come for the fun! And, of course, donations are also welcome." All proceeds will benefit programs for senior adults at the JCC.

There will be door prizes and tournament prizes, and a light breakfast and lunch will be served, along with all-day nibbles.

The cost is \$36 per person. Register online at [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org) or pick up a registration form at the JCC welcome desk. For information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

### ► An Evening with JFS

On Sunday, March 30, at An Evening with JFS, Jewish Family Service will present the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Mitzvah Awards to Edith Samers and Ed Smith and Alison Wachstein, and the ninth annual Young Leadership Award to Adam Batkin. This year's event will take place at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford, at 5:30 pm, and is co-chaired by Meryl Japha and Janet Welkovich.

An Evening with JFS will feature a dinner, served at stations, and the agency's sixth Annual Auction, chaired by Sandy Speter. Auction items in previous years have included such offerings as Yankee tickets, spa services, vacation getaways and trips to Israel. Any items eligible for auction can be donated by contacting Iris Morrison at 203-921-4161 or [IMorrison@ctjfs.org](mailto:IMorrison@ctjfs.org).

Both a social gathering and a fund-raising evening, the proceeds of An Evening with JFS are essential to ensure that funds are available for the agency to continue to provide quality services to all those in need.


To attend An Evening with JFS, contact Morrison at 203-921-4161, or e-mail [IMorrison@ctjfs.org](mailto:IMorrison@ctjfs.org).

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

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**THANK YOU!**

The Young Leadership Division of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien sent 67 Chibuki Huggy Puppies to Israel in honor of Israel's 65th birthday!

*Young Leadership Division sends thank you hugs to all the contributors who helped make this happen!*

**Chibuki dogs are sent to children attending preschools in protected buildings or shelters, and to all children in Kindergartens in Ashkelon, Sderot and the surrounding areas. Each dog costs \$36. You can donate towards the purchase of a dog or donate an entire dog.**

**For information about the Chibuki program, please contact: Jeff Goldberg at [jeff@ujf.org](mailto:jeff@ujf.org) or 203-321-1373 ext. 112.**

# Carmel Academy Students Lunge into Fencing

BY JULIE LAPIN

Advance! Allez! En Garde! Walk into a physical education class at Carmel Academy and be prepared to see students in full fencing garb, reacting to the French commands of a sport that dates back to antiquity.

The sport of fencing has been incorporated into Carmel Academy's physical education curriculum and was kicked off with a visit from Olympic fencers Jeff Spear and Dagmara Wozniak in early January. The duo, along with nationally-ranked fencer Jonah Shainberg (son of a Carmel Academy third-grade teacher), visited the school to talk about the sport and how they learned from their own challenges to make it to the Olympic games.

The champion fencers visited Carmel as part of the "Fencing in the Schools" program, started by silver Olympic medalist Tim Morehouse, who visited Carmel two years ago. The goals of the program are bigger than learning to fence. They are about learning to push through challenges and "going for the gold" in sports, school and life.

One highlight of the visit was watching kindergarten teacher Aindree Hamann and fifth-grade teacher Darren Bahar gear up and respond to the directions of en garde, advance, retreat and lunge in front of the cheering crowd of students. The students were then given a course in chivalry and fencing etiquette.

Carmel Academy's physical education staff has been trained by the Olympic fencers. The "Fencing in the Schools" program provides fencing equipment to the students and training to the teachers so that the sport can be added to the school's regular physical education program.

"At Carmel, the fencing program is being taught to the third- through eighth-graders," said Carmel's Athletic Director Philip Goldberg. "It is a wonderful addition to the PE curriculum. The kids are really enjoying it. They are excited about the new equipment, learning the vocabulary and participating in matches."

"Fencing is a great form of exercise and promotes individual initiative and discipline as well as respect, sportsmanship, and a well-rounded form of mental and physical exercise – all of which is essential to help children succeed outside of the sport," Goldberg said. "However, the most important thing that we teach is that it doesn't matter if you win or lose, as long as you learn something."

"Fondly referred to as 'physical chess,' fencing is a contest of mental agility that involves the mind, body and spirit of the player," according to the Fencing in the Schools program.

"It's different than other sports, you really need to use your brain more," said third-grader Sophie Citron, of Greenwich. "I love wearing the mask and vest, and playing against someone."

"It's just like sword fighting, but you don't get hurt. If you lose a match, you can just play again," said third-grader Eli Ben David of Stamford.

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



Olympic fencers Jeff Spear and Dagmara Wozniak instructed Carmel Academy teachers Aindree Hamann and Darren Bahar during a schoolwide assembly.



Carmel Academy fourth-grader Nili Fish-Bieler got ready for her next fencing match as part of the school's new fencing program.




Carmel Academy fourth-graders participated in a fencing match as part of the school's new fencing program.



**United Jewish Federation**  
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**Women's Philanthropy Spring Dinner**




**Thursday, May 15, 2014**  
**Temple Beth El**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**featuring**  
**Dr. Ruth Westheimer**

**Dinner Chairs: Jill Kaplan & Janet Welkovich**

For further information, please contact Rebekah Raz,  
rebekah@ujf.org or 203.321.1373 x102



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*Sunday, April 27th  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Temple Sinai*

*For more information, please contact  
Rabbi Molly Karp at  
Rabbikarp@ujf.org or 203-321-1373*



# Jacks, Jump Shots and Judaism

BY THE FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMPS

Ask any child what the best time of year is and they will say summertime. For many, summer means spending time outdoors and across North America hundreds of thousands of kids will do so at camp. More than 73,000 of them will attend a nonprofit Jewish overnight camp.

"For these kids, Jewish camp is often just plain fun, but it's really much more than that – it's camp with a soul," Jeremy J. Fingerman, CEO, Foundation for Jewish Camp. "While they are racing down the zipline, singing under the stars and making lifelong friends, they also learn values like self-confidence, independence and leadership that last with them long after the last campfire of the summer. At Jewish camp, campers explore their connection to Judaism in a fun and meaningful way while having the time of their lives."

Choosing a Jewish camp can ease process of deciding what your child should do this summer. With



For many children, summer means spending time outdoors and across North America hundreds of thousands of kids will do so at camp.

options ranging from traditional sleep-away camps to specialty camps (including sports, arts, outdoor adventure and more) to camps with special needs

programs, there is one to fit every child and family's requirements and spectrums of observance. Alumni often cite Jewish camp as a place they matured, were free to be themselves, tried new things, and began to love and enjoy Judaism.

As a study released by the Foundation for Jewish Camp demonstrates, camp is an essential part of the formation of a child's Jewish identity, as well as a component in building a strong Jewish community. The research on the long-term effect of camp analyzed areas of adult behavior and attitudes, including synagogue membership, observance of holidays, donating to Jewish charities and connection to Israel. FJC found that, as adults, Jewish camp alumni (as compared to adults who did not attend camp) are:

◆ 45% more likely to attend synagogue at least once a month

See "Jacks" on page 19

For March &  
April 2014



## FAMILY CENTRAL

Everyone (members and non members) is warmly invited to all events listed.



### FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

For PURIM EVENTS please see special Purim Page!

**JFS: COLLEGE AHEAD. Thursday, Mar. 13, 7:30 pm.** At the Stamford JCC. Join Claire Friedlander, JFS College Consultant and panel of college deans of admission for advice about the college admissions process. For more info, contact Claire at [clairef@ctjfs.org](mailto:clairef@ctjfs.org) or (203) 921-4161. See article.

**CHABAD FAMILY TRIP TO BROOKLYN. Sunday, Mar. 2, 9 am – 4 pm.** Visit authentic Matzah bakery, Judaica store and kosher candy store. Explore Jewish Children's Museum and NY pizza.

### KIDS GRADES pre K to 8

#### JCC

- **Middle School Dodgeball Tournament. Saturday, Mar. 22, 8:30 – 11 pm.** Grades 6-8. Put together a team of 6 or just show up and join a team. Double elimination tournament. \$15 p/person /\$10 members.
- **JCC Vacation Day Programs. Monday, Apr. 14 – Friday, Apr. 18, 8 am to 6 pm.** Grades K – 6. Arts and crafts, nut-free/kosher snacks, free swim, games and activities everyday. Bring your own lunch. Cost per day \$80/ \$65 JCC members. [Extra \$10 on Monday] Monday: Build-A-Bear (extra \$10); Tuesday: Pool Party; Wednesday: Crazy Hat and Hair Day; Thursday: Mad Science; Friday: Friday Fun Day! Register early. Drop-ins welcome if space allows - additional \$10 fee. For info, contact Galit Roloff [groloff@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:groloff@stamfordjcc.org) or (203) 487-0974

#### CHABAD

- **P.O.G.S. (Parsha & Other Great Stuff) Grades K - 2.** Weekly science & cooking club. **Wednesdays, 4 - 5 pm.** \$10 p/ session.
- **Chai Five Mitzvah Club.** Grades 3 – 6. Get involved in community needs and projects. **Wednesday, Mar. 5, 5:30 - 7 pm.** Fee: \$20 p/session includes dinner.
- **Bat Mitzvah Clubs & BMC Beyond.** Sunday, Mar. 2, 6 - 7:30 pm for girls in grades 6 – 8. \$20 p/ session.

#### TEMPLE BETH EL

**Adat (Community) Shabbat.** Drop off program for grades K - 2. Sights and sounds of Shabbat with Darice Bailer. Prayers plus fun engaging songs, stories, and dancing. **Saturday, Mar. 22, 11 am.** Free.

#### TEMPLE SINAI

**Shevet Achim (Guys getting together).** **Sundays, Mar. 23 & Apr. 6, 12:20 – 2:20 pm.** For boys Grade 7. Addresses confidence, greed, materialism, body image and healthy relationships. With Rabbi Jay TelRav. Free.

### CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

**Friendship Circle:** Teen friends and social and Judaic programs for children with special needs. Contact Malya Shmotkin (203) 329-0015 #414 or [Malya@FriendshipCT.com](mailto:Malya@FriendshipCT.com)

#### JCC

- **Jump Start:** Therapeutic classes for ages 2 - 4. Language, social and motor skills encouraged. Safe, fun, accepting environment. Contact Sue McGraw (203) 487-0966.
- **R&R (Relax & Recreate)** Social group for grades 6-8. Fun, structured, safe environment. Build social skills and relationships. **Wednesdays, 3:30 pm; Sundays, 1:30 pm.** March 5, 19, 23, 30. Fee: \$250 / \$200 JCC members for 10 sessions. Transportation from public schools available. Contact Dinushka De Silva at (203) 487-0946 or [ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org).

### TEENS GRADES 8+

#### KULANU

Classes meet **Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm** at JCC (no class April 16). Fun diverse opportunities to connect to Judaism. Fee: \$36/month. Contact [Danielle@ujf.org](mailto:Danielle@ujf.org) or (203) 321-1373 x104

#### SPEAK UP FOR ISRAEL

Grades 11-12. For info, contact JCC Israeli Shaliach (203) 487-0961. A program of JCC and UJF. Meets monthly **Sundays, 5 – 7 pm.** At the JCC.

#### KURIANSKY TEEN TZEDAKAH CORPS

Grade 10. Learn about philanthropy and how to make grants to non-profits. **Sundays, 7 pm.** At JCC. Contact [Danielle@ujf.org](mailto:Danielle@ujf.org) or (203) 321-1373 x104

#### MARCH OF THE LIVING

Grades 10 - 12. In April/May 2014, march from Auschwitz to Birkenau (Poland) on Holocaust Memorial Day, and observe Israel's Memorial and Independence Days in Israel. Contact [Danielle@ujf.org](mailto:Danielle@ujf.org) or (203) 321-1373 x104.

#### FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE. For volunteers in Grades 9-12

- **At Home:** Every week, pairs of teen volunteers visit special needs children in their homes offering friendship and unconditional support.
- **Children's/Teen Circle:** 15 Sundays through the year. Work with special needs children on activities like art, music, cooking and sports. At Chabad. For info, contact Malya Shmotkin (203) 329-0015 #414, [Malya@friendshipct.com](mailto:Malya@friendshipct.com)

#### BBYO

Grades 8-12. Meets every 2nd Monday 7-9 pm at the JCC. Opportunities for leadership, athletic, social and community service.

#### JEWISH STUDENT CONNECTION

Grades 9-12. Meets **Tuesdays** at 2 pm at Stamford High in room 925 & **Thursdays** at 2:05 pm at Westhill High in Mrs. Tobias' room.

#### TEMPLE SINAI

**Rosh Chodesh for Girls.** Grades 6-12. Led by Erica Santiago. **Sundays, Mar. 23 & Apr. 6, 12:20 - 2:20pm.** Builds self-esteem, leadership skills and Jewish identity.

### YOUNG KIDS WITH PARENT/CAREGIVER

#### TEMPLE BETH EL

- **Torah for Tots.** Age 5 & under. A fun interactive service with stories, prayers and songs. **Saturday Mar 22, 11:15 am.** Led by Matty Roxx. Free.
- **Tot Kabbalat Shabbat.** Age 5 & under. Older siblings welcome. Music, stories and song led by Cantor George Mordecai and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman. Light Shabbat dinner for kids. **Friday Mar 14, 5:30 pm.** Free.

#### CHABAD

**Tiny Treasures.** Birth to 30 months. Warm Jewish atmosphere. Connect with other moms. Fee: \$15 per class. First class free. **Wednesdays, 9:15 - 10:15 am.** And celebrate Shabbat on Fridays, 10 - 10:45 am with "Got Shabbat?"

#### TEMPLE SINAI

**Tot Shabbat.** Birth to age 7. **Saturday Mar 8, 9 am.** Dancing, singing, praying and playing. With Rabbi TelRav and Cantor Morgovsky. Learn about Shabbat and holidays. Free.

#### BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL

**Mommy, Daddy, Music and Me.** For toddlers. With Jonathan Cahr and Rachel Bahar. **Wednesdays, Mar 12 (with costumes for Purim) & 26, Apr 2 & 30.** Music, movement, nursery rhymes, Jewish songs and story telling. Free.

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

Agudath Sholom: 301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford • (203) 358-2200 • [www.agudathsholom.org](http://www.agudathsholom.org)

BBYO: BBYO Regional Office (203) 389-2127 • [CVR@bbyo.org](mailto:CVR@bbyo.org) • [www.cvrbbyo.net](http://www.cvrbbyo.net)

Chabad: 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 3-CHABAD #418 • [morahleah@chabadstamford.org](mailto:morahleah@chabadstamford.org) • [www.chabadhousestamford.org](http://www.chabadhousestamford.org)

Friendship Circle: 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • Malya Shmotkin • (203) 329-0015 #414 • [Malya@friendshipct.com](mailto:Malya@friendshipct.com) • [www.friendshipct.com](http://www.friendshipct.com)

JCC: Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • (203) 322-7900 • [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org)

JFS: Jewish Family Service, (203) 921-4161 • 733 Summer Street, Suite 602, Stamford • [www.ctjfs.org](http://www.ctjfs.org) • Claire Friedlander (203) 921-4161#109 • [cdfriedlan@aol.com](mailto:cdfriedlan@aol.com)

Jewish Student Connection – Rebecca Shapiro • [rebecca@myjsc.org](mailto:rebecca@myjsc.org) • (914) 481-5505.

Kulanu: Danielle Alexander (203) 321-1373 #104 • [Danielle@ujf.org](mailto:Danielle@ujf.org) • [www.KulanuStamford.org](http://www.KulanuStamford.org)

Temple Beth El: 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203) 322-6901 • [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)

Temple Sinai: 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203) 322-1649 • [www.templestamford.org](http://www.templestamford.org) • Melissa Cohavi • [educator@templestamford.org](mailto:educator@templestamford.org)

## JFS College Ahead!

BY LYNN SALTZ

Jewish Family Service of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien will gather college admissions deans at the Stamford Jewish Community Center on Thursday, March 13, at 7:30 pm, to present the annual College Ahead! program to area parents and teens. "This program has always been eagerly awaited by those interested in hearing about essential elements affecting the college planning process," said Iris Morrison, associate executive director of Jewish Family Service. Claire Friedlander, JFS college consultant, will moderate the panel discussion. JFS College Ahead! is co-sponsored by Jewish Family Service and the Stamford JCC. Everyone in the community is invited to attend at no cost.

Questions commonly posed deal with how to decide whether to apply "early" or "regular" admissions; is it better to take an AP course and risk a "B" grade or take the regular college prep section and probably earn an "A"; should students still take standardized tests if the college states it is "SAT/ACT optional"; how much does applying for financial aid affect the admissions decision; when is the best time to visit a college, etc. Panelists will answer questions from attendees as well.

The admissions deans scheduled to appear are Greg Zaiser, vice president of admission and financial planning, Elon University, NC; Stefano Papaleo, director of undergraduate admission, Lynn University, FL; Mary Ellen Anderson, director of Admissions, Indiana University, IN; and Catherine Capolupo, vice president of enrollment management, Roger Williams University, RI. In addition to giving the audience information about their institutions, including Jewish life on campus, each is prepared to speak about the college admissions issues from a national perspective.

For more information, contact Friedlander at 203-921-4161, ClaireF@ctjfs.org or cdfriedlan@aol.com.

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

*Lynn Saltz is marketing and communications coordinator of the Jewish Family Service of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.*



Mary Ellen Anderson



Catherine Capolupo



Stefano Papaleo



Greg Zaiser

## Managing Mood Without Medicine

### Natural Approaches to Stress, Anxiety and Depression

On Thursday evening, April 3, at 7 pm, at Temple Beth El, three local health care professionals will help provide understanding on the health initiative "Managing Mood without Medicine – Natural Approaches to Stress, Anxiety, Depression and other Mood Disorders." The event is sponsored by the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El and the entire community is invited to attend.

The three specialists on the panel will be Vicki Kobliner, Dr. Nancy O'Hara and Lori Coda, and they will educate and answer questions about issues relevant to all ages.

Kobliner, M.S., R.D.N., CD-N, will speak about nutrition and supplements and their impact on mood. Kobliner is a registered dietitian and owner of Hol-care Nutrition in Wilton. She is a contributing author to "A Compromised Generation: The Epidemic of Chronic Illness in America's Children," an advisory board member and monthly contributor to Natural Nutmeg Magazine, and a member of the nutrition faculty of the Autism Research Institute. Her practice employs a functional nutrition approach, using natural agents to help the body heal itself. Kobliner works with infants through adults who have chronic illnesses, digestive disorders, food allergies, mood disorders, ADHD and autism, and provides fertility and prenatal nutrition counseling.

O'Hara, M.D., M.P.H, will talk about evaluating the risks/benefits of medicines to manage mood and when they are needed. O'Hara is a board certified pediatrician. She has worked with Dr. Sidney Baker and other practitioners in the research and care of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder for many years. Since 1999, O'Hara has dedicated her practice, Center for Integrative Health, in Wilton, to the integrative and holistic care of children with neurodevelopment disorders, ADHD, OCD and Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Coda, M.S., Sp.Ed., will address the benefits of QEEG brain mapping and neurofeedback, and their impact on mood. Coda, is a neurofeedback specialist and behavioral and educational consultant. She has post master's training and certifications in QEEG brain mapping, advanced neurofeedback, therapeutic listening, TEACCH and DTI. She also offers social skills training. She has been in private practice since 1994, and has been working with O'Hara at the Center for Integrative Health since 2000.

The cost is \$10 prior to the event or \$15 at the door. Teens are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Checks should be made payable to Sisterhood of Temple Beth El, and sent to TBE, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford, CT 06902. For questions, contact sisterhood@tbe.org or Cathy Satz at 203-968-9191.



Ever Wonder How You Can  
Have More Impact On Where  
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### New to the 2014 Better Together Annual Campaign!

Pledge \$200 or more and you can divide your contribution among the general campaign and areas that interest you (Impact Areas).

#### The Impact Areas are:

1. Sustaining the programs and work of UJF of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (e.g. The New Jewish Voice, Tapestry, Yom HaShoah).
2. Partnering with Local Agencies, which provides financial support to the 12 local agencies encompassing education, social services, and engagement.
3. Global Jewry, which supports Jews Worldwide. You have an opportunity to further divide your contribution into Israel, Worldwide, and Afula/Gilboa (projects in our sister city).

Learn more about the Impact Areas  
each month in The New Jewish Voice.

If you would like to make a contribution or have any questions,  
please contact Rebekah Raz  
203-321-1373 x102



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# Innovative Middle-School Coding Program at Bi-Cultural

BY MARA DRESNER

While many rely on technology in almost every area of their lives, most have no idea how to create the code that makes things work. In an innovative new program, Bi-Cultural Day School middle-school students are learning computer programming, along with its many practical applications.

"Think about things in your everyday life that use computer science: a cell phone, a microwave, a computer, a traffic light. All of these things needed a computer scientist to help build them," explained science teacher Arnold Rotenberg, who is leading the program. "Computer science is the art of blending human ideas and digital tools to increase our power. Computer scientists work in so many different areas: writing apps for phones, curing diseases, creating animated movies, working on social media, building robots that explore other planets and so much more."

Students are learning the basic concepts of computer science with "drag and drop programming." Rotenberg describes the program as "a game-like, self-directed tutorial."

The students will ultimately design and build a game of their own. "It's just a beginning," he said.

"The Coding Program at Bi-Cultural Day School



Students Sarah Broder and Ashley Shapiro studied a problem.

literally puts education in the hands of our students. It taps into the fundamental interest in technology and helps our students become interactive problem-solvers. With the help of our instructor, students will create a system of codes to execute a specific task on the computer. They will be able to create and utilize algorithms to implement a series of instructions," said Director of Secular Studies Adrienne Robinson.



Arnold Rotenberger watched students (l-r) Zach Kitay, Sarah Broder, Ashley Shapiro and Andrew Ukhanov as they began to approach a problem.

She said that the school is looking into expanding the program to other grades.

"Bi-Cultural Day School is invested in teaching our students how the world around them works. Coding allows them to see how technology can shape the world and gives them the power to change it. It offers incredible reasoning, logic and communication skills," she

See "Coding" on page 16

## What's On for Adults

March & April 2014

Everyone (members and non members) is warmly invited to all events listed. See contact info below for more info, to confirm programs and to register.

See separate pages for Purim (page 4) & Shabbat Across America (page 7)

### OPEN EVENTS

#### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

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

#### AGUDATH SHOLOM

**ANNUAL FESTIVE DINNER**. **Sunday Mar. 23**, 5 pm. Honoring 7 community leaders. See article.

#### JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

#### JCC

• **SPRING GALA: "Soiree Under The Stars."** **Saturday, Mar. 1**. At Hyatt Regency, Greenwich. Honoring Jeannie & Brian Kriftcher. Cocktails, dinner, dancing and silent/live auction.

• **SYLVIA PLOTKIN MEMORIAL MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT**. **Wed., Mar. 26**, 9:30 am. Friendly competition / Serious fun. Or join bridge, scrabble or canasta game. For reservations or info, contact Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

• **MAH JONGG LESSONS**. All levels. **Thursdays**, 1 – 3 p.m. Contact Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org to schedule lessons. Fee: \$35/\$25 JCC member for 5 sessions.

#### TEMPLE BETH EL

• **SHAL-OHM YOGA**. **Thursdays**, 5:30 - 6:45 pm Gentle sequence led by Pamela Tinkham with chanting by Cantor Mordecai. All levels welcome/chair yoga optional. Fee: \$12 p/session/\$10 Members

• **ISRAELI FOLK DANCING: Thursdays**. **Beginners**: 6:45 - 7:30 pm. **Open Session**: 7:30 - 10:00 pm. Fee: \$12/\$10 TBE Member. For info, contact Leng at (203) 912 4086 or leng@ctisraelidance.com

#### TEMPLE SINAI

• **COOKING CLUB**. **Thursday, Mar. 20**, 6:30 – 9 pm. Join chefs Betsy Stone and Randy Skigen for a holiday odyssey of Jewish cooking. Fee: \$36 per session.

• **MAH JONGG GAMES**. **Mondays** 6:30 – 9 pm & **Wednesdays** 1 – 4 pm. No Fee. Bring your own card.

### SINGLES & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

#### CHABAD FOR 20s AND 30s

• **Shabbat Dinner**. Enjoy a four-course meal; be uplifted by Shabbat songs, and inspired by the shared words of Torah. **Friday, Mar. 28**, 7 pm. At the Shemtov Home, 10 Brandt Road. Free.

### ADULT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### UJF'S READING PARTNERS

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

#### JCC

• **KOSHER LUNCH PROGRAM FOR SENIORS**. Help set up and serve lunch on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Contact Connie: (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

• **PURIM CARNIVAL**. Volunteers needed on **Sunday, Mar. 9**, 1 – 4 pm. Contact Virginia Clark (203) 487-0973 or vclark@stamfordjcc.org.

#### JFS DRIVERS NEEDED

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

#### JHS (JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

• **Harry Rosenbaum Judaica Library**. At the JCC. Cover 2 hour slot (or more) once a week. Training provided. Call (203) 487-0957.

• **Help protect the pieces of our Jewish history**: Help Jewish organizations retain their history and documents / info about early settlers. Call (203) 359-2196.

#### HADASSAH TEA@2.

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

### SENIORS

#### JCC SOCIAL SENIOR PROGRAMS

**Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** at the JCC

• **Tuesdays & Thursdays**: Chair Exercise: 10:15 – 11 am. Senior Life Enhancement Classes: 11 – 11:45 am through Apr 10. Topics cover local to international events, health and wellness, Jewish history, unique personal stories etc.

• **Fridays**: Morning Movie: 10 am though Apr 11. Discussions about Israel with Matan Samovsky: 11:30 am.

• **Kosher Lunch** each day, 12 - 1 pm. Birthday luncheon: Mar 25.

• **Thursdays**: Fun and Games, 1 - 3 pm. Mah Jongg, Scrabble, Bridge, Pokeno etc. All welcome. Transportation available for Stamford residents. No prior sign up necessary except 2 day advance reservation required for lunch and transportation. Free except suggested donation for lunch (\$3) and transportation (\$1 each way). For info: Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

#### JCC RETIRED MEN'S CLUB

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

**UJF Jewish Education & Engagement Program**: (203)321-1373 • www.ujf.org

**Agudath Sholom**: 301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford (203)358-2200 • www.agudathsholom.org

**Chabad**: 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203)3-CHABAD #418 • morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org

**JCC: Jewish Community Center**, 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • (203)322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org

**JFS: Jewish Family Service**: (203)921-4161 • Stamford office: 733 Summer St., Suite 602 • Westport office: 431 Post Road East, Suite 11 • www.ctjfs.org

**Jewish Historical Society**: (203)321-1373 #150 • jhslfc@yahoo.com • www.stamfordhistory.org/jhslfc.htm

**Temple Beth El**: 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203)322-6901 • www.tbe.org

**Temple Sinai**: 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203)322-1649 • www.templestamford.org

# Natan's Camp

BY CHANIE TELDON

One of Friendship Circle Director Malya Shmotkin's longtime dreams was realized this past Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Friendship Circle held its first "Family Camp," a program for special-needs children and their siblings, in memory of Natan Warmflash – a volunteer alumnus who passed away three years ago. More than 25 children with special needs and their siblings boarded a bus to Sportime USA in Elmsford, NY, accompanied by six adult chaperones, a therapist and 35 high school volunteers. Sportime USA features 150 arcade games, a rock climbing wall, bumper cars, amusement rides and a three-level indoor playground.

"Only the smell of the pizza lunch could lure them away from their activities," said Shmotkin. "Every child seemed to find something to enjoy. Some children loved

See "Camp" on page 15



A photo is worth 1,000 words – the smiles of Zoe Rothschild and her buddy, Becca Rakowitz, explain it all. In the background are Jojo Sklar and her friend, Gaby Baum. (Photos by Liat Feller)



Allison Mandel (on the right) and her friends Nechama Dina Varnai (middle) and Naomi Fogel (left) took a break to pose, before running to the next activity.



## ADULT EDUCATION

### MARCH & APRIL 2014

Everyone (members and non members) is warmly invited to all events listed. See contact info below for more info, to confirm programs and to register.

#### TEMPLE BETH EL

##### HOPE VS FEAR: A CHANGING GLOBAL LANDSCAPE.

David Harris, Executive Director of AJC and one of the foremost leaders in the Jewish world today will speak on **Thursday, Mar. 13**, 7:30 pm. See article.

##### SACRED ENCOUNTERS

**Tuesdays**, 7:30 pm. Kabbalistic study using "The Lost Princess" by Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. With Cantor George Mordecai. Additional students welcomed. Free. For info, (203) 322-6901 x 303 or cantormordecai@tbe.org.

#### UJF

##### BORN TOO LATE. JEWISH LITERATURE BETWEEN THE BIBLE AND THE MISHNA

**Wednesdays through Apr. 2**, 8 – 9 pm. With Rabbi Molly Karp. At the JCC. Explore works of Jewish literature (the Apocrypha) written 300 BCE to 70 AD and preserved in various Christian bibles. From the return of some Jews from the Babylonian exile through Alexander the Great, the Romans and Herod the Great and the Second Jewish Revolt. Fee \$120.

#### CHABAD

##### LUNCH & LEARN

Kabbalistic insights on different topics that pertain to our lives today. Every **Wednesday** (not 2/19), 11:30 am-12:45 pm. \$5 per class includes lunch

##### JWC "A CANDLE IN THE HEART"

Open To Women. Judith Alter Kallman is a child survivor of World War II. Her moving story will deeply affect the relationship between you and your children. **Monday Mar 31**, 7:45 pm at the home of Sherry Steiner. Fee: \$15/Free JWC Members

##### JWC ROSH CHODESH LEARNING

Open To Women. **Monday Mar 3**, 7:45 pm. At the home of Caren Borowski. Free.

#### JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

##### ARTHUR SZYK: POLISH JEWISH ARTIST IN AMERICA

Speaker: LTC (Ret) David Kaplan. **Sunday, Apr. 6**. Time and place to be announced. For info, Marcie Schoenfeld (203) 359 9148 or Elissa@De-Kaplan.com. Co-Sponsor: the Polish American Society. Free.

##### BOOK TALKS

**Wednesdays** at JCC. Free. For info: Marcie (203) 359-9148.

- **Mar. 19:** 10 am and repeated 7:30 pm. A multi-media program on **Maurice Sendak** who said "Children surviving childhood is my obsessive theme and my life's concern". Presenter: Elissa Kaplan
- **Apr. 9:** 10 am **Menachem Begin: A Life**. By Avi Shilon. The story of Israel's 6th Prime Minister, a Zionist giant who helped shape Israel's destiny. Presenter: Bob Abrams.

#### HADASSAH

##### BOOK CLUB

**Wednesdays**, 7 pm. For location and more info, contact rhonda.greif@gmail.com or (203) 829-9341

- **Feb. 26**, "The Queen's Fool" by Philippa Gregory.
- **Apr. 30**, "Lady at the O.K. Corral: Josephine Marcus Earp" by Ann Kirschner.

#### JCC

##### THE FIRST MAGIC DECADE

Insights Into Your Child's Fantastic Elastic Brain." **Tuesday, Mar. 4**, 7:30 pm. At the JCC. With Joann Deak, Ph.D, nationally recognized educator and psychologist. Early Childhood Scholar-In-Residence Program. Tickets: \$12 / \$10 JCC Members. Purchase at stamfordjcc.org or (203) 322-7900. See article front page.

##### SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL.

Lunch And Learn with Matan Samovsky, Israeli Shaliach. **Thursdays**, 12–1 pm at the JCC. **March 20:** Settlements & The West Bank (and my experience there). **April 24:** Politics in Israel: The Right, The Left, Political Parties & the Last Election. With short videos and time for Q&A. Bring your lunch – dairy desert provided. Free. To register or for info: (203) 487-0961 or msamovsky@stamfordjcc.org.

##### ISRAELI FILM SERIES.

Award-winning films with discussion led by JCC's Israeli Shaliach, Matan Samovsky. **Thursdays**, 7 pm. **Feb 27:** "A Bottle in the Gaza Sea." **Mar. 27:** "Golani – Basic Training Reality". \$5 suggested donation each. To register or for info: (203) 487-0961 or msamovsky@stamfordjcc.org

#### UCONN JUDAIC STUDIES

##### SPRING LUNCH & LEARN SERIES.

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

- **Mar. 6** - Nightfall: German Literature in the early 20th century" by Dr. Sebastian Wogenstein.
- **Mar. 27** - "Black Revolution and the Israeli Model. John A. Williams' Sons of Darkness, Sons of Light (1969)" by Dr. Gregory Pierrot.
- **Apr. 3** - "Reflections On Roth And Nemesis, His Farewell To Writing" by Dr. Sondra Melzer
- **May 1** - "The Afterlife Of A Biblical Figure: King Saul In Hebraic And English Literary Traditions" by Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy

#### AGUDATH SHOLOM

##### DVAR YOM B'YOMO

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

##### PARSHA PERSPECTIVES AND PARADIGMS

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

##### TASTE OF TORAH

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

#### TEMPLE SINAI

##### BEGINNERS' TORAH STUDY

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

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

**UJF Jewish Education & Engagement Program**  
(203) 321-1373  
www.ujf.org  
rabbikarp@ujf.org

**Temple Beth El**  
350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford  
(203) 322-6901, ext. 306  
education@tbe.org  
www.tbe.org

**Chabad**  
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford  
(203) 3-CHABAD, ext. 418  
morahleah@chabadstamford.org

**Congregation Agudath Sholom**  
301 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford  
(203) 358-2200  
www.agudathsholom.org

**UConn Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies**  
1 University Place, Stamford  
(203) 251-9525  
www.stamford.uconn.edu/cjmes  
stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu

**Temple Sinai**  
458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford  
(203) 322-1649  
www.templestainastamford.org

**JCC - Jewish Community Center**  
1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford  
(203) 322-7900  
www.stamfordjcc.org

**Jewish Historical Society**  
(203) 321-1373, ext. 150  
jhsifc@yahoo.com or  
www.stamfordhistory.org/jhsifc.htm

**Young Israel of Stamford**  
69 Oaklawn Ave., Stamford  
(203) 348-3955  
www.yistamford.org

# BCDS Eighth-Graders in Israel

On February 4, Bi-Cultural Day School community leaders, parents, staff and students from pre-kindergarten through grade seven, gathered together in a schoolwide assembly to cheer the eighth-graders as they departed on their month-long trip to Israel. The trip is regarded as one of the top highlights of a BCDS education.



Students and staff eagerly awaited the bus departure to the airport.



The BCDS group posed overlooking Jerusalem.



Jackie Herman gave Talia Shapiro a hug as she got on the bus.

## Bi-Cultural Students Unveil Buddy Bench at Assembly

BY DORA SALM

Students at Bi-Cultural Day School in Stamford are encouraged to stand up for what they believe in, and now they'll sit for it, too. At a schoolwide assembly, which took place on January 29 at BCDS, the eighth-grade students unveiled two large benches (to be known as "buddy benches"), which will be placed on the school's playgrounds to encourage inclusiveness, consideration and social responsibility among the students.

Eighth-grader Josh Appel, one of the students who worked on the project, explained, "We built the benches so that no one would feel alone during recess. When someone feels lonely, they'll sit on the bench. For the younger grades, another student will be assigned to be on the lookout. For the older grades, everyone will be responsible."

The benches are the result of the combined efforts of several of the eighth-graders and parent volunteers from all grades working together on Sundays and over

the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to craft benches from materials such as cinder blocks and wood, finally coated with paint and readied for outdoor installation.

Along with the unveiling of the benches, many other students took to the stage at the assembly to express the school's themes of *ruach* (spirit) and *rayut* (friendship) that make up the school's R2 Program, BCDS's Torah-based character-building and educational approach. This is not new at BCDS, where an assembly is held every month to reinforce the themes of the program. January's theme was "being an ally."

A sixth-grade class at the assembly illustrated the feeling of acceptance, tolerance and standing up for what's right through their piece, "One," based on the award-winning children's book of the same name by Kathryn Otoshi. Sixth-grade teacher Emily Tully worked on the play with her students for more than a month as a lesson that challenged them

See "Buddy" on page 16

At right: Students worked on their evenings and Sundays to build the two benches. Front row, l-r: Hudson Price and Jessica Ostroff. Second row: Josh Appel, Elizabeth Shavrick, Sam Terr and Eddie Weinstein. Back row: Carly Barocus, Sophie Jacobson, Daniel Goldblum and Emma Listokin.



## Calling All PJ Library Parents!



Sammi and Grant Bradley

Send us pictures of your family reading PJ Library books!

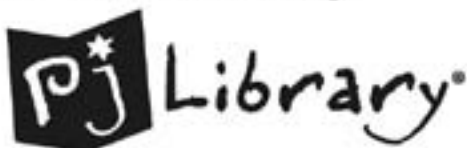
Selected pictures will be displayed in the newspaper and all pictures will be on our Stamford PJ Library Facebook page. Email a hi-res jpeg as an attachment to [Danielle@ujf.org](mailto:Danielle@ujf.org).



Your photo could be here!



Samson, Eve and Gabrielle Poland



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

[www.facebook.com/StamfordPJLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/StamfordPJLibrary)



### Calling all writers!

Volunteers needed to write articles for THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

If you have an expertise in writing and would like to volunteer a bit of your time, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact James Cohen, UJF CEO at [jcohen@ujf.org](mailto:jcohen@ujf.org)



# Zeese! Songs From Second Avenue

BY CAMILLE A. KRAMER

Elliot Weiss, award-winning composer, arranger, music director, pianist and vocalist, along with his wife, soprano Doris Weiss, will perform on Sunday, March 23, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's March featured program. It will be held at Temple Beth El at 10:30 am, with refreshments available from 10 am. The event is free and open to the public.

The program is titled "Zeese! Songs from Second Avenue" after a new album the couple is currently working on. Among their many recordings are "Songs Are All I Have: The Musical Legacy of Vladimir Heifitz." Each performer has earned accolades and awards for years of musical excellence and performed

in an eclectic array of venues.

Doris, with her operatic training, studies with Rosemarie DeCuiitis and grew up surrounded by cantorial music. She performed with her father, noted Cantor Jacob Wisotzek, and the Wisotzek Family Choir. For many years, she was principal vocalist with the Fred Andrews and Hank Joel Orchestras, later joining with musicologist Zalmen Mlotek, artistic director of the Folksbiene, New York's longest running Yiddish Theatre. Doris was a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall with Mandy Patinkin and has also performed with Neil Sedaka. She has performed with the New Yiddish Chorale and performs rare Yiddish musical theater throughout the country.

Elliot, a featured pianist and vocalist



Elliot and Doris Weiss

counts among his many recordings the Audubon String Quartet CD "The Music of Jerome Kern" and "Alec Wilder: Clues to

a Life." Elliot's awards include the Manhattan Association of Cabaret Award, The Madame Freschl Award for Composition and the Eugene O'Neill Award for American Musical Theatre. His Off-Broadway musical "Bittersuite: Songs of Experience," produced with lyricist Michael Champagne, was the Critics Choice in the *Los Angeles Times* for two years. The sequel, "Bittersuite, Songs of More Experience," is slated for a new Off-Broadway production expanding on the original theme of humorously exploring middle age and maturity. Continuing their successful collaboration, Elliot and Michael Champagne are working on a new Broadway bound musical, "The Witch of Wall Street," which explores the life of Hetty Green, the first female

See "Songs" on page 16

## Camp

the challenge of getting more and more tickets, some preferred the enclosed playground, while others couldn't get enough of the rides."

Thanks to volunteers Shani Cohen-Orbach and Lenore Fogel, 15 seventh-graders from Carmel Academy joined the trip as volunteers-in-training, pairing up with a high school mentor volunteer. The students participated as part of a Day of Service in honor of

Martin Luther King Jr. As one student said, "This was the first time I volunteered for the Friendship Circle. I can't wait until I am in high school so that I can continue volunteering! My favorite part was seeing my special friend laugh really hard as he repeatedly went on the rides!"

As the children got off the bus and headed to their parents' cars, everyone said they "felt the joy in the air."

"Natan's legacy continues," said Nechama Dina Varnai, the Friendship Circle program coordinator. "What was so special about Natan's Camp was the fact that so many people were involved. At the Friendship Circle we always say, *together* we can make a difference. Today I saw that happen. From the alumni to Natan's friends, community members to adult volunteers, elementary-school students and high-school students,

everyone came together to give these kids a great time. And that is what the Friendship Circle is all about. I am humbled by the community's involvement and commitment."

To learn more about the Friendship Circle and how you can make a difference in the lives of individuals with special needs, visit [www.FriendshipCT.com](http://www.FriendshipCT.com) or contact Shmotkin at 203-329-0015, ext. 414.

March & April 2014

# SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

## JFS COUNSELING, MEDIATION & CRISIS

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

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

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

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

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

## JFS EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

**JFS Computer Training Courses:** Variety of courses - all levels, individuals or small groups. Nominal fee. Contact Ilene K. Locker: (203) 921-4161 or [iklocker@ctjfs.org](mailto:iklocker@ctjfs.org).

**JFS Seniors2Work:** Job Bank for age 50+. Lower Fairfield employers can list full/part time jobs for dedicated, skilled mature workers. No fees. Call Ilene Locker or Jodi Maxner (203) 921-4161. [www.seniors2work.org](http://www.seniors2work.org)

**JFS Life Transitions: Wednesdays at 11:30 am.** A support group for the unemployed at the Stamford JFS office. Discuss concerns and issues related to job loss and alternative solutions for career satisfaction. Supported by both JFS Counseling and Employment & Training Departments. To register or info: Rebekah Kanefsky (203) 921-4161 or [rkanefsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanefsky@ctjfs.org)

## JCC CARING FOR SENIORS

Additional listings on ADULTS WHATS ON page under SENIORS.

**JCC Support for Blind and Visually Impaired Adults. Thursday Mar 20, 1 - 2:30 pm.** At the JCC. Guest speaker on topics relevant to vision loss. Reservations required. For info, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman: [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org) or (203) 487-0983.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

JFS: Jewish Family Service: 203-921-4161; Stamford office: 733 Summer Street, Suite 602; Westport office: 431 Post Road East, Suite 11. [www.ctjfs.org](http://www.ctjfs.org)

JCC: Jewish Community Center 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford (203) 322-7900 [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org)

## JFS DIVORCE & BEREAVEMENT

**JFS Bereavement Support Group. Wednesday, 10:30 - 11:30 am** at JFS Stamford office. Are you searching for a safe haven to explore your thoughts and feelings about grief? JFS can provide a protected environment that provides emotional, physical, and spiritual support. For info, contact Rosemarie Delia (the facilitator): (203) 921-4161 or [rdelia@ctjfs.org](mailto:rdelia@ctjfs.org)

**JFS Divorce Support Group.** For adults. Discuss all aspects of separation and divorce. At JFS Stamford office **Mondays, 7:45 - 8:45 pm** [facilitated by Kathy Anderson: [kanderson@ctjfs.org](mailto:kanderson@ctjfs.org) (203) 921-4171 x 121] OR JFS Westport office, **Tuesdays 7:45 - 8:45 pm** [facilitated by Alexa Griffin: [agriffin@ctjfs.org](mailto:agriffin@ctjfs.org) (203) 979-0325]. You must register to attend. Call or email. Fee: \$10 per session.

**JFS Divorce with Dignity - Avoid Adversarial Dissolution.** Divorce mediation program at JFS. Contact Eve Moskowitz (203) 921-4161 #122 or [emoskowitz@ctjfs.org](mailto:emoskowitz@ctjfs.org).

**JFS Focus on K.I.D.S.** Program for divorced or separated parents experiencing high conflict around parenting decisions. Teaches both parents strategies for communicating in a non-hostile manner. Contact Erika Garcia, (203) 921-4161 or [erikag@ctjfs.org](mailto:erikag@ctjfs.org)

**Parent Education Program (PEP):** State-mandated workshop for divorcing parents with children. At the Stamford JFS office. \$125 pp. Call (203) 324-3167 for dates and to register.

## JFS CARING FOR SENIORS

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

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

**JFS Residential Cleaning Service:** Employ professionally trained individuals to clean your home and at the same time help support Jewish Family Service. Rates lower or competitive than other service providers. Contact Jodi Maxner (203) 921-4161 or [jmaxner@ctjfs.org](mailto:jmaxner@ctjfs.org).

# Arava Tour Reveals Israel's Pioneering Desert Agriculture Work

BY SYBIL KAPLAN  
JNS.org

Arava, literally meaning “desolate” and “dry area” in Hebrew, on the map is a section of the Jordan Rift Valley, running in a north-south orientation between the southern end of the Sea of Galilee down to the Dead Sea and continuing further south, where it ends at Eilat and the Gulf of Aqaba. It includes most of the border between Israel to the west and Jordan to the east.

The Arava region – 15 miles south of the Dead Sea, past the hotels and 83 miles north of Eilat – is home to the annual agricultural expo called “Desertech,” the largest agricultural expo in Israel, which recently took place for the 23<sup>rd</sup> year. In the actual exhibition area of Desertech are more than 150 agriculture-related exhibitors. A food court, arts and crafts market, and stage with musical performers are all nearby.

There are seven communities in the Arava, five based on agriculture and two on tourism, with 800 families among them. The Arava Agricultural Research and Development Center and the Arava Scientific Research and Development Center hold Desertech near Moshav Hatzeva. (A *moshav* is a cooperative agricultural community of individual farms.)

In the Arava, 600 local farmers are involved in cultivating 10,000 acres of desert land. They produce 150,000 tons of vegetables per year, primarily tomatoes and peppers, but also cherry tomatoes, eggplants and mangoes. Remarkably, 60 percent of fresh vegetables exported from Israel annually come from the Arava. The following are highlights from a recent tour of the region:

#### ARAVA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Leading a tour at the Arava Agricultural Research and Development Center (Arava R&D Center) is Maayan Kitroin, who is in charge of flower research.

“The Arava is a desert climate – hot, long summers, short, dry winters, with the average rainfall 30 millimeters (1.18 inches) a year,” she says. “With essentially no water, as well as poor soil which is a bit salty, water is found by drilling underground.”

The R&D Center supports the Arava’s farmers in their

crop-growing activities and also looks for new crops to bring to the region. In one net house (like a greenhouse, but covered with a net) at the Center are vegetables. A greenhouse nearby has flowers for export. Kitroin notes Trachelium, which she calls “long-day flowers, enjoyed mainly in the British market.” Lights are used to extend the growing time for the flowers each day.

Strawberries in the desert? The Arava R&D Center pulls it off. Strawberries are planted in a cool greenhouse and hung on plastic trellises. They are grown for the local market.

The R&D Center not only investigates vegetables and flowers, but also orchards, organic agriculture, fish, plant protection, herbs and quality control.

For a reservation to tour the R&D Center, e-mail visit@arava.co.il or call 972-53-866-6114.

#### ARAVA SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Dr. Rivka Ophir and her assistant at the Arava Scientific Research and Development Center have a research room with 250 desert plants originating from Eilat to the Dead Sea. Since many plants are the basis for drugs, Dr. Ophir is using the extracts and compounds from these plants on animal models to determine their therapeutic application for human diseases. “Desert plants produce something useful for humans because they survive in harsh conditions,” says Ophir.

Using a zebra fish, she is attempting to study potential value for Lou Gehrig’s Disease, and the Center is also “working with cancer cells to see which plants are good [in the fight] against cancer,” she says. The Center is also using a worm to research brain diseases such as Parkinson’s, and surveying the Arava plant library for possible breast cancer drugs.

#### A CORAL-GROWING FARMER

Seven miles south of the Arava R&D Center is the community of Ein Yahav, where Assaf Shaham began growing corals in 2008 after a career doing lighting design for architects and the stage. “Six years ago, I saw a lot of water is not used because it is too salty, and in 2010 there was an agreement that the removal

See “Desert” on page 19

## Buddy . . . . . Continued from page 14

to be creative writers and critical thinkers. The performance was a culmination of the lesson, presenting an illustration of how to stand up for others that seemed to resonate with students of all grades and ages.

As Tully explained, “I think that I speak on behalf of my entire class when I say that we are all united and it might take more than one person to make a change, but it only takes one person to start a change. Why can’t you be that one?”

Michal Smart, director of Jewish studies at BCDS, expressed the school’s mission of trying to achieve a sense of unity and wholeness by explaining the meaning of the word “shalom,” which comes from the root word of “shalem,” which means whole or complete; this includes a sense of cohesiveness and an absence of conflict. “Treating each other with loving kindness is the most important thing that we can do in a school. For us, Torah is not just an academic subject but a way of life, and is our chief education educational goal, which is to help create not only good students, but good mensches,” she said.



The “buddy bench” was conceived, designed and created by eighth grade students.

## Coding . . . . . Continued from page 12

said. “In the age of digital literacy, it is just one more way we are preparing our students to take on new challenges in and out of the classroom. Technology is everywhere. Our students are digital natives. It is part of the fabric in which they were born; it should be part of their language.”

The students have been enthusiastic about the new program.

“I love seeing how things work, so making my own game and seeing how other games are made is very interesting,” said sixth-grader Avi Shein.

His classmate Sarah Broder noted, “The class has increased my love of computer science.”

Noam Haron added, “I like coding because it teaches you how the computer thinks.”

Robinson agreed that computer coding helps students in a variety of ways, including taking “pragmatic approaches to problem solving. It encourages them to reason and think of cause-and-effect relationships. Coding challenges the higher order thinking skills that are essential to the success of our students,” she said. “It is safe to say that the digital learners of Bi-Cultural Day School will be the digital leaders of tomorrow.”

And, as Rotenberg added, “Code is computer science as it really is!”

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


## Songs . . . . . Continued from page 15

financier and one time the richest woman in America. With librettist Eric Blau, (“Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris”), he composed “Dori-The Life and Times of Theodore Herzl,” an oratorio for chorus and orchestra. Performed all over the country, the piece has been narrated by Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Leonard Nimoy and Theodore Bikel.

Elliot and Doris perform old standards, the songs said to have unforgettable melodies, to audiences throughout the country. According to Edith Neidle, JHSFC board member, “Elliot and Doris are a delightful, versatile and talented team! It will be a treat to hear their renditions of the songs from the Yiddish Theater repertoire.”

Optional registration online is available at <https://jhsfcmarfeaturedprogram.eventbrite.com/>. Click on “sign up with email.” For more information about the program, contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148 or [elissa@de-kaplan.com](mailto:elissa@de-kaplan.com) or check JHSFC’s website at <http://jhsfc-ct.org/programs.html>

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



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# Sharon, One of Israel's Last Warrior Statesmen, Dies

BY RON KAMPEAS

(JTA) – Ariel Sharon, one of Israel's last warrior statesmen, whose military and political careers were woven into his nation's triumphs and failures, has died.

Sharon, 85, died on January 11 at the Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv after eight years in a coma. "He went when he decided to go," said his younger son, Gilad, who has become the fierce guardian of his father's legacy.

He was among the last of Israel's founding fathers, fighting in every Israeli military conflict in the first three decades of the state.

As a military general, Sharon helped turn the tide of the Yom Kippur War with Egypt in 1973. As defense minister, he plunged his nation into the crucible of Lebanon in 1982, an engagement that nearly cut short his career after he was found to bear indirect responsibility for the massacre of Palestinian refugees at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon. But Sharon would rise from the ashes of that calamity to effect an astonishing about-face as prime minister, orchestrating the evacuation of thousands of Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip after spending the bulk of his career championing the settlement enterprise.

As prime minister, Sharon began the construction of Israel's controversial security fence in the West Bank. His overriding concern, Sharon always said, was to protect a nation built on the ashes of the destruction of European Jewry.

"I arrived here today from Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Israel, the only place where Jews have the right and capability to defend themselves by themselves," he said in a May 2005 visit to Auschwitz to mark 60 years since the Holocaust.

He forged bonds with Diaspora Jewish leaders, interspersing his English with Yiddishisms and often urging them to emigrate to Israel.

"Sharon worked his entire life for the unity of the Jewish people," said a statement from the Jewish Federations of North America. "He was closely engaged with Jewish communities around the world, and acutely aware of their needs and aspirations. In all his leadership roles, and especially as prime minister of the Jewish state, Sharon engaged with Jewish communities across the Diaspora."

Lionized and scorned for his bluntness, Sharon was nicknamed "the Bulldozer" both for his tendency to disrespect boundaries and his legendary girth.

Ideological loyalties meant little to the man known in Israel simply as Arik. In 1973, he helped cobble together the Likud party from a coalition of interests that had little in common except that they had been frozen out of government for decades by the ruling Labor party. A generation later, in 2005, he bolted Likud to form Kadima, a centrist party that attracted lawmakers from Likud and Labor, including his old partner and rival Shimon Peres.

As agriculture minister in the first Likud government, from 1977-1981, Sharon vastly expanded Jewish settle-



Ariel Sharon (File photo from JTA)

ment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, areas conquered in the 1967 Six-Day War. In 2005, he led the disengagement from Gaza, overseeing the evacuation of nearly 10,000 Israelis from 21 communities in Gaza and four settlements in the northern West Bank.

"Sharon did what no one on the left was able to do," said Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of the progressive magazine Tikkun. "Split the right, marginalize the extremists who believe that holding on to the biblical vision of the Land of Israel is a divine mandate, and acknowledge that a smaller Israel with defensible borders is preferable to a large Israel that requires domination of three mil-

lion Palestinians."

Born Ariel Scheinermann in 1928 to Russian-speaking parents in the village of Kfar Mala in the central part of prestate Israel, Sharon for much of his career was known more for his impetuosity than his pragmatism.

His bravery in the battle for Jerusalem in Israel's 1948 War of Independence made the infantry unit commander the stuff of legend at the age of 20. He took a bullet to the stomach and, when all seemed hopeless, ordered the soldiers who were able to retreat. He eventually crawled to safety.

Five years later, Sharon led a raid on the Jordan-ruled West Bank town of Kibya in retaliation for a terrorist attack that killed an Israeli mother and her two children. The raid killed 69 Palestinians, half of them women and children. Sharon claimed he hadn't known there were people in the homes he was blowing up, but the stain marked his subsequent military and political careers.

In the 1956 war with Egypt, Sharon captured the strategic Mitla Pass in the Sinai Peninsula after defying orders not to advance. During the 1973 war, he again challenged his superiors who feared crossing the Suez Canal was a risky maneuver that would incur too many losses. But Sharon prevailed, leading his forces across the canal and trapping an Egyptian army unit, a move many consider a turning point in the conflict.

His penchant for insubordination making it unlikely he would ever secure the top military job, Sharon quit the army in 1972 – returning only to fight in the Yom Kippur War – and launched his political career. His ability to keep an unruly coalition in line helped Likud leader Menachem Begin win the 1977 elections, ending the hegemony that Labor leaders had enjoyed since the founding of the state.

Sharon was rewarded with the agriculture portfolio, ostensibly because of his farming roots, but also because he turned the ministry into a cash cow for the settlement movement. After another hard-fought Likud victory in 1981, Begin could hardly deny Sharon the prize he had sought for so long: the Defense Ministry.

A year later, in June 1982, Sharon launched Israel's invasion of Lebanon to push back Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization from its mini-state in southern Lebanon. The invasion rankled both the

Reagan administration, which had brokered a mostly successful cease-fire with the PLO nine months earlier, and Sharon's government colleagues. On Sharon's orders, the army breached the 40-kilometer line the government initially said was its goal, pursuing the PLO all the way to Beirut, where it laid siege to the city.

"If he gets the chance, he'll surround the Knesset with his tanks," Begin once reportedly joked of Sharon.

The Lebanon war also would give birth to one of the darkest stains on Sharon's career – the September 1982 massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees by Israel's Lebanese Christian allies. A state commission subsequently cleared Sharon of knowing in advance of the massacre, but held him indirectly responsible, asserting that he should have anticipated and prevented the carnage.

The commission recommended Sharon's dismissal, and by the beginning of 1983 he was gone from power. The exile would not last long, however. Sharon rebuilt his reputation, this time as a careful nurturer of alliances. He was an architect of the national unity governments that lasted until 1990.

When Likud returned to power in 1996, Sharon became national infrastructure minister and later foreign minister under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Americans and Palestinians alike said they appreciated Sharon's role as an elder statesman who would make sure Netanyahu kept his word. Sharon was critical in achieving the 1998 Wye River Accords that kept the peace process alive through the rest of Netanyahu's term.

In 1999, Labor's Ehud Barak ousted Netanyahu, who temporarily retired from politics, and Sharon became head of the Likud. The following year, Sharon visited the Temple Mount accompanied by a large escort of security officers, inflaming Palestinians and – some have charged – helping to provoke the second intifada.

The uprising derailed Barak's efforts to accelerate peace talks and Sharon was overwhelmingly elected prime minister in February 2001. In a flash, the sidelined statesman and disgraced defense minister, the soldier

See "Sharon" on page 18

## What is JFACT?

The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut speaks with one voice for the nine Connecticut Jewish Federations, four Jewish Community Centers, eight Jewish Family Services, and two Jewish nursing homes in Connecticut. JFACT is the government and community relations arm of the Jewish Federation system in the state, and lobbies for legislation that is of interest to Connecticut's Jewish community of approximately 130,000.

JFACT also advocates for the interests of Connecticut's Jewish community, works in collaboration with a variety of interfaith and secular nonprofit agencies advocating social services to the needy in Connecticut, and promotes statewide advocacy on behalf of Israel at college campuses and Hillels. JFACT also works with the Jewish Community Relations Councils in Greater Hartford and New Haven, and the Federations, to advocate for Israel and the JFNA legislative agenda on the federal level.

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The land only cost of the mission for double occupancy is \$3690 per person.

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\*Leave the U.S. on May 24 and return on June 2.

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# VOICES AND VIEWS

## YOUNG VOICES

### BBYO Kallah: One Day

BY SOPHIE HANDLER

Once every few months I prepare myself for another BBYO convention, excited for what the weekend will bring. In early February, the Connecticut Valley Region BBYO held Regional Kallah, the Judaism-based winter convention that pulled more than 250 teenagers together for three days of meaningful programs and spirit. I can honestly say that despite the 13 other conventions I have attended during my four-year BBYO membership, I was not prepared for how truly inspired and empowered I would feel when this particular weekend was over. Don't get me wrong, CVR has never once failed to provide me with a sense of community and leadership, but this particular kallah was different.

With the theme "One Day" as the basis for all programs and activities of the weekend, attendees were encouraged to start crossing things off their bucket lists as the weekend progressed, as well as add new items. On Friday night, with the help of Jewish rock musicians Sheldon Low and Hadar Orshalimy, we could choose one of three different services to attend, including a meditation service and a sign language service – which gave many members the opportunity to cross "learn a new language" off their bucket lists! Following services, new members were given the opportunity to become



Sophie Handler

regionally inducted. It was a proud moment for both me and my "little sister" whom I was inducting. During this ceremony, every BBG spoke about how one day she would take initiative within her chapter, CVR and her community in order to make an impact in her own way. It was amazing to hear how each girl wanted to positively influence the world, and how many have already started doing so.

Perhaps one of the most special moments of the weekend was *Havdalah* on Saturday night. There's just something so special about standing in a room full of 250 of your brothers and sisters, staring at the *Havdalah* candle in silence, memorializing the 11 Israeli victims of terror during 1972 Munich Olympics. During that extraordinary moment, we declared that one day there would be no targeted attacks on people because of their nationality or religion. There would be no hunger, teenage self-harm, homelessness, school shootings and many more of the things that each individual chapter stands up for.

BBYO teaches teens to love to lead and to speak up for what they want. So on Saturday afternoon when members of the cast of MTV's "The Buried Life" stood in front of our region and asked, "What do you want to do before you die?," dozens of people stood up to announce their plans for the future. What amazed me was that many of these bucket list items were different from the usual "I want to go bungee jumping" or "I want to skydive." They were more along the lines of helping others and making a difference in our community. Throughout the weekend, teen after teen stood up to say that they wanted to inspire other Jewish teenagers to take part in a movement like BBYO that will not only impact our immediate community, but impact the world.

From singing with Sheldon Low to participating in a session on how to stand up to bullying and anti-Semitism, and everything in between, CVR's regional Kallah gave me the confidence and knowledge that one day, starting today, I can change the world.

## Sharon . . . . . Continued from page 17

once marked as brilliant but uncontrollable, was in charge. His contemporaries who had kept him back were dead, retired or marginalized.

Sharon and President George W. Bush, who assumed power at the same time, had an affinity dating to 1998, when Sharon hosted the then-Texas governor on a helicopter flight across Israel and the West Bank. Their friendship culminated in Sharon's greatest diplomatic triumph: the 2004 White House letter recognizing some of Israel's largest West Bank settlements as realities on the ground and dismissing the demand for a "right of return" of Palestinian refugees to Israel.

In 2005, Sharon carried out one of the most astonishing moves of his career, abandoning his longstanding support for Israeli settlements by evacuating thousands of settlers from Gaza and relocating them inside Israel proper. Months after the disengagement was completed, he broke from Likud, much of which had opposed the operation, and formed Kadima.

His appetites, like his personal ambition, knew few bounds. He routinely feasted on grilled meats on Jerusalem's Agrippas Street, known for its late-night eateries. He had gallstones and kidney stones removed, suffered from

## "Jewish Women Connected" Nurtures Local Women

Jewish Women Connected is a program of Chabad House Stamford whose mission is to nurture local Jewish women. JWC gives Jewish women the opportunity to come together throughout the year to study, to create, to explore and to recharge. Women gathered at a private home on December 3 for a Chanukah Package Party and at Pinot's Palette in Stamford on January 13 to "Paint, Draw and More."

The next JWC events are "A Candle in the Heart," featuring a Holocaust survivor's story, on Monday, March 31, a "Women's Shabbat" dinner on Friday, May 16, and a "Garden Party" on Monday, June 9.

For more information, visit [www.ChabadHouseStamford.org](http://www.ChabadHouseStamford.org), e-mail [morahleah@chabadstamford.org](mailto:morahleah@chabadstamford.org) or call 203-3CHABAD.



At the Chanukah Package Party, where prizes were auctioned off to benefit "Loaves of Love" in Stamford and "Migdal Ohr" in Israel, were (top row, l-r): Heidi Bernstein (event co-chair), Jessie Brand (event co-chair), Michal Rubin (peeking over a shoulder), Rivky Kesselman, Nancy Schulman, Deena Sokolov, Vered Links, Shira Nerenberg, Dallice Lazarus, Marcia Braunstein, Elayne Dener, Joselyn Pines and Nechama Hordiner. Bottom row: Dani Shapiro, Taly Farber, Leah Shemtov, Beth Baer, Gail Berman, Rachel Garber and Hillary Isaacs. (Photos by Rachel Weingrow)



L-r: Wendy Beder, Leah Shemtov and Marni Amsellem painted a tree in honor of Tu B'Shevat at "Paint, Draw and More" at Pinot's Palette.

### THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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#### Deadline

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gout and, at 5 feet, 7 inches tall, was extremely obese.

In December 2005, Sharon was rushed to the hospital after aides noticed impairment in his speech. He was released two days later having suffered a mild stroke. Weeks later, in January 2006, Sharon suffered a second stroke that left him in a vegetative state from which he would never recover.

Here, too, Sharon defied expectations, holding on for eight more years, fed by a tube but breathing on his own. About a year ago, scientists reported that Sharon had exhibited brain activity in response to external stimulation, a finding that suggested he might have regained some ability to comprehend what was going on around him. His medical condition began deteriorating significantly in recent days, though, prompting renal failure followed by a decline in organ function.

Throughout his career, Sharon's motivations were a subject of considerable speculation. How could the man who had cleaned Gaza of terrorists as southern commander in 1971 and helped sire the settlement movement wind up endorsing the 2003 road map for peace and evacuating thousands of settlers?

As a soldier and statesman, Sharon

always maintained an acute sense of the possible and the improbable. And unlike some Likud colleagues who were ideologically wed to the notion of Greater Israel, Sharon showed himself capable of putting strategic considerations above other loyalties.

"The Palestinians will always be our neighbors," the man who once bridled at the mere mention of the word "Palestinian" told the United Nations in September 2005. "They are also entitled to freedom and to a national, sovereign existence in a state of their own."

Sharon is survived by two sons: Gilad, 46, who has been a keeper of his father's flame, tending the family farm and publishing a compilation of his father's writings in 2011, and Omri, 49, who served in the Knesset from 2003-2006 and carved out a niche as an environmentalist. Omri Sharon quit because of a corruption probe and served a four-month prison sentence in 2008.

Sharon's first wife, Margalit, died in an automobile accident in 1962. Two years later, he married her younger sister, Lily, who died of cancer in 2000. A son, Gur, from his first marriage died in a shooting accident in 1967.

Matthew Berger and Ben Sales contributed to this report.

## Desert

of corals from the ocean was stopped," Shaham says.

Shaham realized that corals had a biomedical use for bone structures. He began to grow them in large rooms in salt-water-filled tanks, replicating the conditions of the ocean. Shaham says he "maybe the only person growing coral in the world."

Ohad Schwartz – founder and CEO of CoreBone, a company that works with the corals grown by Shaham – says, "We make a patent to give corals a diet to make them grow bone faster." CoreBone's patented technology is a process that embeds bioactive materials into the skeletons of corals during the growth process, to produce a bone substitute that can be used in orthopedic and dental procedures. "We grow [coral bones] at least 10 times faster than nature," Schwartz says.

With human or animal bones, "one risks disease or rejection and synthetics are not strong enough," explains Schwartz. The global market for orthopedic and dental bone-graft substitutes is growing rapidly, particularly due to the demands of the aging population.

CoreBone is waiting approval of the regulatory process in Europe in the next half year, and Food and Drug Administration approval by the end of 2014, to enter the dental and orthopedic markets with specifically grown corals. The Israeli government and the Israeli Office of the Chief Scientist

are helping the project financially. "BLUEPRINT NEGEV"

Since the central Arava is not connected to Israel's national water system, it can only get its water supply through local drillings and reservoirs built by the Jewish National Fund. Recently, the JNF began its "Blueprint Negev" campaign to develop the Negev and to encourage people to relocate there. Specifically for the Arava, in conjunction with the Central Arava Regional Council and the Israeli government, JNF is building a medical center for health services and emergency care. It will replace the 40-year-old clinic there.

### THOUSANDS OF DATE PALMS

Standing at dusk in a date plantation, surrounded by thousands of date palms that are 18 meters (59 feet) high, was an awesome experience for those of us on the tour. Itay Asael of Moshav Tzofar was our guide. He explained that the farmers in the five agricultural-based Arava communities manage the date plantations together, some growing since the 1970s. The trees produce one to one-and-a-half tons per acre, primarily of the plump and tender medjool variety.

Asael told us, "Date palms are both female and male. The primary purpose of male date palms is as pollinators, and one male is enough to pollinate 100 females."

These trees yield approximately 150 kilos (330 pounds) per tree, per year. Asael

says these dates "are exported to Europe and the U.S., but we are now reaching into markets in China and India."

### PICK YOUR OWN ORGANIC VEGGIES

A fun, final stop in the Arava is the

Meloh Ha'tenne greenhouse, specifically for tourists. For a nominal amount, you can pick your own tomatoes and peppers. To make a reservation, call 972-52-291-3379 or 972-52-366-6606.

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# PASSOVER 2014 Greetings

**Deadline: March 7** (April issue)

Passover is traditionally a time for sharing with family, friends and strangers. While your seder table may not be large enough to fit all these people, you can share the warmth of this holiday with the entire local Jewish community by placing a Passover greeting in *The New Jewish Voice*. You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$18 (styles C, E & F), the medium one is \$34 (styles A, B & D) and the largest one (style G) is \$68.

To ensure that your greeting is published, simply fill out the form below and choose a design that you would like to accompany your greeting, or contact Bonnie Rozen at 1-800-779-7896, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergroup.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergroup.org). Checks can be made payable to *The New Jewish Voice* and sent to: *The New Jewish Voice*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

Wishing you and your family peace, health and happiness this Pesach

Your Name(s)

**Happy Passover!**

Your Name(s)

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Your Name(s)

May your Passover seder be joyous!

Your Name(s)

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach

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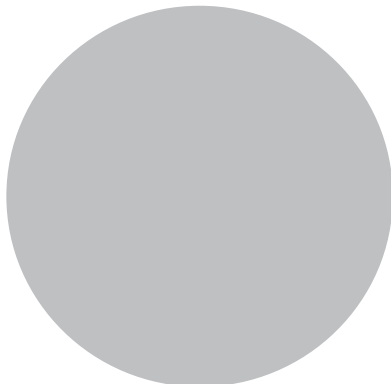
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louisiana



## Connect, Explore & Celebrate

TribeFest is an entertaining, interactive and educational celebration that will draw over 1,500 Jewish young adults (ages 22-45) from across North America. TribeFest will reflect the vibrant setting of its host city, New Orleans, offering meaningful, fun and top-quality content. Through presentations of dynamic leaders in politics, entertainment, music, art, food, religion and other aspects of Jewish life, TribeFest will offer attendees many ways to connect to their own Judaism and how they see themselves as part of the community.

Contact Danielle Alexander at [Danielle@ujf.org](mailto:Danielle@ujf.org) or 203-321-1373 ext. 104 for more information.



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