

UJF 2014 Honor Roll
United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is pleased to publish its 2014 Honor Roll to publicly thank the individuals, families, foundations and businesses who have made gifts to the 2014 Better Together Annual Community Campaign and Special Programs to help fund the important Jewish causes supported by UJF. Please turn to insert.

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GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

Reflections on a Famous Grandfather – Marc Chagall

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

Art historian, costume and mask creator, and floral designer Bella Meyer will speak about her grandfather, Marc Chagall, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's March Featured Program. Meyer recalls her earliest memory of her grandfather, "[He would] take our fingers as if to understand who we were... he was a very tactile person." The program, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Sunday, March 29, at Temple Sinai, 458 Lakeside Dr., Stamford, starting at 1:30 pm with refreshments at 1 pm. The program is being held in memory of Edythe Siegel, z"l, JHS member and former program



Bella Meyer, granddaughter of Marc Chagall

chair, who was a collector of art, especially Jewish folk art. Temple Sinai is a co-sponsor of the program.

Throughout her life, Meyer has been immersed in the world of art and has always painted. She was born in Paris and raised in Switzerland. She left Switzerland the day she graduated high school, moving to Jerusalem. After studying art history and obtaining her Ph.D. in medieval art history from the Sorbonne,

Meyer taught art history, wrote numerous academic papers and lectured about her grandfather's work. When she was invited to take on responsibilities for the Visual Arts at the Cultural

See "Chagall" on page 2

Community Celebrates Together

Shabbat Across Stamford

BY MARCIA LANE

"On March 13, the Stamford Jewish community will do something ordinary and something extraordinary," said UJF Executive Director James Cohen. "We will gather to celebrate Shabbat, as Jews do every Friday evening in every place around the globe. But in a change from our usual routine, we in Stamford will be under one roof; specifically, the roof of Rippowam Middle School on High Ridge Road."

Working in coordination with the National Jewish Outreach Program (or NJOP) and its Shabbat Across America program, the Stamford Board of Rabbis and United Jewish Federation have collaborated to create the event. Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist and unaffiliated Jews will come together to celebrate Shabbat. There will be candle-lighting, followed by two services—one Orthodox, with a musical style inspired by the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, and one progressive, with musical instruments and prayer. Then everyone will sit down to a catered, kosher Shabbat dinner, complete with *zemirot* (songs) and blessings. Activities will be available for children of all ages, and teens can volunteer to help or hang out. This is a family Shabbat, which welcomes everyone.

The highlight of the evening will be the appearance of UJF Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. Rabbi Telushkin is the author of dozens of books, including "Jewish Literacy: the Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People, and Its History," "A Code of Jewish Ethics," "Jewish Humor: What the Best Jewish Jokes Say about the Jews" and

"Words That Hurt, Words That Heal: Choosing Words Wisely." He is the author of novels and screenplays, and is widely acknowledged to be one of our greatest (and most entertaining) Jewish speakers and teachers. His presentation will be followed by a dessert reception-and-schmooze.

"It is such a rarity – unprecedented here—for Jews across the denominational spectrum to come together in this manner," said Rabbi Joshua Hammerman of Temple Beth El. "It is a celebration not only of Shabbat, but of Jewish diversity itself." Rabbi Jay TelRav of Temple Sinai agreed and added, "It was heartening to realize that the mutual respect between us translates into a desire to bring our communities together."

"That was my vision," said Shabbat Across Stamford Chair Linda Spilka. "To bring everyone together for a really beautiful Shabbat. This is a family Shabbat which welcomes everyone." Spilka has worked with UJF staff and the Board of Rabbis for more than a year to make that vision a reality.

The collaboration between the congregations extends beyond the service to include all aspects of the evening, after-dinner blessings, transportation and hosting for families who need accommodations within walking distance to Rippowam Middle School. Even the school itself has been part of the collaboration. "We're delighted to have this special event at our school," said Principal Jason Martin. "In order to help facilitate participation by walkers, the school is graciously allowing people to leave cars in the school lot until after Shabbat on Saturday evening."

See "Together" on page 2

Japan and Israel Establish Closer Ties

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ

TOKYO (JTA) – Reading his Japanese-language newspaper over breakfast, Rabbi Mendy Sudakevich spotted an ad for a self-help DVD titled "Get rich like the Jews."

"Almost anywhere else in the world, such an ad—published in several widely read Japanese dailies—would have been deemed antisemitic incitement," noted Sudakevich, an Israel-born Chabad emissary who settled in Tokyo in 2000. But in Japan, he and others said, it's something akin to a compliment. "[T]he takeaway is that Jews, and Israel by extension, should be emulated and embraced," said Ben-Ami Shillony, a

historian and lecturer on the Far East at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Indeed, Japan's government – buoyed by the population's generally positive bias toward Jews – has been actively seeking stronger economic ties with Israel. That's especially true now that the nation's decades-long dependence on Arab oil is waning due to America's increased energy production and Japan's decreased reliance on fossil fuels.

In 2014, trade between the two nations rose by 9.3 percent to \$1.75 billion, according to Israel's Ministry of Economy. Warmer relations also

See "Japan" on page 2

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Hadassah Installs Officers

On January 20, Hadassah Connecticut President Sally Kleinman installed the new officers of the Stamford Chapter of Hadassah. L-r: Karen Resnick, Irma Paull, Rhonda Ginsberg, chapter President Rhonda Greif, Allison Greenbaum and Kleinman.

See page 15 for article.

Preparing for The Long Game

BY JAMES A. COHEN

When I went off to college, which despite what my children think was not all that long ago, my parents had to worry about my learning how to do laundry and balance a checkbook. Perhaps they were kept up at night wondering if I was studying. But I can say with certainty that they were not seized with fear over my having to deal with antisemitism on campus or formulating responses to ugly campus trends like the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement. In less than a generation, the climate on hundreds of campuses across the nation has changed for the worse. As a people, and as committed supporters of Federation, we need to do something about it.

On the national level, the Jewish Federations of North America is doing a great deal. In addition to the amazing support the Federation system



James Cohen, UJF CEO

provides multiple on-campus and youth-oriented organizations. JFNA has taken concerted steps to address the problem. Thanks to donors like us, JFNA was able to support a joint initiative of Hillel International and the Jewish Agency to bring a cadre of Israel Fellows alumni to bolster professional staff resources on 25 college campuses last fall. JFNA has also supported the Jewish Agency's Makom Education Unit by providing workshops for professionals and individuals on 30 campuses across the country. In addition to providing funding, JFNA has also convened The Israel on Campus Coalition; a professional leadership forum tasked with coordinating all agency efforts so that the problem is addressed without duplication of effort.

On the local level, our Federation is not shrinking from this critical task. Funding in 2014 to

organizations that prepare students to deal with antisemitism in the academic setting and that help teens discover their Jewish identity increased significantly. Our Federation recognizes the incredible value of all of our partner institutions and local agencies who work in this field. Following JFNA's national example, we intend to convene the community to discuss how we can secure our children's futures better together. Stay tuned for more information on that community dialogue in future issues of *The New Jewish Voice*.

With 25 new chapters of "Students for Justice in Palestine" opening on campuses in 2014 (bringing the total to 154 campus chapters) and BDS debates heading for votes at Stanford, UC Davis and Northwestern, we simply cannot be complacent. If we are going to win the long game for our kids, and ensure a safe and neutral environment in which they can learn, grow and reach their potential, the time to act is now.

Chagall

Services of the French Embassy, she moved to New York. She became involved with costume design and mask-making for a number of theatre performances. In addition, she produced her own puppet show productions, including creating the puppets.

According to Ralph Gardner Jr. in an interview for *The Wall Street Journal*, it was a chance request by some friends to design a chuppah for their wedding that led to her current artistic endeavors. A trip to the flower district turned into the revelation that "there's nothing in the world as rich and extraor-

inary and mysterious as flowers." Meyer's passion for beauty and aesthetics led her to become a floral designer. She founded FleursBELLA, a floral design and décor company in 2005, focusing her talents on creating floral arrangements much in the way an artist paints.

According to Eva Weller, president of the Jewish Historical Society, "We are indeed fortunate to have such a rare opportunity for our community to be

Together

Shabbat Across America is the brainchild of Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, who was the founder of NJOP. The very first Shabbat Across America was launched in 1997. Members of the local community say they are excited to be among the more than 450 congregations and communities that will be celebrating this year. Reservations can be made at ujf.org/sas or by calling Marcia Lane at 203-321-1373, ext. 104.

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Japan

yielded several recent joint memoranda on enhancing cooperation on research, trade, tourism and even security cooperation – an area that successive Japanese administrations regarded as taboo for fear that it would anger oil-rich Arab nations.

And in Japan, government policy has a substantially larger impact on private firms than in the West, Shillony said. This was evidenced in the decisions by nearly all the large Japanese carmakers not to enter the Israeli market until the 1990s, when the Arab oil boycott – a set of sanctions applied against nations that did business with Israel – began to loosen, he added.

Japan's new certainty owes to the arrival in October of U.S.-produced shale oil, which is expected to put the United States ahead of Saudi Arabia as the world's largest exporter of black gold. As production in the United States nears the projected rate of 11.6 million barrels a day by 2020, exports to Japan are expected to grow far beyond the current level of 300,000 barrels a month. At the same time, Japan is increasingly relying on green energy.

More evidence of warmer ties between Israel and Japan: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's official visit to Tokyo in May, where he and his wife, Sara, dined with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife, Akie, at Abe's residence. Their meeting exceeded its allotted time – unusual for a state visit in Japan.

Abe, a center-right politician whose career and worldview in many respects align with that of Netanyahu, is heading to Israel later this month in the first state visit of its kind in nine years for a Japanese leader. Netanyahu's predecessor, Ehud Olmert, visited Japan in 2008.

"I am determined, together with Prime Minister Netanyahu, to make further efforts to strengthen Japan-Israel relations, so that the potentials are fully materialized," Abe told the media in Tokyo during his meeting with Netanyahu.

The feelings appear to be mutual. On January 4, Netanyahu's Cabinet approved a series of measures aimed at boosting trade to the tune of several tens of millions of dollars. Israel will open an Economy Ministry office in Osaka and increase by 50 percent government grants for joint Israeli-Japanese research projects.

For Abe, strengthening ties with Israel is part of a larger vision for enhancing innovation and diversifying Japan's highly centralized industries and markets in an attempt to reverse its declining economy and creeping inflation, according to Shillony. In Abe's

Continued from page 1

privy to a unique and personal perspective on this world renowned Jewish artist!"

For more information about the program, contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148 or elissa@de-kaplan.com, or check out the JHS website at <http://jhsfc-ct.org/history.html>.

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

Continued from page 1



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on May 14, 2014. (Photo by Kobi Gideon/GPO)

Japan, the historian added, Israel is a particularly valuable partner because its unique expertise in defense and military technologies fits his plan for beefing up Japanese military capabilities against an increasingly defiant North Korea.

The Arab Spring of 2011 also changed Japan's view of the region in Israel's favor, according to Naoki Maruyama, a professor of history at Japan's Meiji Gakuin University. "With the region falling into chaos and internal strife, Israel stands out as the exception – and the place in which to invest," he told JTA.

Abe's economic doctrine of openness, which analysts often call "Abenomics," already is changing the reality of doing business in Japan as a foreigner, according to Yoav Keidar, an Israeli businessman who has been working in Japan for the past 25 years. "Once the main bottleneck for foreign firms, the government is now actively helping those firms overcome other blockages," he said. "In Japanese terms, this is nothing short of a revolution." In Keidar's case, the government fast-tracked permits for his telemedicine service – a vetting process that would have taken years in the past, he said.

Despite the dramatic increase in trade between the two nations, it's still some 30 percent lower than Israel's trade with South Korea, one of Japan's main competitors. That competition is another factor enhancing Israel's appeal in Japan, according to Peleg Lewi, head of mission of Israel's embassy in Tokyo. "It did not escape Japanese industrialists and officials that Israel still has much stronger trade with some of Japan's strongest competitors," Lewi said. "At a time when giants like Samsung, Intel and Google are operating research centers in Israel, Japan is beginning to feel left out."

SAVE THE DATE!
Israel/Diaspora Dialogue
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COMMUNITY NEWS

JCC's Gala Honors Community Leaders

BY LUISA VILADAS

At its annual spring gala on Sunday, March 8, the Stamford Jewish Community Center will honor community leaders Sue McGraw, Garry Feldman, Craig L. Price and Jeannie Kasindorf.

The JCC Spirit and Light Award will be given to McGraw for her work with young children. McGraw is the longtime director of JumpStart, the early childhood education program for children with special needs.

McGraw has served as the director of JumpStart since the program was part of Stamford's Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. In 2004, JumpStart moved to the JCC, where McGraw leads a program that "helps children explore and enjoy their broadening worlds, always remembering the joy and laughter of being a child."

McGraw also serves as president of the Board of Directors of Pegasus Therapeutic Riding, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Darien Library.



Garry Feldman



Jeannie Kasindorf



Sue McGraw



Craig L. Price

Feldman and Price will receive JCC Community Leadership Awards for exceptional leadership for the benefit of the JCC and the community at large.

Feldman has served on the JCC's Board of Directors since 2005, and has spearheaded numerous events and initiatives. He is the chairman of the board of the Stamford Chamber of Commerce, and the founder and chairman of Techcycle.org, an organization that distributes free computer equip-

ment to students in need. He serves on the board of The Workplace, which helps local residents find employment in Connecticut. Feldman also serves on the board of Junior Achievement and as president of the board of the Newfield Swim and Tennis Club.

Price serves on the Board of Directors of the JCC, where he has chaired

and served on many program and event committees. He is a fellow of the JCC Association's Esther Leah Ritz Emerging Leadership Program, as well as UJF's Behrend Institute for Leadership. A member of the board of advisors of Chabad Lubavitch of Stamford and Chabad House of Stamford, Price is also active with the Parent's Association board at Bi-Cultural Day School.

The JCC Presidential Award of Excellence will be given to Kasindorf for her "unsurpassed leadership of JCC community programs."

Kasindorf has served on the JCC's Board of Directors since 2007, and currently serves on the Executive Committee as secretary. She chaired the JCC's Community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration for three years, co-chaired the Volunteer Committee for the Stamford

See "Gala" on page 6

Young Israel Brunch Honors Local Leaders

BY MICHAEL FELDSTEIN

Rabbi Naftali Wolfe, Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov, and David Nachman will be the featured honorees at Young Israel of Stamford's Double Chai Annual Brunch, to be held at the Crowne Plaza Stamford on Sunday, March 8. Young Israel, which was founded in 1979, will be marking its 36th anniversary this year.

Rabbi Wolfe, who will be awarded this year's honor by the synagogue, is currently the Judaic Studies Scholar-in-Residence at Carmel Academy. He was the spiritual leader of Young Israel of Stamford, and continues to teach classes there and help out in fulfilling rabbinic duties. He is married to Navah Wolfe, who is an editor of children's books at Simon

and Shuster. The Wolfes have two children, Eliora and Ronen.

Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov will be given the synagogue's community service award. They both have been fixtures at Chabad of Stamford for more than two decades, and serve the entire Jewish community with their brand of outreach and hospitality.

David Nachman, who has worked as a youth leader for the synagogue for the past few years, will be receiving the synagogue's youth honoree award, in which deserving teens annually receive recognition for their efforts on behalf of the shul.

"We are very pleased to be honoring several deserving individuals, all of

See "Brunch" on page 4



David Nachman



Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov



Rabbi Naftali Wolfe

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The Pursuit of Harmony

BY CANTOR MICAH MORGOVSKY

Is it possible to turn an enemy into a friend? Is it possible to feel compassion for someone you have always feared?

On Saturday, March 14, at Temple Sinai in Stamford, Michael Hunter Ochs, an award winning Jewish American songwriter/producer, will be joined on stage by Cantor Micah Morgovsky and members of Ruach, Kolot Sinai and Ruju, the temple's band, choir and youth ensemble, for an evening of song and conversation. Ochs will retrace his steps between Israel, the West Bank and Jordan in "The Pursuit of Harmony" through songs, personal stories, photographs and video.

Ochs is recognized as a breakthrough composer in Jewish music. His melodies can be heard in synagogues around the world and he is often commissioned to write original compositions for various congregations throughout America. He has performed at international Jewish institutions, including London's Leo Baeck Rabbinical College, the Union for Reform Judaism's Biennial and The Jewish Museum of Berlin.

Additionally, Ochs has established himself as one of the most versatile songwriters in America today. His music, in addition to topping music charts across the globe, is featured in numerous major motion pictures and television soundtracks. His song "In Her Eyes" was recorded by international superstar Josh Groban and the soul-filled "On My Knees" was awarded

Song of The Year honors from both the Gospel Music Association and the Nashville Songwriters Association International, and spent 14 weeks at #1. Ochs' music can be heard on the movie soundtracks for "The Sisterhood of The Traveling Pants" trilogy, and on the television shows "The Simpsons" and "True Blood." He frequently travels around the globe to write for various pop stars, and his songs have been recorded by international entertainers such as Helene Fischer, the number-one selling artist in Germany, Austria, Denmark and Switzerland; Natalie Grant; and M Callahan, recently named a 10 Best Male Country Artists to Watch 2014.

As a founding member of the band The Pursuit of Harmony, Ochs has been writing and performing in the Middle East and Europe with a group of Palestinian, Israeli, Jordanian and Norwegian songwriters and recording artists. They play to sold-out crowds, bringing their message of change and hope to audiences around the world. Ochs (The Pursuit of Harmony) has performed at the United Nations, the National Prayer Breakfast (at the invitation of Congress), and at various embassies and capitals around the world.

Temple Sinai is honored to welcome Ochs to perform for the Greater Stamford community. The suggested donation is \$36, with additional sponsorship opportunities available. Contact the Temple Sinai office at 203-322-1649 to reserve seats today.

Brunch.....Continued from page 3

whom have given their time and energy to our *shul* and to the larger Stamford Jewish community," said Jen Rosenfeld, who is co-chairing the brunch with Sharon Feldstein.

In conjunction with the event, the synagogue will be publishing an adjour-

nal for those who wish to congratulate the honorees and to wish mazel tov to Young Israel on its 36th anniversary.

To find out more about placing an ad in the journal or attending the dinner, e-mail Rosenfeld at yisbrunch2015@gmail.com.

One Step Closer

JSS Building Reaches New Heights

Local seniors are one step closer to enjoying Connecticut's first "household model" senior care building featuring assisted living, a skilled nursing home, hospice care and a full range of senior care services—now that the final steel beam has been placed atop the new Jewish Senior Services building on the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg campus.

The January 22 topping-out ceremony, a construction tradition in which the highest and last piece of steel is hoisted atop the building's frame, marked the structural completion for the new \$75 million, 372,000 square-foot building, set to open in spring 2016.

The new campus is on the former site of the Jewish Community Center at 4200 Park Ave., Bridgeport. Perkins Eastman is the architect and KBE Building Corporation is construction manager at risk.

"We are a little more than a year

away from completion of a campus that will transform long-term care," said Andrew H. Banoff, president and CEO of Jewish Senior Services. "Everyone is excited about the move to the new campus, but, of course, we continue to focus on continuously providing the absolute best care to our current and incoming residents."

Before being hoisted by crane into place, the final beam was taken to the current Jewish Home in Fairfield, the state's largest five-star nursing home, and signed by hundreds of residents, staff members and construction team members. As part of the topping-out ceremony, the construction team also hoisted an American flag and a tree atop the building to symbolize pride and the building coming to life, respectively.

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



Steel workers placed the last beam onto the new Jewish Senior Services building during the topping-out ceremony on January 22. (Photos by Regina Madwed, Capitol PhotoInteractive)



The last steel beam signed by hundreds of Jewish Senior Services board members, volunteers and employees, and KBE Construction employees and contractors just before being raised to the top of the new Jewish Senior Services building scheduled to open in spring 2016.

UConn Judaic Studies Spring Series

BY REBECCA ISENSTEIN

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford will offer its Lunch and Learn Series again this spring, with lectures encompassing a cross-section of Judaic culture, literature and history. The series will begin on Thursday, April 16, with the Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Annual Lecture: "The Vilna Gaon and his Students: Reason and the Radicalization of Religion in Modernity" by Dr. Elyahu Stern.

Professor of religious studies and Judaic studies and history at Yale University, Stern specializes in the transformation and development of traditional and religious worldviews in Western life, particularly focusing on modern Eastern European Jewry, Zionism, secularism and religious radicalism.

Of note for art appreciators, the second lecture on Thursday, April 23, will feature the Professor Renee Kahn for the Edith Samers and Edward Smith Lecture: "Chagall from Paris to Moscow: The Russian Jewish Theater Years." Kahn

is a retired professor of art history at UConn-Stamford, has shown her own work at almost 100 shows throughout New England and is a founder of the Loft Artists Association based in Stamford.

For film buffs, on Thursday, April 30, the third lecture will feature film educator and historian Dr. Eric Goldman, for the Saul Kwartin Memorial Lecture: "The Coming of Age of America's Jews (1946-1966): Reflections from the Cinema." Goldman is professor of cinema at Yeshiva University and a contributing film reviewer for New Jersey's *The Jewish Standard*. Goldman

is former director of the Jewish Media Service, where he helped launch the concept of Jewish television programming and film festivals across North America. He has developed and moderated film programs at a variety of



Dr. Eric Goldman, co-host of the series "The Projected Image: The Jewish Experience on Film" on Turner Classic Movies and upcoming lecturer at UConn-Stamford.

institutions, including the Jewish Museum, the Center for Jewish History and the 92nd Street Y in New York City. This past September, he joined Robert Osborne on the Turner Classic Movies cable television network to co-host and program the five-week series "The Projected Image: The Jewish Experience on Film."

Wrapping up the series on Thursday, May 14, the Center's own Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy will present the Maria and Ishier Jacobson Annual Lecture: "Arguing with God: The Jobian Voice in Judaic Literary Tradition."

Aschkenasy is professor of comparative literary and cultural studies at the University of Connecticut, where she teaches courses in Israeli and Middle Eastern literature, Bible, women's studies, and English literature at the Stam-

ford campus, and graduate courses in literature and politics and literature and religion at the Storrs campus. This spring, Aschkenasy will offer a new course, "Jewish American Literature and Culture," an interdisciplinary study of literary and artistic productions by and about Jews in the U.S. from arrival to the present, reflecting the Jewish experience and historical journey from marginality to mainstream. The course will include a special guest lecture by Goldman, "Iconic American Filmmakers: The Jewish Contribution."

For more information or to register for the series (\$50 including lunch), or to join the Center's mailing list and receive updates on courses and program offerings, contact the Center's office at 203-251-9525 or stamford-judaicstudies@uconn.edu.

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

Photo Exhibit Captures the Reality of Cyprus Camps

When Holocaust Survivors were Denied Aliyah

BY STEPHNE BEHREND

AJC Westchester/Fairfield and the Consulate General of Cyprus in New York are mounting a month-long photo exhibit at Temple Shalom in Greenwich. The 44 photographs, taken between 1945 and 1948, honor the story of the more than 51,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors who tried to make *aliyah* to what was then Palestine. Instead, they were forcibly relocated by the British

to refugee camps in Cyprus. With the establishment of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948, the refugees were finally welcomed into Israel and became part of the founding generation of the new Jewish state.

The entire community is invited to the opening of the exhibit on Wednesday, February 25, at 7:30 pm. The consul general of Cyprus in New York, His Excellency Ambassador Vasiliou Philip-

pou, and the deputy consul general of Israel in New York, Amir Sagie, will address the audience. Philippou was honored in 2013 for his endeavors in strengthening the relations between Israel and Cyprus.

The exhibit will continue through March. It will be open to the public Monday-Thursday, 9 am-4 pm; Friday 9 am-3 pm; and Sundays, 9 am-noon. Admission is free. During this period,

AJC is planning to offer docent tours for adults. It is also inviting school and youth groups to visit the exhibition. Manny Birnbaum, a Stamford resident, spent time at a refugee camp in Cyprus before being allowed into Israel and will share his recollections of that time. AJC is also seeking other people who might have their own Cyprus refugee stories to share.

See "Exhibit" on page 6

SAVE THE DATE!

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?



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The JCC is a recipient agency of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan & Darien, and the United Way of Western Connecticut.

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Join Carmel Academy for our annual Erev Tov Celebration

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BITS AND PIECES

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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



MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Daniella and Mitchel Balsam on the birth of a son.

Jessica and Adam Batkin on the birth of a daughter, Gila Bracha Batkin.

Katie and Matthew Bloom on the birth of a daughter, Adina Virginia Bloom; grandparents are **Barbara and Gary Bloom**; great-grandmother is **Pearl Bloom**.

Liz and Alex Dancho on the birth of a son, Maxwell Henry Dancho; grandparents are **Carole Brafman and Mike Sharpe**.

Jessica and Adam Furmansky on the birth of a daughter.

Melissa and Andy Rosen on the birth of a son, Ezra Ian Rosen; grandparents are **Arlene and Carl Rosen**.

Lauren Shapiro and Santosh Chitalia on the birth of a daughter, Sophia Santosh Chitalia; grandmother is **Evie Shapiro**.

Rena and Shane Solomon of Jerusalem on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Sharon and Rabbi Steven Ziskin** of South Africa; great-grandparents are **Rosalyn and Alan Ziskin**.

Amanda and Scott Strother on the birth of a son, Asher Warren Strother; grandparents are **Cindy and Steven Warren**; great-grandmother is **Susan Warren**.

MAZEL TOV TO:

Isabelle Abrams and Benjamin Jacobson on their engagement; parents are **Robert and Marjory Abrams, Sally Wasserman, Henry Hecht and Tammy and Stuart Karu**; grandparents are **Harold Abrams, Rita Edelston and Dorisanne and Jack Wasserman**.

Kim Gordon and Andrew Pia on their engagement; parents are **Nan and Paul Gordon**.

Emma Shavrick made the dean's list at Muhlenberg College; parents are **Sharon Franklin and David Shavrick**.

Paula Snyder and David Giver on their engagement; parents are **Gail and Michael Snyder** of Annapolis, MD, and **Pat Connor and Dave Giver**.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Rebecca Alper, daughter of **Robyn and Jerome Alper**.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Penny Block on the loss of her mother, Felice Lesser.

Mark Bolinsky, Barbara Pittman and Eileen Bolinsky on the loss of their father, Nathan Bolinsky.

Michael Horowitz and Evan, Seth and Justin Horowitz on the loss of his wife and their mother, Penny Horowitz.

David Leferson and Susan Leferson on the loss of their mother, Pearl Leferson.

Barry Luden on the loss of his father, Mayer Luden.

Israel Lustig on the loss of his father, Rabbi Yeshoshua Yonatan Lustig.

Barbara Novak and Robin Nack, Brad Novak and Debby Vellozzi on the loss of her husband their father, Lawrence Novak.

Genevieve and Murray Weingrad on the loss of their daughter, Linda Stark.

Vivian Wishingrad and Andrea Katz on the loss of their mother, Steffi Maurer.

Madelyn Yale and Bruce, Jay and Neil Putterman on the loss of her husband and their father, Seymour (Sy) Putterman.

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.

A Grateful Client Thanks JFS



Alan Unger, a JFS client, accepted several bags of food from Rebekah Kanefsky, JFS case manager. The supplies, from the JFS Kosher Food Pantry, were to help make ends meet and included Chanukah gifts donated by the Brandeis Women's Committee mitzvah project and Chabad Stamford. JFS provides Unger with services through its Case Management and Counseling departments. JFS Case Management offers comprehensive assistance to families and individuals needing supportive aid. These services include housing options, emergency financial support and basic necessities, such as food and emergency shelter. For assistance, contact Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or rkanevsky@ctjfs.org.

Gala Continued from page 3

2006 JCC Macabbi games, co-chaired the Spring Gala Journal Committee from 2012-14, has served on the Board of Director's Nominating Committee, and has volunteered at countless JCC and community events.

The gala will feature cocktails, dinner, entertainment, auctions and a commemorative journal. The event will be held at Rockrimmon Country Club beginning at 6 pm. Dietary laws will be observed.

Serving as event chairs are Marlene

Gatz and Sheryl Young, Risa Goldblum, Joy Katz and Risa Raich are serving as journal co-chairs; Gayle Rothman and Alissa Wool are co-chairing the silent and live auctions.

Visit www.stamfordjcc.org for ticket and journal reservations. For more information, contact Shannon Jacobs at 203-487-0965 or sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org.

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

Exhibit Continued from page 5

Today, Israel and Cyprus have a close relationship. They share a common vision for peace and prosperity in the Eastern Mediterranean. There have been numerous presidential visits between the countries and they have signed agreements for a strategic relationship to co-exploit the findings of natural gas hydrocarbons. Cyprus and Israel also cooperate in fields like search and rescue, tourism, agriculture, science and the environment.

The bonds between Cyprus and the Jewish people go back to ancient times. The first Jews settled in Cyprus during the Hellenistic period and Cyprus received waves of Sephardic Jews after their expulsion from Spain in 1492. During the time of the refugee camps, many Cypriots identified with the suffering of the Jewish refugees.

They offered the refugees services and necessary goods, expressing their solidarity in practice.

To attend the exhibit opening on February 25, RSVP at ajc.org/westfair/CyprusCT.

If you know someone who has a Cyprus refugee story to share, or are interested in tours or more information, contact Vicki Kline at klinev@ajc.org or 914-948-5585.

Stephne Behrend is a member of the Board of Directors of the AJC Connecticut Committee.

AJC is a global Jewish advocacy organization. AJC's mission is to enhance the well-being of the Jewish people and Israel, and to advance human rights and democratic values in the United States and around the world. For more information go to www.ajc.org/westfair.

Kosher for Passover Food for Those in Need

JFS and Community Organizations Teaming Up

BY REBEKAH KANEFSKY

In the last three years, Jewish Family Service has coordinated the collection and distribution of kosher for Passover food staples to those individuals and families who are in need of assistance. Previously covering the towns of Stamford, New Canaan, Darien, Westport, Weston, Wilton and Norwalk, JFS is now extending its food outreach into Fairfield, Bridgeport and Trumbull.

The 2014 Passover Food Drive provided a variety of the traditional holiday foods to JFS clients. Assistance from Congregation Agudath Shalom, Temple Beth El, Temple Shalom in Norwalk, Bi-Cultural Day School and Carmel Academy, as well as grocery cards donated by The Conservative Synagogue of Westport Hebrew School class, was considered essential for success. Combined with the efforts of The Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County, the support of the ShopRite Partners in Caring grant, partnership with

the Jewish Twenties and Thirties program and the Stamford JCC, a packing and volunteer event was held to fill food bags and distribute them to nearly 250 recipients in JFS' coverage area.

JFS supplied bags with basic kosher for Passover staples, including a jar of gefilte fish, a one pound box of matzah, a small jar of horseradish, a jar of borscht, a small bottle of grape juice and a can of macaroons. In addition, Jewish Family Service gathered the names and addresses of those in need of assistance at Passover and coordinated the delivery.

The 2015 Passover Food Drive will be chaired by Risa Goldblum and Amy Herman. "I want to help out the local Jewish community. The JFS Passover food bags are a great way to help our neighbors while connecting them to the Passover holiday," explained Herman. Goldblum added the reason for her motivation: "I find volunteering for the food drive very fulfilling because I know my efforts are directly

helping give food to people in our community who are truly in need. It's a great mitzvah!"

Keeping Passover or a kosher home can be a challenge for those who are experiencing financial hardships. The generosity of the Greater Jewish community makes it possible for Jewish Family Service to reach out to more families and individuals than are already served. Those who know of someone who might benefit from JFS assistance is asked to contact the JFS office at info@ctjfs.org or by calling 203-921-4161. For a full listing of the services JFS provides, visit www.ctjfs.org.

All year-round, Jewish Family Service operates a Kosher Food Pantry, which has food available for those in need. Call Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161, ext. 128, or e-mail at rkanevsky@ctjfs.org for an appointment to select and receive these foods. All requests and referrals are kept strictly confidential.

Rebekah Kanefsky is the JFS case manager.

JFS Embarks on Helping the Hoarder at Home

BY JODI MAXNER

Jewish Family Service Residential Cleaning Program has recently embarked on a new project to help Department of Social Services clients who suffer from the disorder known as hoarding. Approximately 3 to 5 percent of the U.S. population engages in a hoarding behavior, which is described as the persistent difficulty discarding or parting with possessions, regardless of their actual value. The behavior usually has harmful effects – emotional, physical, social, financial and even legal – for a hoarder and family members. Not only is hoarding disorder an issue for the one afflicted and their family, but it may also present a danger to emergency workers and the community at large.

As a direct result of a local Task Force driven by recent cases of the disorder throughout the state, JFS is helping individuals by enabling them to take the

small steps necessary to tackle their hoarding issues one area at a time – small wins leading to bigger wins. In a multifaceted approach, along with a DSS case manager or social worker, JFS attempts to motivate "hoarders" to declutter not only their homes, but their lives as well. With assistance, understanding and knowledge of how to successfully clean homes, JFS is helping hoarders begin a healthier and more enjoyable lifestyle.

Many have seen the "intervention" TV shows, which have begun to dramatize the clutter associated with hoarding things such as newspapers that might be piled from floor to ceiling, clothes and linens stacked on furniture and just "stuff" strewn everywhere – where it may cause harm. This harm creates problems not only to the inhabitants of the house, but also to first responders in critical situations. Hoarding behavior is considered a very complex issue

– ultimate success in changing this behavior is said to depend on how supportive, compassionate and patient family members and professionals are with the hoarder. Social workers, case managers and others can encourage and help the hoarder to commit to solving their problem. This is where JFS, with its Residential Cleaning Program, has stepped up and is seeking to help remediate and solve the issue with those who need assistance.

Jewish Family Service can provide any individual or family with trained and supervised cleaners. At the same time, this provides work for unemployed individuals in the local community. For more information about the JFS Residential Cleaning Program, contact residentialcleaning@ctjfs.org or call Jodi Maxner at 203-921-4161, ext. 125.

Jodi Maxner is the Jewish Family Service job developer/program manager.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Feb. 20	5:16 pm
Feb. 27	5:25 pm
March 6	5:33 pm
March 13	6:40 pm
March 20	6:48 pm
March 27	6:56 pm
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April 4	after 8:04 pm
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April 10	7:10 pm
April 17	7:18 pm
April 24	7:25 pm

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Meet the “Super Teens” of Reading Partners

The current corps of Reading Partners is 120 strong. The band of volunteers works hand in hand with their cooperating teachers during the school day to help boost reading skills for Stamford's public school children. But there is a group of 17 Reading Partners who can't volunteer during the school day because they are *in* school also. These are the teen volunteers who choose to devote one afternoon a week at the Boys and Girls Club of Stamford. There, they read and play literacy games with the children in attendance at the club.

Since 2007, Westhill High School students have been participating in Reading Partners. This year, in addition to Westhill, students from Greenwich Academy, whose motto is “Toward the building of character,” have joined. According to Sarah Holzschuh, Greenwich Academy community service advisor, “Reading Partners is a great way for our girls to engage in long-term meaningful service.”

The 17 teenage volunteers participate weekly after school for 45 minutes helping students improve their reading. And this is considered no small feat as both the volunteers and their young reading partners have just spent six hours in a classroom. As Annika Tallis, a junior from Greenwich Academy and a Reading Partner volunteer, discovered, “I thought some of the kids would be shy and hesitant to read aloud, but as soon as they sat down they were pushing books into my hands and eager to begin. It really puts everything into perspective and makes you realize the value of knowing how to read.”

On a recent visit to the Boys and Girls Club, Marlyn Agatstein, UJF's director of Reading Partners, found a group of Westhill volunteers playing Bingo and their own version of “Let's Do Sight Word Spelling.” “The children were thoroughly engaged, vying to compete and their enthusiasm was infectious,” Agatstein said. When one of the second-graders was asked what he likes about the program, he answered, “I like being with Jackie”



Boys and Girls Club Westhill children, Westhill volunteers, Boys and Girls Club of Stamford staff and their reading partners enjoy a game of bingo.

(Westhill volunteer Jackie Berkoff).

Melanie Gorski, another Westhill volunteer, summed up her Reading Partners' experience: “Everyone tells you that the kids will love when you come and read with them. I never really understood how that would happen, how kids could enjoy more school after school. But, it's true; they love it! I think they love it because not only is there a connection with an older kid, but it also makes for a very fun laid-back learning environment, which diminishes more as kids get older. So, I think it's important to teach them that learning is fun, and I never expected that they would be such willing students.”

“The teens of the Reading Partners program make an enormous commitment to the children, bringing smiles of satisfaction to their young partners on a weekly basis. The volunteers have discovered eager, bright children who appreciate the teens and get excited to learn alongside them,” added Ellen Weber, a Reading Partner volunteer and president of UJF. “It's never too late to make a difference in a child's life!”

Anyone interested in volunteering or who knows someone who would like to volunteer for Reading Partners should contact Agatstein at 203-321-1373, ext. 115.

A Day of Mitzvah in Stamford



Several Carmel Academy sixth-graders and their mothers got together with Leah Shemtov of Chabad to prepare challah for Chabad's Loaves of Love project. The girls then worked with the Friendship Circle children to create Shabbat greeting cards to go along with the challahs they baked. L-r: Mimi Chapman of Stamford, Sofya Jacobowicz, Gabriella Frankel-Mordecai, Racheli Meliken and Sarah Goldstein.



Corrine and Mimi Chapman of Stamford



In front: Leah Brill of Stamford

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Teacher Wins Atid Day School Innovation Challenge

BY JULIE LAPIN

Talk to Carmel Academy seventh-graders about their Judaic studies class and they will likely tell you about the way in which their teacher, Sarah Zollman, teaches Talmud.

Zollman was recently chosen as a winner of the Atid* Day School Innovation Challenge for her “Tactile Talmud” lesson – a creative, whole body experience that enables students to interact directly with the text to learn Gemara (ancient rabbinic texts). She was selected as one of eight winning kindergarten-12th grade teachers in the New York City metro region for her “innovation and creativity” in the classroom.

Considered by the judging panel as an “inspiring testament to the quality and diversity of day school education,” Zollman will be honored in May at the Hackathon Conference, in which Jewish day school teachers will convene to hold workshops about their ideas in interdisciplinary teams.

In choosing the contest winners, “we sought innovative ideas that were replicable enough to use in a diverse array

of classrooms and effective enough to have a powerful impact on students,” said Emily Winograd from the Presentense Group, which partnered with the Jewish Education Project to organize the contest. The challenge was sponsored by the UJA Federation of New York.

The winners were chosen by a combination of a public vote and a judging panel, weighted equally. The panel of judges, comprised of professionals, educators and lay leaders, considered three criteria in their decisions: creativity, impact and replicability, said Winograd.

Zollman's “Tactile Talmud” lesson, which fit all the judges' criteria, involves using pages of text that are enlarged and laminated. “The enlarged text is hung on a wall, written on and erased with dry erase markers. This enables students to physically interact with the text and to demonstrate their learning to the class in a way that everyone can see. The students can easily underline, circle and highlight sections with dry erase pens,” Zollman said.

See “Innovation” on page 14



Carmel Academy seventh-grader Sydney Eben of Stamford used enlarged text as she discussed Gemara with her classmates. Her teacher, Sarah Zollman, was named a winner in the Atid Day School Innovation Challenge for the way in which she teaches Talmud.

Flipped Learning Turns Classroom on Its Head

BY DORA SALM

When third-grade teacher Beth Fritz had to teach her students how to measure angles with a protractor, she decided to make the lesson come alive in a new and different way. She asked her students to view a video of a protractor lesson online that night. When the students came to school the following day, instead of handing in written homework, they instead used what they had learned the evening before to complete the written protractor exercises during class. Fritz went from student to student, working with them one-on-one to make sure they understood the material. “At first, I was nervous about trying this method, but then I realized how well it worked – the students loved it and math class transformed from a lecture into an interactive workshop testing each student's knowledge,” she said.

The “flipped classroom” is becoming increasingly popular in today's schools. According to the teaching website teachthought.com, “a flipped classroom is one where students are introduced to content at home, and practice working through it at school.” The classroom expands into more of an interactive learning space, with the teacher enhancing the lesson with more personalized instruction based on the students' own learning styles.

At Bi-Cultural, teachers and students are experimenting with the flipped classroom model across a variety of disciplines, using class time for labs,



Students in Beth Fritz's third-grade math class used the flipped classroom method to learn how to measure with a protractor. L-r: Charlotte Moreen, Tobey Shein, Sammi Bradley and Harrison Browne. (Photo by Beth Fritz)


exercises and interactive activities to illustrate new concepts.

“I use the flipped classroom strategy when I need to be more accessible to my students for the hands-on application of a lesson. Assigning homework that is meaningful, specific and useful is something that helps students validate the learning process,” said middle-school teacher Adrienne Robinson.

See “Flipped” on page 12

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The Cardozo Society is an affinity group of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. The society is comprised of members of the legal community, including lawyers, professors, judges and others and provides educational, leadership and networking opportunities with the objective of benefiting both the local and global Jewish Communities.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373 or www.ujf.org/cardozofeb25



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625: food pantry recipients, **195** home companions and **575** people receive employment training from Jewish Family Service.

6400: meals that the Stamford JCC serves senior citizens annually.

7,000: French Jews made aliyah to Israel with the help of JAFI.

60,000: Israeli kids receive services to overcome cycles of poverty and abuse through counseling and early intervention.

400,000: young adults visited Israel for the very first time through the Taglit Birthright Israel Program.

Flipped Continued from page 9

"The flipped classroom makes the learning process more engaging and meaningful for the students by tapping into the technology that has become part of their daily lives," she continued. "We actually took our flipped lesson a step further and had students create the videos to teach the concepts we covered in class to other students. It was a fantastic way to see the skills that the students acquired – it really showed the depth of their knowledge."

In addition to math and language arts classes,

teachers like Rabbi Yehuda Jeiger in the Judaic Studies Department have also embraced this interactive learning style.

Rabbi Jeiger uses the online educational tool Blendspace to post videos on topics such as Jewish history, holidays and current events for students to view at home in preparation for deeper in-class questions the next day. "This allows students to come to class with knowledge of a new topic before entering the classroom for that lesson. I find that the students really enjoy exploring topics at home

and sharing what they learned in class the next day," he said.

Shoshanna Yaari, who teaches Hebrew language, uses this model to generate class discussion and brainstorm ideas during class. "The students love it and the classroom environment is even more vibrant and alive with questions," she said.

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

NOTE:
JCC is now
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FAMILY CENTRAL MARCH & APRIL 2015

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Chabad Annual Purim Bash
Open to All. Wednesday, Mar 4 at Chabad House Stamford. Megillah Reading at 6:15pm followed by Purim festivities for the entire family! Entertainment, music, food and more! Music, dancing, dress up and get a prize, special kids megillah reading with interactive additions!

Chabad Community Seders
Open to All. First Seder: Friday, Apr 3 at 7 pm; Second Seder: Saturday, Apr 4 at 7 pm at Chabad House Stamford. Thought provoking, warm, interactive, delightful company and the food is great!

Community Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration
Thursday, Apr 23 from 5:30 – 7 pm at the JCC. Come together as a community to welcome the JCC Tzahal Shalom officers and celebrate Israel's independence. Together, we will feel as if we have traveled to Israel and experience the land, the people, the culture, the good, the music and all that Israel has to offer. Visit stamfordjcc.org for admission information.

JCC Tzahal Shalom
Sunday, Apr 19 – Sunday, Apr 26. Meet active duty officers from the Israel Defense Forces face to face and join us for meaningful conversations during their stay. All are welcome to attend parlor meetings and events. Visit stamfordjcc.org for full schedule and information.

Loaves of Love Cooking Marathon
Open to All. Sunday, Apr 26 from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm at Chabad House Stamford. This is your time to give to those who need it most by baking Challah and mailing chicken soup for the "Shabbat 2 Go" packages.

PJ Library Story Time
For Kindergartners through 2nd graders. Every second Tuesday, March 10 at 3:30 pm. Storytelling and singing. For 3rd through 5th graders. Every Third Thursday, Mar 19 at 3:30 pm. Storytelling and singing. This program in collaboration with the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County will be held at the Harry Rosenbaum JHS Judaica Library at the JCC. Cantor Marcia Lane shares tales from around the world in story and songs.

Shabbat Across Stamford – community event
Friday, Mar 13. Stamford Jewish community will come together at Rippowam Middle School to celebrate Shabbat with prayer, a traditional Shabbat dinner and the opportunity to learn with Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. Register online at www.ujf.org/SAS.

BIRTH through PRESCHOOL

Got Shabbat! Tiny Treasures Mommy & Me
(Birth to 30 months). Fridays, 10-10:45am at Chabad. Semester 3 starts Apr 24. Bring your little one to feel, taste, touch, see and experience a hands-on Shabbat celebration. Caregivers welcome. Fee: \$15 per class (first timers FREE).

Movin' and Groovin' at the JCC
12 – 30 months, with parent or caregiver. Tuesdays, Apr 14 – June 16 at 10:45 am. Children will swing, spin, jump, stretch, leap, roll and climb. Rhythm, music and song aid in the development of fine and gross motor skills, listening and social skills while playing and learning. Fee: \$230 for 11 sessions / \$190 JCC members.

Music and Movement
For children birth – 30 months. For toddlers. Wednesdays, Mar 11, 25 and Apr 15, 29 from 1:30-2:10pm at Bi-Cultural Day School with Jonathan Cahr and Rachel Bahar. For more information, contact Joanne Karow, 203-329-2186 x1310 or jkarow@bcds.org. Music, movement, nursery rhymes, dramatization and folk song. Join in whenever you can. FREE.

Music Together at the JCC
Birth–5 years with parent or caregiver. Music education program that nurtures children's natural enthusiasm for music and movement. To register, contact Music Together of Fairfield County at 203-256-1656.

SHABBAT

Ruach Purim Service at Temple Sinai
Friday, Mar 4. For further information, contact Temple Sinai office, 203-322-1649. Ruach means spirit. All musical services are energetic and informal. Open to the community.

Tot Shabbat at Temple Sinai
Birth – 7 years old. Saturday, Mar 14 at 9:00 am. Fee: Free. For further information, contact Temple Sinai office. Open to the community. Dancing, singing, praying and playing. Led by Rabbi TelRov and Cantor Morgovsky.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS): 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 329-2186 • www.bcds.org
CHABAD: 770 High Ridge Rd., Stamford • 203-3-CHABAD #418 • Leah Shemtov: morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER UCC OR THE J: 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS): 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203) 921-4161 • www.ctjfs.org
TEMPLE BETH EL (TBE): 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203) 322-6401 #306 • education@tbe.org • www.tbe.org
TEMPLE SINAI (TS): 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203) 322-1649 • www.templestamford.org
UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF): 1035 Newfield Ave., Suite 200, Stamford • (203) 321-1373 • www.ujf.org

GRADES K-8

4th Annual Havdalah & Hoops Tournament at The J
Grades 6-12. Saturday, Mar 7 at 6:30 pm. Father and son 3-on-3 basketball tournament. For more information, contact Mo Concepcion at 203-487-0971 or mconcepcion@stamfordjcc.org. \$18 per person.

Bat Mitzvah Club & BMC Beyond
For Bat Mitzvah Aged girls. Sunday, Mar 22 & Apr 26 from 6:00-7:30 pm at Chabad. Bat Mitzvah coming up? Caught up with the theme, clothing and party favors but clueless about the meaning. Do you think a Bat Mitzvah ends or begins with your party? Did you already celebrate your Bat Mitzvah and are wondering "what now?" Then this club is for you!

BBYO
For Grades 8-12. Every 2nd Monday from 7:00-9:00 pm at The J. For further information, please contact BBYO Regional Office (203) 389-2127 or CVR@bbyo.org www.cvrbbyo.net. Leviticus AZA (Boys) & Tikvah BGG (Girls). Teens engaged in opportunities for leadership, athletic, social and community service.

CKC – Chabad Kids Club
Grades K-6. Wednesdays, Mar 11, 18, 25 and April 22, 29 from 4-6 pm at Chabad. Incorporating POGS, Chai 5, Hebrew School and Aleph Bet. Hands on Chessed Club, science and cooking, weekly Torah Portion, snacks, aleph bet and Hebrew reading, Judaic homework help included – plus one-on-one tutoring option available.

GRADES 9-12

4th Annual Havdalah & Hoops Tournament at The J
See description above Grades K-8.

BBYO
See description above under Grades K-8

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
For volunteers in Grades 9-12 at Chabad
• **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. Volunteer to work with special needs children under the guidance of professionals. Activities include art, music, cooking and sports.
• **Special Events:** Throughout the year for Friendship Circle volunteers and children and families they support.
For further information: Malya Shmotkin at 203-329-0015 #414, Malya@friendshipct.com or www.friendshipct.com

Jewish Student Connection
For Grades 9 – 12. Tuesdays at 2:15 pm at Stamford High School. or Thursdays at 2:15 pm at Westhill High School. For further information on either Tuesday or Thursday, contact rebecca@myjsc.org

JServe, Day of Community Service for Teens
Sunday, Apr 12 at the JCC. Stamford Teens will come together to serve their communities and make a difference. For information, contact Harrison Peck at 203-487-0970 or hpeck@stamfordjcc.org.

Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps
For Grade 10. Meets once a month on Sundays: Mar 22 and Apr. 1 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at The J. For further information or to nominate a teen, contact 203-321-1373. Come together to learn about philanthropy, leadership, the importance of community, and work together to make our community, Israel and the world a better place. The group will create a mission statement and allocate funds to a non-profit of their choosing based on that mission statement.

Speak Up for Israel
Sundays, Mar 22 and Apr. 1 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at The J. For further information or to nominate a teen, contact Or Berger, JCC Israeli Shlichah at 203-487-0961. For grades 11 and 12. Israel gets a bad rap, especially on college campuses. Join an elite group of high school juniors and seniors and learn from experts in the field, how to respond and take action. Students enrolled will attend the AIPAC Policy Conference in March. Spaces are limited. A partnership between the JCC and UJF.

BCDS has Talent



Eighth-grader Josh Leferman sang a version of the song "Brave" by Sara Bareilles, with the middle school choir, including Lilah Steinberg, Rose Sibboni, Shira Parhi, Ashley Shapiro, Michal Fass and Shira Cohen in the background. (Photos by Steve Labkoff)

Peter Pan Flies into Bi-Cultural

"Peter Pan: The Musical" will be flying into Bi-Cultural Day School as performers, musicians and stage and technical crews are preparing the finishing touches of this musical stage adaptation of J.M. Barrie's play, "Peter Pan." Performances will take place on Tuesday, March 24, Thursday, March 26, and Sunday, March 29.

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



Avi Gordon in the main role of Peter Pan and Jason Busch as one of the Lost Boys rehearse for Bi-Cultural's upcoming spring performance of "Peter Pan: The Musical." In the background are Ewan Goldblum, Michal Fass and Naama Teitel. (Photo by Steve Labkoff)



First-graders Dahlia Cohen and Sarah Strom performed the song "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" from the Disney musical "Frozen."



Kindergarten students Matthew Maiman and Benjamin Winarsky performed the song "Lightly Row."

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Students Gain Understanding of Poverty

Students from the Jewish High School of Connecticut participated recently in a Poverty Simulation program run by the United Way and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven as part of their Neighbor-to-Neighbor Project. "The program was designed to give us a glimpse of the struggles of living with poverty and the pressures of everyday life," said Katya Labowe-Stoll, a sophomore at JHSC.

The organizers simulated real life by creating stations that represented services such as supermarkets, pawnshops, a general employer, bank and a jail. Participants were divided into families where each family was given a series of materials that explained their economic positions.

"Trying to navigate food stamps, transportation vouchers with the impossible tasks of daily living, such as getting children to school, highlighted for us the anxiety and frustration of living a life under these conditions," remarked sophomore Alex Frenzel. "I was the mother in my simulated family. It was incredibly stressful managing the transportation vouchers and all of the things I needed to do in order to enable my family to eat and for me to pay utility bills and go to work. At one point, we simply did not have enough money for food and the devastation I felt was palpable."

While the students were cognizant throughout the exercise that this was a simulation, they left with a far

stronger understanding of the strife and burdens of poverty. "I now feel more than ever the responsibility of trying to help in whatever way I can to better the lives of people living with such pressure, anxiety and struggle," said senior Batsheva Labowe-Stoll.

To learn more about JHSC and its approach to education, contact the school at 203-357-0850 or info@jhsc.org. JHSC is now located at 1937 West Main St., Stamford.

It's Good to be a Kid

BY MARCIA LANE

Whoever heard of getting something for nothing? There has to be a catch, right? You have to be a kid.

The PJ Library, a project of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation that has been around for 12 years, is an international effort to get high-quality, age-appropriate books of Jewish content into the hands of children everywhere. Children from ages 6 months to 8 years can get a monthly book sent directly to their home at absolutely no cost to the family. The program is underwritten by the Grinspoon Foundation and by donations from Linda Spilka and Ed Spilka.

In addition to the monthly treat of a new book, PJL families receive CDs of Jewish music, *zedakah* boxes and a monthly parents' newsletter with suggestions of activities to do with children. There are also listings of local kids' activities and PJ Library events. Storytelling hours at local synagogues and at other local sites are a feature of the PJ Library program.

But the heart of the program is books. When asked, at her family Chanukah party, what presents she liked best, one 5-year-old recipient said, "I like my books. I like the books I get in the mail. They're the best books." Her mom confirmed that she was a PJ Library kid. The books are by award-winning authors and illustrators, and although they might be specifically about Shabbat or Jewish holidays, many are simply books that embody Jewish values (like *zedakah* – giving, or *chesed* – kindness). Or they might be books based on Jewish folktales or songs, like the Caldecott Award winner "Joseph Had a Little Overcoat," written and illustrated by Simms Taback.

To enroll a child or grandchild in PJ Library, go to pjlibrary.org to the sign-up page, or contact Marcia Lane at UJF at Marcia@ujf.org or 203-321-1373, ext. 104.

Innovation. . . Continued from page 9

Zollman's other strategy, which also gets students out of their seats and moving, involves cutting digital text into smaller segments and then gluing the text onto colored construction paper.

"By moving the colorful pieces of text around, the students physically interact with the structure of the text. The pieces can be used by individuals as an anchor project or by groups to encourage cooperation and group learning," Zollman said.

"I am thrilled the lesson was chosen as an Atid winner," Zollman said. "My students really connect to this modern and interactive method of teaching ancient texts, and I am excited to share my experiences with other day school teachers."

"Innovation and creativity in the classroom are hallmarks of the type of teaching that takes place every day at Carmel Academy. We are thrilled that *Morah Sarah* is being recognized," said Head of School Nora Anderson.

*Atid is a Hebrew word for "future."
Carmel Academy is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

Stamford Chapter of Hadassah Rebrands

On January 20, Sally Kleinman, Hadassah Connecticut president, installed the new officers of the Stamford Chapter of Hadassah, spearheaded by Rhonda Greif, newly elected president of the chapter. The installation took place at Soosh, Stamford's newest kosher restaurant in the Crowne Plaza Hotel. As Kleinman called and acknowledged each of these women separately, each came forward; these will be the faces and voices of the Stamford Hadassah for the 2015 term.

Hadassah members hope to achieve

the organization's many goals of advocacy both here in the U.S. and in Israel. The theme of the evening was "Hadassah the power of women that do," a theme that was echoed as Kleinman installed the new executive board: "This is an exciting time in the lengthy story of Hadassah. Our history tells us that Hadassah began over 102 years ago with just a small gathering of women who couldn't vote, had no personal income, and didn't work outside the home. We've come a long way, baby!"

"Things certainly have changed over

the last century. Change is the result of a desire to improve, to be more relevant; to meet the most current needs of our membership and our mission. Change can be a challenge, but it also can be exciting. We are witnessing one of these changes today/tonight by thanking the outgoing board and installing those who will have the privilege of leading this chapter into the next Hadassah year. The strength of Hadassah lies in the wealth of volunteers working at all levels of the organization, from the members of the National Board

to the grassroots units. Thousands of volunteer leaders filling essential positions across our country strengthen Hadassah and help fulfill our mission. Each year, as we install the members of chapter boards, we are given the opportunity to observe new personalities, new ideas, and new ways of doing things. This year, we will also observe the rebranding of Hadassah – an updated transformation of the organization we have known, supported and loved for so many years.

See "Hadassah" on page 19

March & April 2015

Happenings for Senior Adults

The J (JCC) Social Senior Program

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at The J (JCC). For more information or reservation: [Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:Connie.Cirillo.Freeman@stamfordjcc.org) • Programs vary by day of the week. All welcome. Transportation available for Stamford residents. **TUESDAY – THURSDAYS CLASSES & LUNCHEONS RUN THROUGH MARCH 27 • FRIDAY CLASSES & LUNCHEONS RUN THROUGH MARCH 26**

AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE Wednesdays, Mar. 3 & Apr. 1 & Jun 3 from 8:30 am – 1 pm at the JCC. Reservations required. AARP members \$15/All others \$20.
BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING Tuesday, Apr. 7 from 9:45-11:15 am. No appointment necessary. FREE.
CHAIR EXERCISE FOR SENIORS Tuesdays & Thursdays through June 18 from 10:15-11 am at the JCC. Energetic chair exercise class using weights and balls. FREE to all Seniors.
GAMES & GAB at the J Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 1- 3 pm. Bring your game of choice - bridge, Scrabble, canasta and more. FREE.
HOLIDAY LUNCHEONS • Purim. Tuesday, March 3 from 12-1 pm. Suggested donation: \$3.00. • Stanley Ferber Memorial Senior Passover Seder. Tuesday, March 31 from 11:30 am-1:30 pm with Hazzan Sidney Rabinowitz. FREE.
HOT KOSHER LUNCH for older adults (60+) Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 12-1 pm at The J. Suggested donation: \$3 for lunch and \$1 each way for transportation. Reservations are required for both lunch and transportation. Lunch reservations: call Tuesday by noon for Thursday and Friday lunches. Call Friday by noon for Tuesday lunch. Call every Monday to make/confirm reservations for the week. Cancellations: call as soon as possible.
JCC MORNING MOVIE MATINEE FOR SENIOR ADULTS. Fridays through June 19 at 10 am. Coffee and a movie on the large screen TV in the JCC's Senior Adult Lounge. FREE.
JCC RETIRED MEN'S CLUB Mondays from 10-1 pm (members only); invited speaker at 11 am (open) at the JCC. Every meeting is followed by a soup-and-sandwich lunch and a bridge game after the meal. Reservations required. Lunch Fee: \$3 suggested donation.
LET'S TALK Thursdays through March 26 from 11 am – 12 pm at the Stamford JCC. Free. See description under Support for Those in Need. Meet new people or deepen your friendship with those you already know. Engage in meaningful conversation about a wide variety of topics that are important in our lives. Topics may range from how to live a fulfilling life, creating healthy relationships, savoring our cherished memories, to embracing changing life circumstances. All will be encouraged to express their feelings and experiences related to the themes that emerge in a safe and supportive environment. Led by Kylie Rothman from JFS. For more information, contact Eve Moskowitz, JFS Director of Clinical Services at 201-921-4161.
LIFE ENHANCEMENT CLASSES Tuesdays & Thursdays through June 18 from 11-11:45am at the JCC. Classes designed to entertain, educate and enrich. Aging Gracefully. Common-age related health issues with practical advice on how to support each other in aging gracefully Current Events and Timely Topics. Informal conversations and talks with various speakers about what's going on in Stamford, as well as national and international events and timely topics. Our Stories on Thursdays. Hear one-of-a-kind stories about the lives, experiences, occupations or pastimes of JCC senior program participants. Free to all seniors. Seniors in Song. Sing along with old favorites, Yiddish to Broadway
MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS Tuesdays, March 24, April 28 from 12-1pm. \$3 suggested donation. Reservations required.
SHABBAT WITH OR BERGER – JCC ISRAELI SHALIACH. Fridays from 11:30 am-12 pm at the Stamford JCC. Discussions on Israel prior to Shabbat lunch

FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

- BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS): 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 329-2186 • www.bcds.org
- CHABAD: 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • 203-3-CHABAD #418 • Leah Shemtov: morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org
- JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J): 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford • 203-322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org
- JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS): 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203) 921-4161 • www.ctjfs.org
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- TEMPLE SINAI (TS): 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203) 322-1649 • www.templestamford.org
- UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF): 1035 Newfield Av., Suite 200, Stamford • (203) 321-1373 • www.ujf.org

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



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Please support our efforts to make the first day of school a bright new beginning!

For more information or to make a donation, please visit our webpage at www.ujf.org/backtoschoolshop

Bat Mitzvah Club Hosts Shabbaton

Over the Shabbat of January 23-24, the Bat Mitzvah Club, part of Chabad House Stamford's youth program, hosted a Shabbaton led by BMC youth leaders Chani Wolff and Rivky Kesselman. The event was attended by several bat mitzvah-age girls with more than six schools represented. Activities included challah baking before Shabbat, a Shabbat celebration and laser tag after Shabbat.



At right, l-r: Daniella Klein and Hadas Niv



L-r: Chani Wolff, Hadas Niv, Gaby Pines, Hannah Becker, Dalia Levine, Daniella Klein and Sophie Yellen.

For more information, contact Leah Shemtov at morahleah@chabad-stamford.org.

Disability Self-Advocates Envision a More Inclusive Jewish Community

BY JEFFREY F. BARKEN
JNS.org

What if Moses never accepted the task to lead the Jews out of Egypt because of his speech impediment? Award-winning author Chava Willig Levy, a polio survivor, uses the episode to illustrate what she calls a clear biblical precedent that people with disabilities have enormous potential to impact society.

cept that frames an ongoing Jewish communal discussion on the inclusion of people with disabilities. "There is Judaism and then there are Jews," she says, reflecting on the dissonance between the religion's principles of universal inclusion and what Jewish society actually looks like.

On December 17 in New York City, Levy was among at the attendees of the Ruderman Family Foundation's first conference for Jews with disabilities who are self-advocates. The event brought together lawyers, rabbis, writers, teachers and community activists whose successful careers, energy and full lives counter longstanding misconceptions about people with disabilities.



Attendees of the Ruderman Family Foundation's first conference for Jewish disability self-advocates on December 17 in New York City. (Photo courtesy of the Ruderman Family Foundation)

"When God said to Moses, 'I'm tapping you to lead my people out of Egypt,' Moses [countered], 'No, you've got the wrong guy. I'm disabled myself,'" Levy tells JNS.org. But God gets angry at Moses for doubting himself, and asks, "Whom do you think gave you that mouth?"

Levy's anecdote introduces a con-

See "Inclusive" on page 18

PASSOVER 2015 Greetings

Deadline: March 6 (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 \$36 (styles A, B & D) and the largest one (style G) is \$72.

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@thereporter.org. Checks can be made payable to *The New Jewish Voice* and sent to: *The New Jewish Voice*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

PASSOVER 2015 Greetings

Deadline: March 6 (April issue)

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

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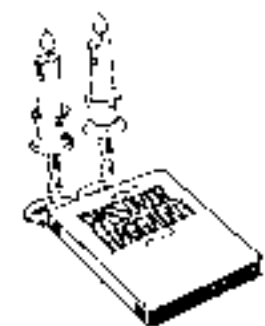
Your Name(s)

Style B
 Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"



Happy Passover!

Your Name(s)

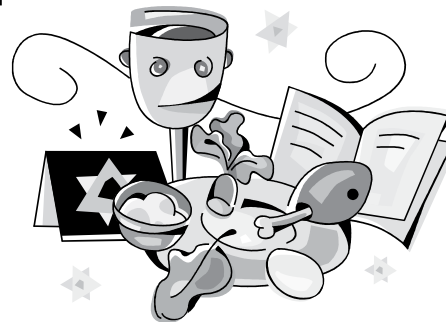


Passover Blessings

Your Name(s)

Style D • \$36 Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

May you and your family have a joyous Pesach



Your name(s)

Style E • \$18
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Your Name(s)

Style F • \$18
 Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"



May your Passover seder be joyous!

Your Name(s)

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What's On for Adults

(now includes Adult Education)

March & April 2015

• OPEN EVENTS •

Beginners' Torah Study with Melissa Cohavi
 Fridays from 12-1 pm at Temple Sinai. Fee: Free. Bring lunch.

Bible Study with Rabbi Eugene Borowitz
 Saturdays at 9 am at Temple Sinai. Share in Shabbat and study Torah. FREE.

Cocktails & Comedy
 Saturday, Apr 25 at 9 pm at the JCC. \$50 per person in advance, \$60 at the door if space is available. \$750 premium table for 10. Drinks, dessert and comedian Johnny Lampert. Proceeds benefit the JCC Tzahal Shalom program. Visit stamfordjcc.org to register.

The Cottoncrest Curse: From the Civil War to Civil Rights through Southern Jewish Eyes
 Sunday, Feb 22 at 1:30 pm at Temple Beth El. Author: Michael Rubin. This program is sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County.

Rosenfeld to Robeson, The Folksbeine Yiddish Theater starring Elmore James and Zalmen Mlotek
 Thursday, Mar 19 at 7 pm at Temple Beth El. Refreshments to follow. Co-sponsored by area agencies and synagogues.

Games & Gab at the J
 Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 1-3 pm. Bring your game of choice (bridge, Scrabble, canasta and more). For information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org. All are welcome. FREE.

Israel/Diaspora Dialogue with Israeli policy expert, Shmuel Rosner
 "Jewish Values and the Appropriate Use of Force"
 Sunday, March 29, 2015, 10:30 am - noon. Call Marcia (203) 321-1373, ext. 104 for more information.

Israel Folk Dancing
 Connect with Israel while reaping the mental and physical benefits of dance. Light, Kosher refreshments. For other locations and schedule, go to www.ctisraelidance.com.

Israel Lunch & Learn Series at the J
 First Thursday of each month: Mar 5, Apr 16 from 12-1 pm at the J with Or Berger, JCC's Israeli shaliach. Focus on topics and current events related to Israel. Sessions will include Q&A. Bring lunch. JCC will provide dairy dessert. For further information or to register: Or Bergert 203-487-0961 or oberger@stamfordjcc.org. FREE.

JCC Annual Spring Gala, 'A Night of Amazement'
 Sunday, Mar 8 at 6 pm at Rockrimmon Country Club. Community leaders Sue McGraw, Garry Feldman, Craig L. Price and Jeannie Kasindorf will be honored. The evening will include dinner, entertainment and a commemorative journal. For more information, visit stamfordjcc.org or contact Shannon Jacobs at 203-487-0965 or sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org.

Jewish Historical Society: Book Talks - March
Suddenly, Love by Aharon Appelfeld
 Wednesday, Mar 18 at 10 am at the JCC. Presenter: Bob Abrams. Set in Israel, this is a novel of two lonely people who come together amidst memories of their pasts and the challenges of the present. For further information, contact Marcie (203) 359-9148. FREE.

Jewish Historical Society: Book Talks - April
Nadine Gordimer (1923-2014)
 Wednesday, Apr 15 at 10 am at the JCC. Presenter: Dr. Judith Katz. Remembering the literature of Nadine Gordimer, Nobel Laureate and anti-apartheid activist with a comparison of *The Lying Days* (1953) written at the start of her career with *The Pickup* (2001). For further information, contact Marcie (203) 359-9148. FREE.

Jewish Values: Where the Rubber Hits the Road
 Sundays, Mar 15, 22, 29; Apr 5 from 9:45-11 am. Taught by Rabbi Jay TelRav. Torah tells us to "do good" but it isn't always so clear what that means. We'll use real-world examples to examine what our tradition has to say. Fee: \$18 / No fee for Temple members.

Judaic Needlework
 Sunday, March 8 from 10 am-12 pm at the J. Stitch and revive Jewish traditions through work with textiles with the Keshet Chapter of the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework. Meetings are a rich blend of needlework, culture, tradition and religious practices as they relate to Judaic textiles. The Guild encourages membership, beginner and professional, women and men alike. For more information, please email keshetpg@gmail.com or visit pomegranateguild.org.

Lunch and Learn at Chabad
 Open for Men and Women. FREE. Monthly, Wednesdays, March 11 and April 22 from 11:30-12:45 pm. \$10 per class. Join us for a great fresh lunch, friends, and of course some Torah learning together with Leah Shemtov.

Magvet Concert
 Sunday, March 29 at 3 pm. \$5 suggested donation. Coed ensemble of undergraduate Yale University students. Magvet is known for their sweet blend of voices, their unique arrangements of traditional, modern and original melodies and their lighthearted sense of humor. For more information contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Mah Jongg at the J
 \$35 for 5 sessions / JCC members \$25. All levels welcome. Bring a 2014 National Mah Jongg League card. To register, to schedule lessons or for more information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Mah Jongg at Temple Sinai
 Mondays from 6:30-9 pm. FREE but bring your own mah jongg card. For more information or if you are new to mah jongg, call the Temple office at 203-322-1649.

FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

- BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS): 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 329-2186 • www.bcds.org
- CHABAD: 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • 203-3-CHABAD #418 • Leah Shemtov: morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org
- JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J): 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org
- JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS): 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203) 921-4161 • www.ctjfs.org
- TEMPLE BETH EL (TBE): 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203) 322-6401 #306 • education@tbe.org • www.tbe.org
- TEMPLE SINAI (TS): 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203) 322-1649 • www.templestamford.org
- UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF): 1035 Newfield Avenue, Suite 200, Stamford • (203) 321-1373 • www.ujf.org

Mah Jongg Tournament
3rd Annual Sylvia Plotkin Memorial Tournament
 Wednesday, Apr 29 at 9:30 am at the JCC. Friendly competition, serious fun. All levels are welcome or join a bridge, canasta or Scrabble game. For reservations and information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Meditation as a Path to Mindful Living
 Sundays, Apr 19 & 22 at 10 am. Taught by Dr. Wynd Harris. Discuss and practice meditation to help find ways to center ourselves. No previous experience required, just an openness of heart and mind. Fee: \$18 / No fee for Temple members. For more information, call the Temple office at 203-322-1649.

Neshama Yoga at the JCC
 Fridays, through June 19 (no class 5/22) | from 9:00-10:30 am. Fee: \$189 for 9 sessions / \$162 JCC members. A fusion of Kundalini Yoga and Jewish spirituality. Led by Jackie Tepper Robinov.

Next Year, Jerusalem
 Sunday, Apr. 26 at 1:30 pm at Temple Shalom, 259 Richards Avenue, Norwalk. Speakers: Jewish Senior Service. This program is sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County.

Parenting Conference
 For parents of all children (from babies through teens). Sunday, Mar 15 from 9-11 pm at Chabad House Stamford, \$45 per person, \$65 a couple, \$12 per child (full children's program) \$95 max/per family. Be a \$180 or \$360 sponsor of the event too! Hear from our panel of presenters on topics to help parents gain insight. Forty five minute sessions by presenters on topics that you want to hear about for your kids. Health, psychology, nutrition, education PLUS full Brunch.

Reflections on my Grandfather Marc Chagall
 Sunday, March 29 at 1:30 pm at Temple Sinai. Speaker: Bella Meyer, granddaughter. This program is sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County and is in memory of Edythe Siegel. FREE.

Shabbat Across Stamford
 Friday night, March 13, The Stamford Jewish community will come together at Rippowam Middle School to celebrate Shabbat with prayer, a traditional Shabbat dinner, and the opportunity to learn with Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. Register online at www.ujf.org/sas

Speak Up for Israel for Adults
 Monday, Mar 23, Apr 27, from 7-8:30 pm at the J. Free. All welcome. Monthly. Learn the history and complexities surrounding Israel, past and present. All levels of knowledge are welcome. Hear guest speakers from AIPAC, ADL and other organizations and engage in deep meaningful discussions. Led by Or Berger. A JCC program in partnership with UJF. For further information or to register: Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

Torah and Tea at Chabad
 For Men and Women. Tuesdays from 11 am - 12pm at Chabad Loft Café. Fee: \$5.00 per class. For further information: Leah Shemtov at 203-324-2223 or morahleah@chabadstamford.org

Trip to the Westchester Theatre
 Thursday, March 19 (matinee performance). Fee: \$65.00 (includes lunch). Join The Brandeis University Committee and see "Camelot". Contact Blossom Katz to make reservations at 203-322-4673.

UConn Judaic Studies: To register for the 2014 Lunch & Learn Lecture Series, the annual conference, or for more information about these or other programs of the Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies, please contact the Center at stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu or (203) 251-9525.

Fall College Courses Open to Senior Adults
 The Center will also offer a large selection of credit courses this fall, beginning Aug 25 that are available for seniors (age 62 and older) to audit.

FOR WOMEN

Hadassah Book Club - March
 Wednesday, Mar. 11 at 7:15 pm. Location TBD. "Love and Treasure" by Ayelet Waldman. For further information or RSVP: Rhonda Greif at Rhonda.greif@gmail.com or 203-829-9341.

Hadassah Book Club - April
 Wednesday, Apr. 22 at 7:15 pm. Location TBD. "In the Courtyard of the Kabbalist" by Ruchama King. For further information or RSVP: Rhonda Greif at Rhonda.greif@gmail.com or 203-829-9341.

JWC Rosh Chodesh Learning - Women and the Moon Part 2
 Monday, Apr. 20 at 8 pm at the home of Tanya Barton-Radin. Rosh Chodesh has long been considered a special holiday for women. Bring in the new month with us with an inspiring and interesting class!

Pesach Preparedness
 Mar. 16 at 7:15pm (mingle, meet and nibble); 8pm (programs) at the home of Rachel Maryles. JWC Members Free / Non Members \$15. Join us for an evening that will set you on the path for Perfect Pesach Preparedness on every level, physical and spiritual (& emotional).

FOR MEN

Tefillin Club
 Every Shema from 8-9 am at Chabad. For men and kids. Join the guys to wrap Tefillin, say Shema, share some words of Torah and inspiration and bond over bagels and lox breakfast.

Men's Night Out Pizza & Bowling
 Thurs., Mar. 19 at 8 pm at BowlMor Lanes (Old Rip Van Winkle lanes), Norwalk. \$36 per person.

Conference on Brain Research

BY WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Following the recent visit of Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, to Israel, a group of leading Japanese scientists attended a conference in Rehovot,

Israel. The Advances in Brain Sciences conference was jointly hosted by the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot and the RIKEN Brain Science Institute in Japan. The parallels were

more than incidental: Abe and Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, discussed furthering business, research and development contacts between the countries; Weizmann and

RIKEN researchers are already working to advance scientific collaboration between the two institutes and the two countries.

See "Brain" on page 19

Inclusive.

The convening of disability self-advocates is "an important step for our community in understanding how we can become a more just, inclusive and welcoming society for everyone," says Jay Ruderman, president of the Ruderman Family Foundation. Ruderman, whose Boston-based foundation is dedicated to increasing such awareness, believes that seeking out "the advice of those people with disabilities who have been impacted the most by being excluded from our Jewish community" provides the best way forward for the community.

Levy chronicles her journey in her memoir, "A Life Not with Standing." Paralyzed at age 3, she recalls a happy childhood despite her frequent visits to the hospital, her inability to attend school until age 9 and the many other limitations on her livelihood. "Having a disability is not tragic," she tells JNS.org. "What is tragic is the stigma."

Levy sees language as the primary obstacle to inclusion. As a first step, she describes the need for individuals to feel comfortable asking questions about people with disabilities. In her interactive workshop – called "Mommy, What's Wrong with that

Woman?" – Levy confronts the embarrassment parents commonly feel about answering their child's natural questions whenever they observe people with disabilities. Likewise, she suggests that communities should be wary of imposing "definitional labels," terms that clinically diagnose and are dismissive.

"Using the verb 'to be' is like placing an 'equal' sign on a person's character, superficially categorizing their appearance or expression, she says. Instead, Levy recommends "functional labeling," which redirects people's focus to the ways in which a person adapts and compensates for his or her disability, encouraging positive dialogue and perceptions.

Conference attendee Joseph D. Robbins, a celebrated poet and educator, works to improve institutional access to resources for people with disabilities. Robbins has dysgraphia, and without the benefit of computers and touch screens, he experiences extreme difficulty expressing his thoughts through writing.

"Everyone with a disability has his or her horror story," Robbins says, recalling "old school" teachers who failed to understand his condition and impossible homework assignments that brought him to tears. Nonetheless, Robbins maintains that his early education was largely a positive ex-

perience. Throughout primary and secondary school, he received a warm welcome from teachers and peers, and he says the prevailing attitude of the school board handling his case was, "We'll do anything."

Yet while Robbins appreciates the caring mindset of his past educators, he notes that open-mindedness alone is insufficient support for people with disabilities. "You need the goodness of the heart and a plan of action," he says. The poet references his senior year in college as a turning point, when he felt he had amassed enough tools and strategies to compensate for his disability, if not to draw strength from it. He arrived at this point thanks to a regimented program employing specialists to work with him directly, twice a week. As a result, he was ultimately able to complete graduate school independently.

Robbins's take-home message is that every educational institution can provide a high level of care through structured programming that maximizes the learning potential of any student with disabilities. But the challenge facing institutions, he says, lies in making advanced resources available. That is why the Union for Reform Judaism and the Ruderman Family Foundation are developing DisabilitiesInclusion.org, an online platform designed

to provide instructional videos on practical skills, disability care and awareness, and educational programming. The primary goal of the program is to make all synagogue communities in North America more inclusive.

Another conference attendee, attorney Matan A. Koch, was appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Council on Disability. Koch, who was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy as a child, has led a career advising companies on how they can realize the full value of employees with disabilities. As a consultant, he prompts his clients to reflect on the talents and shortcomings of all of their employees – for business reasons, not just for the purpose of inclusion.

"We should be unabashed about business goals," he says. "When you accommodate someone in the workplace, you enable them to do the things they do well and delegate what they can't manage."

Known for his sharp wit and critical thinking, Koch calls self-reflection the best mechanism to assess a person's potential—a fitting message coming from a self-advocate. "I think a real accounting of who we are is important to our development, and part of knowing oneself is coming to terms with one's weaknesses," he says.

Continued from page 16

Brain

The Weizmann Institute's Dr. Ofer Yizhar, one of the conference organizers, is currently involved in a collaborative research project with RIKEN researcher Toru Takumi. "Takumi creates mice that have a genetic defect which mimics autism, while my optogenetics lab can work with these mice, turning neurons in the brain 'on' and 'off' with light. Together, we hope to discover how autistic spectrum disorder develops in the brain and what neural mechanisms are involved in autistic behaviorisms," says Yizhar.

Over the two days of the conference, speakers touched on many different aspects of brain research: Yasunori Hayashi of RIKEN, for

example, gave a talk on the roles of the cells' internal cytoskeleton in maintaining the plasticity of the synapses between certain brain cells. The Weizmann Institute's Prof. Rony Paz discussed his findings that show how our tendency to overgeneralize may sometimes work against us, such as when memories of traumatic events turn into post-traumatic disorders.

The keynote speaker, Weizmann's Prof. Shimon Ullman, spoke about visual recognition – a subject that crosses the boundaries between neuroscience and artificial intelligence. Ullman, who has worked with RIKEN's Dr. Manabu Tanifuji for a number of years, says: "Scientific and

personal connections have deepened over the years, and we are currently planning the next steps of joint work in the future."

Informal events and visits to labs during the two-day conference gave the researchers from the two countries an opportunity to meet and discuss ideas for future research directions. "RIKEN is the premier brain

research center in Japan, and one of the best in the world," says Prof. Yadin Dudai, one of the conference organizers. "We see that much of Weizmann Institute research complements that being done in Japan; there is great potential to work together in many areas. This can benefit both sides, and we hope to see more cooperation in the future."

Continued from page 18

Hadassah.

"Let us now celebrate the new Hadassah and the power of women who do! These are the women who heal, who advocate, and who support

Israel. These women are the leaders who will be the faces and voices of the Stamford chapter of Hadassah for the 2015 term."

Continued from page 15

March & April 2015

SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

DIVORCE & BEREAVEMENT

JFS Bereavement Support Group
Tuesdays at 11 am. Free of charge. For more information, contact Rosmarie Delia at 203-921-4161 or rdelia@ctjfs.org. Are you searching for a safe haven to explore your thoughts and feelings about grief? JFS provides an environment of emotional, physical and spiritual support.

JFS Divorce with Dignity - Avoid Adversarial Dissolution
For more information, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 x122 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org. Divorce mediation program at JFS Stamford.

Parent Education Program (PEP)
State-mandated workshop for divorcing parents with children at JFS Stamford. Fee is \$125 per person. Call for date and to register at 203-324-3167.

JFS Focus on K.I.D.S.
For divorced or separated parents experiencing high conflict around parenting decisions. Teaches both parents strategies for communicating in a non-hostile manner. For more information, contact Erika Garcia at (203) 921-4161 or erikag@ctjfs.org.

JFS Divorce Support Group
Tuesdays from 7-8 pm at JFS Westport, 431 Post Road East. Fee: \$10/session or \$50/entire 6 sessions. For adults who would like to discuss all aspects of separation and divorce, 431 Post Road E. Suite 11. You must register to attend by contacting Rebekah Kanefsky at rkanefsky@ctjfs.org or call 203-921-4161.

CARING FOR SENIORS

JFS Caregiver Support Group
Sundays at 2:00 pm at JFS Westport, 431 Post Road E. Fee: \$10 per session or \$50 for six sessions. An open forum to provide support and help in dealing with the difficulties and stresses of caring for two generations. Facilitator: Rona Wall, LCSW. For more information or to register, contact Rebekah Kanefsky at rkanefsky@ctjfs.org or 203-921-4161.

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 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 more information, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 ext. 122 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org

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. For more information, contact JFS Home Companion at 203-921-4161.

JFS Residential Cleaning
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. For more information, contact Jodi Maxner at 203-921-4161 or residentialcleaning@ctjfs.org.

JFS EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

JFS Computer Training Courses
Variety of courses - all levels, individuals or small groups. Nominal fee. For more information, contact Ilene Locker at 203-921-4161 or iklocker@ctjfs.org.

JFS Life Transitions
Wednesdays at 11 am. For Information/Register: Rosemarie Delia 203-921-4161 or rdelia@ctjfs.org. Support group for the unemployed at 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.

JFS Seniors2Work
Job Bank for age 50+. Lower Fairfield employers can list full / part time jobs for dedicated, skilled mature workers. No fees. For more information, contact Ilene Locker or Jodi Maxner at 203-921-4161 or www.seniors2work.org

Adult Volunteer Opportunities

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
Kosher Lunch Program for Seniors. Help set up and serve HOT Kosher lunch to seniors. Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at the JCC. For more information or reservation: Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS)
Drivers needed to deliver food from the Kosher Food Pantry to individuals in the community. For information: Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY (JHS)
Harry Rosenbaum Judaica Library. At the JCC. Cover 2 hour slot (or more) once a week. You'll be trained on the computer system and the arrangement of books in the library. Call 203-487-0957.
Help protect the pieces of our Jewish history: Do you enjoy finding out about our region's early Jewish settlers? Do you want to help Jewish organizations retain their history and documents? Call 203-359-2196.

UJF's READING PARTNERS
Read one-on-one with Stamford public school children. One hour a week, mornings or afternoons. 11 elementary schools and 2 community centers. Training, literacy focused workshops and support network provided. Contact Marlyn Agatstein 203-321-1373 x115 or Readingpartners@ujf.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J): 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS): 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203) 921-4161 • www.ctjfs.org
UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF): 1035 Newfield Avenue, Suite 200, Stamford • (203) 321-1373 • www.ujf.org

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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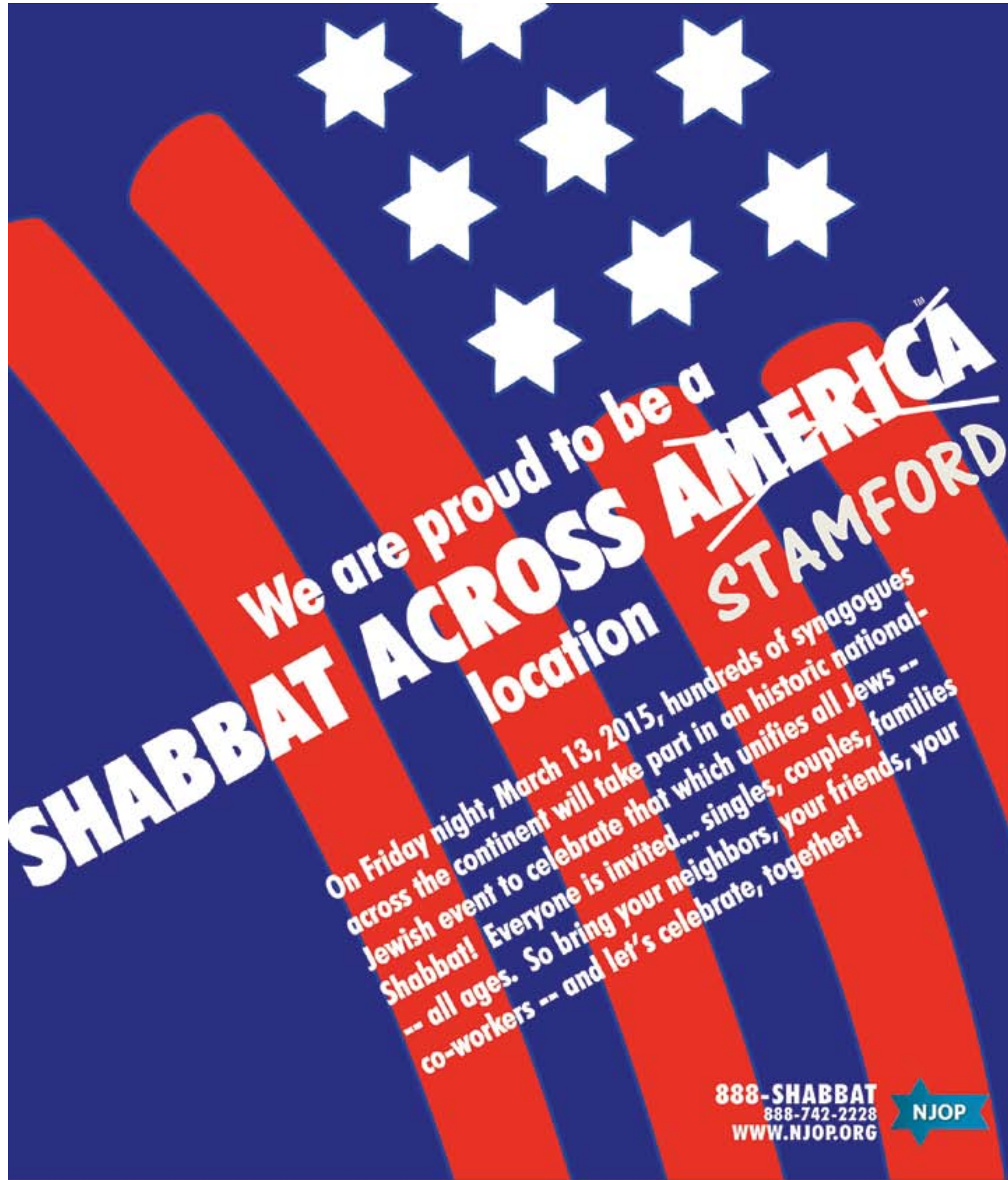
HOW TO REACH THE EDITOR:

Mail: Sandy Golove
1035 Newfield Ave. - Suite 200
Stamford, CT 06905-2521
E-mail: sandy@ujf.org
Fax: (203) 322-3277
Phone: (203) 321-1373, ext. 107

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**UJF Scholar-in-Residence
 Rabbi Joseph Telushkin**

March 13, 2015

Rippowam Middle School
 381 High Ridge Rd.

Go to ujf.org/SAS to reserve your space. All reservations must be paid in advance.
 Deadline for reservations is Friday, March 6th by noon. For information, call Marcia at (203) 321-1373, ext. 104.

Shabbat Across Stamford is a collaboration of the Stamford Board of Rabbis and United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien.

