

- 3 Jewish Family Service has started a mentoring program, Achi, for teen boys.
- 4 The JCC will hold a six-week healthy-living workshop for senior adults.
- 5 The film "Six Million and One" will be screened as part of the community commemoration of Yom Hashoah.

# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

MAY 2014/YAR-SIVAN 5774  
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A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF  
GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

## The Little Giant Woman's Philanthropy Spring Dinner Features Dr. Ruth

BY ELLEN WEBER

A sage once said that "Good things come in small packages." At 4 foot 7 inches tall, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, a world-renowned media psychologist and the guest speaker at this year's United Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy Spring Dinner, can attest to that.



Dr. Ruth Westheimer

On Thursday, May 15, Westheimer, known as Dr. Ruth, will share her life experiences with attendees at Temple Beth El. The event will begin with a cocktail hour at 6:30 pm, followed by dinner,

during which time Westheimer will share her thoughts and her life story, beginning with her birth in Germany, her time at a school in Switzerland where she escaped from the Holocaust, her experiences as a member of the Haganah as a Jewish freedom fighter, her immigration to the United States, and her success as both a nationally and internationally syndicated radio personality.

A practicing therapist, speaker and writer, having written 31 See "Giant" on page 2

## A Negev Oasis of Jewish-Bedouin Collaboration

BY MAAYAN JAFFE  
JNS.org

Ozone depletion, climate change, soil erosion and joblessness. Those are the issues tackled by Dr. Michael Ben-Eli, with Israel's Negev as his base. "The list of issues is long," said Ben-Eli, citing "an endemic failure of our social and economic institutions to address these issues effectively and in a timely manner."

Ben-Eli is the initiator of project Wadi Attir, launched jointly by the Sustainability Laboratory, of which he is the founder, and

the Hura Municipal Council, the governing body of a local Bedouin township. The lab itself was set up to demonstrate breakthrough approaches to sustainability practices, expanding prospects and producing life-affirming impacts on people and eco-systems in all parts of the world.

For now, though, Ben-Eli is focused on the desert. And his partners are a motivated combination of Muslim Bedouin and Israeli scientists. The concept for the project was born in 2007 when Ben-Eli visited Ben- See "Oasis" on page 19

## Collaborative Steps for Federations

### Greater Stamford and WJWN Move Forward Together

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

The UJF board unanimously voted on March 12 to establish a "Joint Committee" with UJA/Federation of Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk (WJWN) to pursue short-term and long-term collaboration. The committee, which will be comprised of two lay leaders from each community,

with presidents of the Federations serving as ex-officio members, will evaluate opportunities for cooperation and collaboration, and will serve as a central coordinator for such activity. The agreement specifically calls for analysis as to how the two Federations can jointly fund-raise to support local

See "Federations" on page 2

## JCC Tzahal Shalom: Making Connections to Israel

During this year's JCC Tzahal Shalom program, the community is invited to spend time with active-duty officers from the Israel Defense Forces at a week of community events scheduled for May 4-11. In cooperation with the IDF, the Stamford Jewish Community Center will welcome the officers for a cross-cultural encounter in a variety of settings.

The primary goal of the program is to strengthen the unity of the Jewish people. Americans and Israelis are given opportunities to learn about each other and their societies, person-to-person, with the goal of participants building lasting relationships and a sense of extended family. Representing all branches of

armed services, the officers are young men and women who embody commitment, dedication, courage and leadership, and who daily risk their lives in the defense of the Jewish state.

Scheduled events for the IDF officers include meetings with Jewish war veterans, a meeting for and about women, a presentation with the Jewish Historical Society, a community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration and town hall meeting, a teen program, parlor meetings at private homes, lunch with senior adults and more.

On Saturday, May 10, at 9 pm, the JCC will host its second annual Cocktails and See "Shalom" on page 4

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### YLD Mission to Cuba

Twenty-three members of the Young Leadership Division traveled to Cuba on March 6 under the auspices of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

In back, l-r: Rachel (partially hidden) and Nimrod Dayan, Ricky Arbron, Melissa and Mark Bildner, Amy Grabine, Jill Kaplan, Mitchell Kaplan, Parry Berkowitz and Jon Eisenstein

Middle: Aaron Klein, Andrew Banoff, James Cohen, Alix Field Eben, Tara Shapiro, Stephanie Bilenker and Richard Shapiro.

Front: Miriam Klein, Amanda Shapiro, Lisa Cohen and Rebekah Raz.

Not pictured: Meryl Japha and Elise Klein. See page 10 for story and more photos.



CEO's Message

# In Praise of the "C Word"

BY JAMES A. COHEN

Today's CEO message is brought to you by the letter "C." And so as not to keep you in suspense, the "C word" at the forefront of my mind is "collaboration." Our community has been loud and clear in many forums and for many years that they expect UJF to adopt a more collaborative posture vis-à-vis working with our neighbors. What seems like an obvious thing to do is often easier said than done, given factors of tradition, tastes, priorities and political realities.

I'm happy to say that as reported on page 1 of this edition of *The New Jewish Voice*, and through other means



James Cohen,  
UJF CEO

since I joined the UJF team, we are doing our best to turn the "C word" into a reality. The Letter of Agreement signed between our Federation and our colleagues in Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk (WWWN) not only establishes a joint committee to look at joint activities seriously and strategically, it also serves as a declaration, a loud and clear policy statement from our board, that we take collaboration seriously and will strive to seek it out whenever possible.

It is important to note that this recent agreement is by no means the only collaborative exercise we are undertaking. On the home front, the April 2 Women's Education Symposium, co-sponsored with UJA Greenwich, the Greenwich JCC and WWWN Federation, is the perfect example of how by working with other Federations, we are able to provide Fairfield County with richer, more robust program-

ming. We hope do more. Additionally, our ongoing collaboration with WWWN on PJ Library and PJ Goes to School, highlighted in previous editions of this publication, demonstrates the programmatic benefit to working together.

Collaboration is by no means limited to local activities. By partnering with Jewish Cuba Connection, we were able to undertake our highly successful Young Leadership Division mission to Cuba (another a la mode C word!), which gave participants a true understanding of how our dollars and dedication help those in need overseas. And we should not forget the wonderful collaborative activities taking place every day in our sister city/region in Israel.

While we have only scratched the surface of potential collaborative activities open to us, we are making progress, of which I think we can all be proud.

## Stamford Board Representative Goes to AIPAC

### UConn Judaic Studies Student

BY REBECCA ISENSTEIN

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford sent a student delegate to the recent AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, DC, on March 2-4. Delegate Steven Kolenberg was the UConn-Stamford representative, having been nominated by Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, founding director of the Center, after taking several classes in Judaic studies and showing an interest in Judaic studies, Israel and public service. Funding for the trip was made possible through the generosity of Stephne and Kerrin Behrend, friends of the Center.

Kolenberg is currently a junior at UConn-Stamford, majoring in history. He was born and raised in Stamford and graduated from Trinity Catholic High School. Most recently, he ran for public office in the 16th District and was elected to the Stamford Board of Representatives. He is a candidate for the certificate in Judaic and Middle Eastern studies at UConn-Stamford and is also a recipient of a scholarship provided by the Center.



AIPAC delegate and UConn-Stamford student Steven Kolenberg is also an elected official, serving on the Stamford Board of Representatives.

About his experience at AIPAC, Kolenberg said, "There were thousands of people attending [the conference], some Republican, some Democrat, all pro-Israel. The way a single issue like that brings so many people together was amazing to me."

Having an interest in international relations, Kolenberg took advantage of the talks on Sunni extremism and China-Israel relations, but said he was most impressed by the talks given by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Kolenberg said he was also inspired by the lobbying experience, noting, "After all the speeches were finished, we went to Capitol Hill to lobby our congressmen for Israel and later found out that our lobbying had made a difference - many senators and congressmen signed legislation in favor of Israel."

When asked what he took away from the conference, Kolenberg replied, "A deep sense of respect for the people of Israel and the ability for that issue to build consensus in an increasingly polarized America. I was also surprised it was not an exclusively Jewish lobby, as I met many of my fellow Catholics and Christians at the event."

For more information about the Center or its pro-

grams, call 203-251-9525 or e-mail [stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu](mailto:stamfordjudaicstudies@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 individuals and foundations.*

## Giant. . . . . Continued from page 1

books, Westheimer will also sign copies of her books, which will be available for sale at the event.

No prior minimum donation is required. The cover charge for all women attending is \$100 if registration occurs by Thursday, May 1, and \$118 after that date. Teenage women, ages 16-19, are welcome to attend and will be charged \$50 for the evening's activities.

Additionally, a pre-dinner cocktail reception will take place at a private home, where attendees will have an opportunity to speak with Westheimer. She will also share some thoughts at that time. Lions and Pomegranates (those donating a minimum of \$5,000 and \$1,800 respectively), as well as event sponsors (\$360), are welcomed to attend the "Meet and Greet."

The Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation is sponsoring Westheimer's talk.

*All questions may be directed to Rebekah Raz, vice president of UJF, at 203-321-1373, ext. 102.*

## Federations. . . . . Continued from page 1

social services. It also calls for the development of joint projects related to Israel and international Jewry. These projects could include fund-raising and outreach, as well as partnering together with JCC Stamford to expand programming throughout both catchment areas.

The agreement builds upon successful collaborations that have already taken place, most notably last year's Israel at 65 event and joint activities surrounding the PJ Library, and formalizes the structure to ensure ongoing collaboration. Steven Friedlander, executive director of WWWN Federation, said, "Our agreement with UJF Stamford establishes a new level in our working relationship that will deepen the fabric of meaningful service that we will provide to our connected Fairfield County Jewish community."

UJF's CEO James Cohen echoed that sentiment, noting that, "We are focused on creating tangible outcomes together. The agreement recognizes that, as fund-raising organizations, our efforts should favorably impact fund-raising, for both local and

overseas priorities, while improving upon our outreach and engagement efforts."

Former UJF President Nancy Mimoun, who initiated the effort, said, "It is exciting to have a formal structure in place for working closely together with a sister Federation. Our community has been asking for this, and I am proud that we listened and worked hard to make this a reality."

Efforts are also well under way to bring together UJA/Federation of Greater Westport and UJA/Federation of Eastern Fairfield County, which incorporates towns all the way to Bridgeport and Monroe. This effort, too, will serve to bring Fairfield County Federations closer together.

News of the agreement was announced to Jewish professionals attending the recent Jewish Federations of North America Intermediate Executives Institute. JFNA's Vice President for Consulting and Community Development Becky Sobelman-Stern said, "There are many ways for Federations to collaborate. This is an interesting and exciting model."

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Book Signing at Agudath Rabbis Cohen and Walk Publish New Books

BY MICHAEL FELDSTEIN

The entire community is invited to a book signing and breakfast on Sunday morning, April 27, at 9:15 am, at Congregation Agudath Sholom to mark the publication of two separate books authored by the synagogue's clergy, Rabbi Daniel Cohen and Rabbi David Walk.

Rabbi Cohen will launch the publication of his new

book, "Mining for Gold: Essays Exploring the Relevancy of Torah in the Modern World." The book contains articles commissioned by Rabbi Cohen from 20 leading rabbis in North America and Israel who reveal how the "gold standard" of living well can be reached in the modern world.

"In publishing this volume, I've attempted to share

the secrets of turning fleeting moments into enduring memories, and leading a life of impact and legacy," said Rabbi Cohen. "Ultimate wealth eventually is obtained not by money or material goods, but from possessing a good name and leading a life through the prism of Torah values."

Rabbi Walk's book, "Walkthrough the Parsha," is a collection of some of his favorite articles that he has written each week on the Torah portion in the last 16 years. Rabbi Walk's weekly commentary goes out to more than 3,000 people via e-mail and this is the first time that his articles have been collected in one volume.

"Throughout history, Jews have lived their lives to the rhythm of the weekly Torah readings," said Rabbi Walk. "When Reb Menachem Mendel of Kotzk was asked about current events, he would respond with an idea from that week's *parasha*."

Both Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Walk will speak briefly about their book at the Sunday event. Following the presentation, copies of "Mining for Gold" and "Walkthrough the Parsha" will be available for purchase. Admission to the event is free, and the entire community is invited.

## Achi (My Brother)

BY EVE MOSKOWITZ

The mission of Jewish Family Service includes the effort to sustain families and individuals through all of life's challenges and build strong healthy communities.

Until now, there have been no programs available for Jewish teen boys to assist them in dealing with general hardships through high school years and fill this niche.

Jewish Family Service of Stamford has introduced its newest program, Achi, Hebrew for "my brother."

The inception of the program began with a young man who met the parent of an adolescent in the community, who was concerned about her son. She described him as bright and funny, but socially isolated, struggling to find his way in high school. The young man and the adolescent boy met and formed an alliance that was cultivated by the parent and became a mentor/mentee relationship. After a year of "friendship," involving activities and guidance, the adolescent began to thrive with new found self-esteem and abilities to make friends and successfully began to plan for college. The parent and the young man approached Jewish Family Service with the idea of a "big brother" program. Jewish Family Service recognized a need in the community for such a program and developed Achi, a mentorship for teen boys in need of such social guidance.

Achi serves boys between the ages of 15 and 18, who are not suffering from any major learning or spectrum disabilities, but battle with social skills deficits and/or bullying. The boys are matched to their mentors for an alliance of six to 12 months, and a commitment of bi-monthly meetings, under the guidance of JFS professional staff. Parents are involved initially to vet the mentor and then given updates regarding activities and ongoing progress. Some of the activities being encouraged are bike rides, movies, dining out, dog walking/dog parks, the beach, concerts and washing cars. All activities are parent approved.

Mentors are undergraduate or post baccalaureate (ages 19-25) from within the Jewish community. They are evaluated through applications, interviews and background and driving record checks, and go through a two-hour training, inclusive of safety parameters, the development of communication skills and sensitivity training. The emphasis of the relationship between the mentee and mentor is friendship in a non-authoritarian pairing that looks more like a positive "camp counselor" relationship. Consistency is key in order to build trust and ultimately make a difference.

Research says that one person providing positive interaction for a child can have the power to immeasurably impact the direction of that child's entire future. A



Achi mentors during their training session. L-r: Brian Cahn, Matthew Greif and Gabriel Banschick

confident and constructive younger role model, outside of the family and its dynamics, can often give a child the guidance needed to develop self-esteem and maturity. As stated by Achi co-founder, Brian Cahn, "These relationships validate kids' feelings, accomplishments and experiences with a series of small, teachable moments that in the end, make all the difference."

For further information about Achi, contact, Eve Moskowitz, director of clinical services of at Jewish Family Service at 203-921-4161.

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

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



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## Deadlines for articles

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

Monday, April 28..... June

Tuesday, May 27 ..... July

Monday, July 28..... September

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



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# Women's Auxiliary Luncheon Features Magician Oz Pearlman

BY ROBIN FRIEDSON

The Women's Auxiliary of Jewish Senior Services® has announced that its Annual Spring Luncheon and Boutique will take place on Monday, May 5, at The Waterview in Monroe, CT. Magician and mentalist Oz Pearlman will be the featured entertainer. Pearlman has entertained audiences with his sleight-of-hand and mind-reading abilities for more than two decades. More than 300 guests are expected to attend. Peri Cook, of Trumbull, and Jodi Mantell, of Fairfield, are co-chairs of the event.



Oz Pearlman, mentalist and magician, will be the featured entertainer at the Women's Auxiliary Spring Luncheon on Monday, May 5, at The Waterview, Monroe, CT.

"We are thrilled to have Oz join us at the luncheon. You may recognize him from frequent appearances on television, a corporate event or a private party," says Mantell. "His unique blend of magic and mentalism create an in-

teractive experience that is redefining the very nature of a magic show...one that truly needs to be seen to be believed!"

"We are looking forward to connecting our multi-generational audience through laughter, warmth and shared stories," said Linda Lazinger of Fairfield, co-president of the Women's Auxiliary. "This special day is a wonderful opportunity for old and new friends from throughout Fairfield County to enjoy a fun, meaningful experience together. We appreciate the support from the community year-round that helps the Women's Auxiliary carry out our mission to enhance quality of life for the residents at the Jewish Home."

For further information about the Women's Auxiliary or the Annual Spring

Luncheon and Boutique, contact Dayna Hayden, director of development, at the JHE Foundation Office at 203-365-6409 or dhayden@jsej.org. Reservations range from \$118-\$250.

Jewish Senior Services is a provider of senior care in Connecticut serving clients at its two Fairfield locations and in clients' homes throughout Fairfield and New Haven counties. Its five-star skilled nursing and

short-term rehabilitation facility has been serving the community for 40 years. Other services provided include home care, hospice, day services, advocacy and education, and long-term care protection. To find out more about the services of Jewish Senior Services, call 203-365-6400 or visit [www.jsej.org](http://www.jsej.org).

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

## New JCC Healthy-living Workshop for Senior Adults

BY LUISA VILADAS

Live Well, a nationwide evidence-based health promotion program developed by Stanford University, will be offered at the Stamford Jewish Community Center on six Fridays, April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, from 9:30 am-noon.

Live Well is a free six-week workshop series designed for adults ages 60 and older who want to take charge of ongoing health conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, heart or lung disease, asthma, cancer, depression, anxiety and chronic pain. Caregivers are also invited to join the workshop series.

Workshops are interactive and cover

subjects such as healthy eating, better balance, effective communication, meditation, exercise, setting goals, decision making, problem solving and more.

Live Well is sponsored by Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging, the State Department on Aging and the Department of Public Health, in partnership with the JCC.

For more information or to register, contact JCC Director of Senior Adult Services Connie Cirillo Freeman 203-487-0983 or [cfreeman@tamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@tamfordjcc.org).

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

### Jewish Women Connected Shabbat

The Chabad House Stamford's Women's Shabbat, organized under Jewish Women Connected, has grown in support and size over the past 12 years. Last year's Women's Shabbat had close to 140 women in attendance for the dinner and to experience Shabbat with friends.

This year's Women's Shabbat is being chaired by Alix Eben, Hillary Isaacs and Alisa Weisser, and will be held on Friday night, May 16, at Chabad House Stamford, 770 High Ridge Rd. The candle lighting and *oneg* will begin at 7 pm and the Shabbat dinner at 7:45 pm.

While Shabbat is traditionally a family-oriented event, the Women's Shabbat offers participants, all of whom experience different Shabbat observances, a way to get together and experience Shabbat with a fully cooked dinner, dessert and entertainment. It is intended to be a time for participants to relax, recharge and reconnect as Jewish women, and to then take that experience back to their families.

The cost to attend for early birds (before April 30) is \$45, early bird JWC members is \$36 or advance reservations \$54. To be a sponsor, the cost is \$180; to be a hostess the cost is \$360.

For more information, call 203-3CHABAD, ext. 418, or e-mail [morahleah@chabadstamford.org](mailto:morahleah@chabadstamford.org).

## No Need to Retire Jewish Home Residents Still at Work

BY ROBIN FRIEDSON

Many of the residents of the Jewish Home in Fairfield, a program of Jewish Senior Services, continue to work well into their 80s and 90s. Neither snow nor rain nor heat stop them from their work, because they work in the Work Activity Center at the Jewish Home, which is only one stop off the elevator, near the therapeutic recreation area.

The residents say they enjoy reporting for work for several hours each and keeping busy folding, stuffing, labeling, sorting and stamping the many pieces of mail that go through the center. They earn a paycheck that they often use to shop at the gift shop in the lobby of the Jewish Home.

"I like it. It gives me something to do and a sense of pride," says resident Helen Downs.

The Work Activity Center's biggest customer is not Jewish Senior Services, but outside organizations that hire the residents to handling their mailing needs. Organizations such as UJA Greenwich, Congregation Rodeph Sholom and Minute Man Press of Monroe use the center for large mailings. The residents can handle large volumes of mailings, turning around up to 15,000 pieces in two days. They say they are grateful to be kept busy.

"They love what they do. They love doing it together and look forward to coming to work," explains Josh Garcia, coordinator of the Work Activity Center.

The Work Activity Center picks up and delivers to clients or directly to the Post Office. For information on mailing services, contact Garcia at 203-396-1008 or [workactivity@jsej.org](mailto:workactivity@jsej.org).

## Shalom . . . . . Continued from page 1

Comedy event to raise funds in support of the Tzahal Shalom program.

There are numerous opportunities for the community to take part in Tzahal Shalom activities, many at no cost. For a complete schedule, visit [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org).

Chairing this year's visit are Risa

Goldblum, Wendy Handler and Jeannie Kriftcher. For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or [nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org).

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

# Calling All PJ Library Parents!

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*Sammi and Grant Bradley*

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

*Samson, Eve and Gabrielle Poland*

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BETTER TOGETHER



Visiting IDF officers participated in the JCC's Tzahal Shalom program entertained local children during last year's Community Ha'atzmaut Celebration.

## JCC Annual Spring Gala

For their commitment and connection to the Jewish Community Center of Stamford, community leaders Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher were honored at the JCC's annual spring gala on March 1 at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich. Carla Bick and Rebecca Isenstein served as event co-chairs; Jeff Goldblum, Peter Gray and Jeannie Kasindorf co-chaired the commemorative journal. Two hundred fifty people were in attendance. Proceeds from the event will be used to support JCC programs and services.



Guests of honor Brian and Jeannie Kriftcher at the JCC's annual spring gala.



L-r: Gala committee members Peter Gray, Jeannie Kasindorf, Rebecca Isenstein, Jeff Goldblum and Carla Bick with JCC President Rich Vogel.

## Standing Ovation at David Harris Lecture

David Harris, the executive director of AJC, spoke to about 300 people at Temple Beth El, Stamford, in March. His topic was "Hope vs Fear: The changing global landscape." The event was co-sponsored by AJC Westchester and Temple Beth El.

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman said, "David Harris is regarded as one of the

leading advocates and most eloquent spokesmen for the Jewish people and for Israel's political and diplomatic standing and his speech was insightful and thought-provoking."

Those who missed the lecture can view the entire video, recorded by Shalom TV, on the AJC website at [www.ajc.org/westchester/global](http://www.ajc.org/westchester/global).



L-r: David Harris; Stephne and Kerrin Behrend, AJC CT Committee members; and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman. (Photos by Bernie Weiss)



The 300 members of the audience at Temple Beth El gave David Harris a standing ovation after he spoke.

## Watch the Film and Hear the Filmmaker

### "Six Million and One"

The film "Six Million and One" will be screened on Monday, April 28, at 7 pm as part of the community commemoration of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, at the State Cinema, 990 Hope St., Stamford. Afterward, the filmmaker, David Fisher, will talk about the making of the film. The evening is jointly sponsored by AJC and the Jewish Arts and Film Festival of Fairfield County. The Freedman family and Garden Homes Management are providing the State Cinema.

The film has been called "an eloquent, intense and surprisingly humorous portrait" of Fisher and his three siblings, as they retrace the footsteps of their late father, Joseph Fisher, a Hungarian Jew and a Holocaust survivor. While imprisoned, Joseph kept a memoir that was discovered 12 years after his death. His children refused to confront it, except for David. When David found his father's survival story unbearable, he convinced his brothers and sister to join him in the hope that this would also release the tension and bring them as close as they used to be. His siblings, for their part, couldn't understand why anyone should want to dig into the past instead of enjoying life in the present.

The journey eventually leads the Fishers into the dark depths of the tunnels of the Austrian Gusen concentration camp where their father endured force labor during the Holocaust. The film watches the siblings seek meaning in their personal and family histories, and discuss family, survival and individualism as they try to understand their father's past and the events that haunted him.

Joseph's last couple of weeks at Gunkirchen concentration camp were "an inhuman experience" that blocked his writing. To find out what his father failed to describe, David located American veterans who liberated the camp. The elderly soldiers said they are still haunted and traumatized by the horrific sights they came across when entering the camp.

Through their journey, the Fishers become emblematic of the entire second generation who are still grappling with the experience of their survivor parents. David said, "For me, this isn't a film about the Holocaust because we (me and my siblings) spent most of our time laughing and there is nothing funny about the Holocaust. It's about a rare kind of intimacy and brotherly bond that replaced pain with bitter-sweet humor."

David has been called one of Israel's leading documentary filmmakers and is the director general of the New Fund for Cinema and Television, which funds many of the new films and television series coming out of Israel. His most notable film, "Love Inventory," won the Best Documentary Award in 2000 at the Jerusalem International Film Festival and from the Israeli Film Academy.

His documentaries are known for their deep, thorough investigations, revealing new aspects of life in Israel and the Jewish Diaspora. "Six Million and One" is his most recent feature documentary.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at [www.ajc.org/westchester/six-million](http://www.ajc.org/westchester/six-million) or at the State Cinema. For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman: [nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org) or 203-487-0941 or Vicki Kline at [klinev@ajc.org](mailto:klinev@ajc.org) or 914-948-5585.

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OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN  
AFTER SHARON

## 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 NEW FAMILIES:



**Megan and Adam Altshuler** on the birth of a son, Judah Sol; grandparents are **Serita and Michael Altshuler**.

**Rebecca and Ari Ashkenas** on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Barbara and Ron Ashkenas**.

**Tamar and Chalom Bendayan** on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Rica and Ari Lieberman**; great-grandmother is **Yospa Lieberman**.

**Eve and Daniel Block** on the birth of a son, Samuel Isaiah; grandparents are **David M. and Andrea Cohen**.

**Allison and Yuri Feldman** on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Irina and Arkady Feldman** and **Jane and Phil Molstre**.

**Ellen and Ari Fischel** on the birth of a daughter, Lauren Danielle; grandparents are **Flossy and Sam Fischel**.

**Nicole and Mike Marino** on the birth of a son, William James; grandparents are **Kathy and Jeff Pasetiner**.

**Allison and Jonathan Ostroff** on the birth of twin daughters, Rebecca Lily and Eliza Faye; grandparents are **Barbara and Norman Ostroff**.

MAZEL TOV TO:

**Rae-ann Allen**, who has been named to head Carmel Academy's PALS program for children with learning disabilities.

**Joshua Fogel**, son of **Gail Berman and David Fogel**, on his graduation from the University of South California with a master's degree in astronautical engineering.

**Alan and Bach-Yen Garner** on the marriage of their daughter, **Natalie Garner**, to **Jon Gordon**.

**Jewish Senior Services** (formerly the Jewish Home in Fairfield) has been named one of the Best Nursing Homes in the U.S. News and World Report Best Nursing Homes Rankings for 2014.

**Jean and Brian Kriftcher** for being honored at the JCC Annual Spring Gala.

**Ilyse and Dean Schuckman and Elaine and Mike Camhi** on the engagement of their children, **Rachel Schuckman** to **Jay Camhi**.

**Joan and Bennett Schwartz** on the marriage of their son, **Matthew Slaine**, to **Michele Zatzkis**.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

**Joshua Gordon**, son of **Michelle and Howland Gordon**

**Sarah Hanna**, daughter of **Kayla and Leon Hanna**

**Jayce Schwartz**, son of **Allison and Daniel Schwartz**

**Micaela Thau**, daughter of **Danielle and Steven Thau**

CONDOLENCES TO:

**Danielle Alexander** on the loss of her grandfather, Robert (Bob) Pollyea.

**Andrea Cohen** on the loss of her father, Paul Oster.

**Paula Epstein** on the loss of her husband, and **Ellen Bromley and Julie Epstein** on the loss of their father, Sidney Epstein.

**Janice Gaines** on the loss of her mother, Lillian Cooper Gaines.

**Shira Green** on the loss of her sister, Ruth Bymel.

**Sadae Kadish** on the loss of her father, Masato Koga.

**Mark Kobliner and Karen Weinger** on the loss of their mother, Estelle Berk.

**Marsha Levy** on the loss of her husband; **Steven, Michael and Robert Levy** on the loss of their father; and **Merril Landas and Howard Levy** on the loss of their brother, Gary Levy.

**Mitchell Nadel** on the loss of his wife, and **Kyle, Brandon, Anya and Eliana** on the loss of their mother, Beth Bennett.

**Henry Rascoff** on the loss of his father, Dr. Joel Rascoff.

**Jerry Rose** on the loss of his sister, Lorraine Weisberger.

**Gary Schulman** on the loss of his mother, Marilyn Schulman.

**Paul Storfer** on the loss of his step-mother, Muriel Silberstein-Storfe.

## NEW AROUND TOWN

### Carmel Names Rae-ann Allen to Head PALS Program

BY JULIE LAPIN

Carmel Academy has named veteran educator and administrator Rae-ann Allen to head its Providing Alternative Learning Strategies program, the school's program for children with learning disabilities. Allen will take the helm on July 1 as director of educational resources.

Currently the head of the lower school at Wooster School in Danbury, CT, Allen is also an advisor to The Prospect School at Wooster, a program for children with verbal learning disabilities. She brings to Carmel Academy more than 30 years of experience in education and administration.

"The search committee was impressed with Rae-ann's strong educational leadership skills, innovative vision for special education and passion for excellence in teaching," said Carmel Academy Head of School Nora Anderson.

Prior to PALS, there were no other day schools in the region offering such a program for Jewish students with learning disabilities – an issue for parents who wished to have their children receive a Jewish day school education. "Carmel Academy's PALS program is such a wonderful model for other schools – it is unique in its vision and definitely ahead of its peer schools in providing support and personalization," Allen said. "Bobbie (Powers) has built a very strong program and now it is up to me to take it to new heights."

Allen lives in Norwalk with her husband, Scott Allen, who is the executive director of Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester in Rye, NY. The Allens attend Temple Beth El in Stamford. Together, they have five sons between them and three grandchildren.



Rae-ann Allen

## An Evening with JFS

Jewish Family Service honored four volunteers with its Mitzvah Awards and the Young Leadership Award who have contributed to a broad range of organizations and institutions in the community. About 250 people turned out to salute Ed Smith, Edith Samers, Alison Wachstein and Adam Batkin, and partake in the JFS Live and Silent Auction at Temple Beth El on March 30.

Every year, JFS distributes more than \$15,000 in emergency funds to people in the community who are in dire need

of financial assistance in order to remain in their homes, keep their cars and feed their families, and have nowhere else to turn. The JFS Evening Auction included an opportunity for attendees to contribute to this service, and monies were raised to help cover the agency costs for this coming year. For additional information or to contribute, contact JFS CEO Matt Greenberg at 203-921-4161.

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



L-r: Alison Wachstein, Mitzvah Award honoree; David Martin, mayor of Stamford; Edith Samers and Ed Smith, Mitzvah Award honorees; Adam Batkin, Young Leadership Award recipient; and Matt Greenberg, CEO of Jewish Family Service. (Photo by Aviva Maller)

## Reading Partners Hold March Brainstorming Workshop



At a Reading Partners workshop in March, Marci Marcus, Springdale School instructional support teacher, spoke about Common Core standards. She added that families should read to children in their native tongue to aid with language development.



Reading Partners from different schools brainstormed ideas and strategies together. In addition to reading, playing word games, making vocabulary index cards, using a white board and taking exercise "breaks" were suggested enhancements for volunteer skill sets.

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May 2	7:34 pm
May 9	7:41 pm
May 16	7:48 pm
May 23	7:54 pm
May 30	8 pm
June 3	8:03 pm
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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

# TribeFest 2014

## Jewish Federations of North America Young Leadership Conference

Imagine a place where young leaders from across North America gather to be inspired, to be informed and to be encouraged to meet the challenges facing their communities – that is TribeFest. TribeFest is a conference for Jews, ages 22-45, organized by Jewish Federations of North America. This was the third TribeFest, which brought approximately 1,200 young adults representing 83 communities to New Orleans, including the local delegation of six Stamford participants.

“The energy in the room for the mainstages and Mashups was palpable,” said Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz, a member of the National Young Leadership Cabinet.

One component of TribeFest is the service project; more than 500 participants chose to spend part of the conference giving back to the host community.

“TribeFest was a unique opportunity to connect and collaborate with young Jewish professionals from around North America. The events included a number of inspirational speakers, with the sessions offering insightful and relevant discussions covering a multitude of topics affecting our generation. We are very grateful to United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford for helping subsidize the cost of attending the events,” said Loren Steinfeldt, who attended TribeFest with the Stamford delegation. Below two local participants share their experience at TribeFest.

### BY ROBIN WEBER

Let's set the scene: More than 1,200 Jews between the ages of 22-45 flocking from all over North America to New Orleans; More than 1,200 Jews between the ages of 22-45 celebrating Purim and shaking groggers in unison during the megillah reading; More than 1,200 Jews between the ages of 22-45 singing “Hatikvah” at the opening ceremony. This all boils down to one thing – TribeFest 2014.

This year's convention for Young Leadership Division of the Jewish Federations of North America was influential and inspirational. One-thousand-two-hundred Jews gathered together to discuss commonalities and differences, to learn about leadership and collaboration, and to learn how to engage more people in our community with the intent to return to our respective cities, help build community and make a difference in Jewish life.

The most recent Pew report, commenting on the Jewish American community, sent shock waves across this country. Findings suggested that the identity of a Jewish American has

significantly changed over the years. It hypothesizes that, in the not-so-distant future, Jewish Americans will be comprised of many secular Jews who will have a diminishing Jewish identity. I reflect back to standing in the “main stage” ballroom looking around and seeing a sea of young faces singing their hearts out during “Hatikvah.” This demographic between the ages of 22-45 took time off from work, paid convention and travel expenses, and dedicated their weekend all for the goal of meeting fellow Jews with hopes to make bonds and connections in order to make a better community. We are trying to defy this Pew report.

Meeting other Jews in my demographic with the passion to lead, the passion to raise funds for the local and global community and the passion to strengthen our individual Jewish identities is truly inspiring. Take Detroit's Young Leadership Division, “NextGen.” Sixty-Four representatives from Detroit, including professionals and volunteers, attended this year's TribeFest. As described by the director of Detroit's YLD, “Detroit was a broken city, as was our YLD program.” Proudly, they stated in 2013 they had 1,000 YLD participants attend their “Latke Vodka” program and subsequently raised approximately \$300,000.

New Orleans rolled out their YLD program two years ago under the name “J-NOLA.” This program now has 1,900 people on its listserve with about 200-450 attendees at their varying events ranging from community service around New Orleans to happy hours to social actions events. These are the stories that are inspiring. These are the stories that invigorated me to come back to Stamford with what I learned and help to make a difference in our community.

For all those in the demographic of 22-45, I strongly encourage you to attend the next TribeFest. Whether you are a professional, current lay leader or to-be lay leader, TribeFest is an environment which helps to foster a growing Jewish identity, build relationships between professionals and lay leaders alike, and allow participants to return inspired by new knowledge and stories acquired during their time at TribeFest.

### BY DAVID KLEIN

If only Moses and the Jews had dune buggies as they left Egypt, maybe they wouldn't have taken so long in the desert getting to the promised land.

I, too, recently made a long journey, but thankfully, I had four wheels and a GPS. Rather than wandering and searching, I simply steered my car south and

in relatively short time (compared with our ancient ancestors, at least) arrived in New Orleans, LA, for the most recent gathering of young adult Jews known as TribeFest, an almost annual event produced by the Jewish Federations of North America.

Through speakers, breakout sessions, receptions and social programming, the National Young Leadership of JFNA provided a chance to see American Jewish life in a snapshot. Over the course of three days, I had the pleasure of listening to individuals in the tech start-up sector speak about their various products and tools and how to engage Jewish entrepreneurs. I participated in a discussion on how to approach the Israel/Palestine conflict without becoming utterly exhausted and quitting before even beginning. I heard from various organizations that often overlap or compete for “NextGen Jews” and how one community in Detroit has found collaboration between organizations not to cannibalize each other's programming or members, but strengthen them. Sessions were overwhelmed with eager participants, exchanging ideas on topics that ran the gamut from “Global Jewish Comedy” and “A Meme-orable Lesson in Israel Advocacy” to “Faith and Feminism: The Power of Jewish Women” and “Unpacking the Jewish Privilege Backpack.”

Keynote speakers such as actor Joshua Malina (of “The West Wing” and “Scandal” fame) spoke to large crowds about their personal journeys through life and modern Judaism. According to Malina, “Judaism is all about community. Let's value each other as the tribe we make up together.”

Greg Liberman, CEO of JDate, used statistics to enlighten the festi-



David Klein

val attendees, saying, “one-quarter of Jewish marriages every year are because of JDate. The children of Jewish couples are choosing to be among the chosen.”

Doug Ulman, the CEO of Livestrong, encapsulated the message of the festival when he said, “Philanthropy used to be something for people with money or time. It's really about millions of

people who have an opportunity to be a part of a community that will survive and thrive.”

Throughout the festival, the Jewish community of New Orleans played host to more than 1,200 participants in classic NOLA style. Following a parade through the streets, complete with police escort and marching band, a social affair on the Steamboat Natchez provided the perfect setting to take in the unique flavors of our host city. The next morning, Jews from around the continent dispersed into the NOLA community for a day of service, reading to children through a local charter school organization, or sorting and packing food at a food bank, or making arts and crafts with senior citizens at a senior center, just to name a few.

Ultimately, TribeFest aims to connect its participants with what makes being Jewish so special: our commitment to community – not only our own individual Jewish communities, but to the greater community of human existence as well. It can be easy to take those communities and connections for granted and so, from time to time, it's useful to take a moment and engage formally with these ideas. To that end, TribeFest provides the workshops, forums and fun to reaffirm what we all know to be true: It's good to be a member of the Tribe!



Danielle Alexander and Robin Weber pose for a picture with Joshua Malina (center), TribeFest presenter and actor from “The West Wing” and “Scandal” after the megillah reading at TribeFest in New Orleans.

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# World ORT Representatives Come to Stamford

## Discuss ORT's Impact on World Jewry

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

On March 26, members of the local Jewish community gathered at the home of Elissa and Philip Klapper to hear about the work that World ORT does for Jews globally. ORT, an acronym for the organization's original Russian name, Obshestvo Remeslennogo Zemledelcheskogo Truda (the Society for Trades and Agricultural Labor), was founded in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1880. The discussion was led by ORT leaders Jim Lodge, whose focus is on the organization's relationships with various Federations, and Lauren Azoulai, director of foundation and corporate development.

World ORT is the largest Jewish education and training non-government organization in the world, and provides the skills and knowledge to empower students to become contributing members of society. Focusing on the idea of *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world, World ORT takes responsibility for reaching out to individuals and communities, and is represented in more than 100 countries in five continents worldwide. Its main areas of operation are in Israel, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, North America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. In addition to providing schools that give students an opportunity to receive a quality education, ORT provides other services, such as vocational and technical education and training, skills development, ICT, health and nutrition, mother and child care, agriculture and rural development, and



L-r: Barbara Muller and World ORT's Lauren Azoulai chatted about the success stories in schools created and run by World ORT.



L-r: Dan Benjamin, UJF CEO Jim Cohen and Fred Springer.

teacher training.

Through its efforts, World ORT hopes to not only provide a Jewish and secular education, but to instill a love of Jewish identity and ritual for a lifetime. Many who come out of World ORT's program give back by becoming supporters of the very organization that helped them help themselves.



L-r: World ORT representative Lauren Azoulai, Stamford resident and parlor meeting host Elissa Klapper, and Jim Lodge, also with World ORT, discussed the educational services the organization provides for Jews in Israel and around the world.

# The Friendship Circle Celebrates its "Bat Mitzvah"

BY AMY GETTLER

Marking 12 years of service, the Friendship Circle invites the entire community to its "Mitzvah Celebration" on Sunday, June 1, at 7 pm, at the Stamford Hilton. The evening will recognize the mitzvah of friendship that 350 teen volunteers provide to 100 friends with special needs in the community. The event will be chaired by Trevor and Michelle Caplan, Dr. Sam and Amy Gettler, and Stewart and Jamie Kesmodel.

The theme of this year's event will be "Celebrating 12 Bat Mitzvah Years and Rejoicing as We Enter Our Bar Mitzvah Year." It will emphasize the Friendship Circle's involvement in bar/bat mitzvahs of both typical

and special-needs teens. The event will include a video presentation, a "Teen Roll Call" and more.

The Friendship Circle aims to provide children and teenagers with special needs and their families with many of the social and recreational opportunities that are currently available to the general community. These experiences are considered essential building blocks for an individual to acquire confidence and self-esteem, and to ultimately lead a productive, normative adult lifestyle.

Malya Shmotkin and her team craft a roster of more than 20 social and educational programs for special-needs children and teens, but it is the friendship provided by the teen volunteers that is said to be "the heart and soul" of the Friendship Circle. The volunteering opportunities can inspire teens by providing them with purpose, and a sense of connection to and responsibility for the greater Jewish community.

See "Circle" on page 17

# Purim in the Palace at Chabad

Chabad House Stamford celebrated Purim 5774 with two Purim parties – Purim in the Palace at night and Purim in the Palace Family Extravaganza during the day – and delivered almost 700 *shalach manot* packages to people all over Stamford.



Tova Saul and Elayne Dener enjoyed Purim in the Palace festivities at Chabad House Stamford.



Teddie Sklar took a break from listening to the megillah at Chabad House Stamford.



Raph, Lori, Sarah and Ilana Gilbert dressed up for Purim fun, enjoying Purim In The Palace Family Extravaganza.

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

# Chai Society's Awesome 80's Prom

On March 22, members of Chai Society enjoyed an evening out as they mingled and danced the night away at the Awesome 80's Prom, which was held at

Carmel Academy, Greenwich. The event was chaired by Lisa and Jeff Manheim, and Haley Levine offered her talents as decorating chair.

Leadership Division of the UJF, who have committed a minimum gift of \$180 to the Annual Community Campaign.

Attendees of Chai Society are members of the Young



Omer and Rebecca Neumeier got into the '80s spirit. (Photo by Lee Peskin)



Decoration Chair Hayley Levine and Shira Nerenberg enjoyed an evening out at the prom. (Photo by Sharon Franklin)



Raphael Gilbert presented his wife, Lori, with a rose corsage, which was part of the evening's fund-raising efforts. (Photo by Lee Peskin)



Amy Gettler and Julie Rosenberg (Photo by Lee Peskin)



Josh Levine and Jeff Manheim dressed the part in festive '80s attire. (Photo by Lee Peskin)



Young Leadership Division President Amanda Shapiro and UJF CEO Jim Cohen (Photo by Sharon Franklin)



L-r: Levi and Jessica Dulitz, Emily Wirgin, Laura and Seth Tobin, and Lisa Manheim mingle as they enjoyed music from the '80s. (Photo by Lee Peskin)



“What is so valuable about the Carmel experience is the model it offers for day schools to embrace excellence in the classroom as a non-negotiable expectation...”

—Jewish Learning by Design: The Case of Carmel Academy, Dr. Jack Wertheimer and Rabbi Josh Elkin

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# UJF Young Leadership Mission to Cuba

BY AMANDA SHAPIRO

Twenty-two members of the Young Leadership Division of Greater Stamford have just returned from a mission trip to Havana, Cuba (March 5-9).

Led by Federation CEO James A. Cohen and Vice President Rebekah Raz, and guided by Jewish Cuba Connection, attendees brought needed pharmaceutical supplies, medicine, goods and clothing to the Jewish Community Center and visited Havana's three synagogues – Patronato/Beth Shalom, Centro Sefardi and Adath Israel.

At each of the synagogues, they met with leaders and presented monetary donations to help sustain the vibrant Cuban Jewish community that goes back to 1492. Currently, there are only 1,500 Jews (800 in Havana) and eight active synagogues throughout the

country. Prior to the Revolution in 1959, up to 15,000 Jews lived in Cuba, having come from Spain, Turkey, Syria, Eastern Europe, Germany and Russia.

Highlights of the trip included visiting the newest Holocaust exhibit guided by William Miller, World ORT's\* representative in Cuba; a *Kabbalah* Shabbat service and dinner with the Jewish community; and visiting, on Cuba's National Women's Day, the Joshua White Community Center outside Havana. Those who attended were able to see first-hand the impact JDC (the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) and ORT have made to improve the lives of both the Jewish and non-Jewish Cuban people on a daily basis since 1925.

Cultural highlights included visiting the home of artist Jose Fuster (the Gaudi of Cuba) and a walking tour of Havana Veija, old city Havana (a UNESCO World Heritage site). YLD members also visited the Museum of the Revolution, the Belles Artes Museum

and the International Museum. The trip ended at the Tropicana Night Club (open since 1939), where everyone celebrated the mission's success with live music, cabaret dancers and Cuban cigars.

"The Cuban people and Jewish community's warmth and strong commitment to family have left us all wanting to go back for more and has inspired us to continue the tradition of *tikkun olam*," said Raz.

Young Leadership members said they looked forward to another mission in the near future.

\* World ORT was founded in Tsarist Russia in 1880. The name "ORT" was coined from the acronym of the Russian words *Obshestvo Remeslenojozemledelchesko Truda*, meaning *The Society for Trades and Agricultural Labor*.

Amanda Shapiro is the president of YLD.



Amanda Shapiro, YLD president, and Stephanie Bilenker, UJF Campaign chair, at the home of artist Jose Fuster, Cuba's Gaudi.



Rebekah Raz, UJF vice president, and Jim Cohen, UJF CEO, pointed out the JDC sign at the Patronato/Beth Shalom synagogue.



William Miller, the World ORT representative in Cuba, presented the Cuba Holocaust Memorial to the group.



The restocked shelves of the pharmacy at the Sefardic Center.



Beth Shalom, one of three synagogues operating in Havana.



An example of the vehicles that people drive in Cuba. Currently, it is believed that there are 60,000 classic cars on Cuban roads today.



Inside the pharmacy at the Sefardic Center (Centro Hebreo Sefaradi de Cuba). Mission participants restocked the pharmacy after Shabbat services at the synagogue.



Women on the trip were presented with flowers in celebration of International Women's Day. The group posed outside the Joshua White Community Center, where donations of medicines and art supplies were delivered to the community center.

## Cuba and Cocktails Evening

On March 19, Women's Philanthropy members attended the event "Cuba and Cocktails" at the home of Heather Dynner. Besides sipping tropical cocktails, guests had the opportunity to hear about the experiences of women who traveled on the recent UJF mission to Cuba.

During breakout sessions, they informed the women about the Jewish presence in Cuba, their visits to schools and synagogues, the impact of UJF dollars at work and the Cuban Jews they met. The women spoke about the lasting effect the mission had on them and how they had the opportunity to help those in need by bringing supplies and medicines and contributing to a local Jewish girl's bat mitzvah.



Deidre Goldberg, Elise Klein, Amanda Shapiro and Amy Grabine had the opportunity to hear about the experiences of women who went on the recent mission to Cuba.



Janet Welkovich, Melissa Bildner, Dinah Miller Marlowe and Alix Field Eben enjoyed an evening out for cocktails and a recap on the Cuba Mission.



# BETTER TOGETHER ANNUAL CAMPAIGN!

*New  
for 2014!*

Pledge \$200 or more and you may divide your money among the General Campaign and areas that interest you (Impact Areas).

**The Impact Areas Are:**

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

## ***This Month's Spotlight on:***

### **Sustaining the programs and work of UJF of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien**

More than 3500 households are impacted by the programs and work of our Federation. These include:

- The New Jewish Voice, UJF's monthly newspaper.
- Tapestry, an evening of adult Jewish learning.
- Yom HaShoah, which commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day.
- The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners Program, where volunteers read to elementary school students.
- PJ Library, which monthly brings free Jewish children's books into homes in our community.
- Teen engagement through March of the Living and Speak Up For Israel.
- Leadership and professional training through programs such as The Behrend Institute and grant writing workshops.
- Opportunities to connect the Jewish community through common interests like Women's Philanthropy, Young Leadership Division and The Cardozo Society for Legal Professionals.
- Educating and engaging the community in response to crises in our community and around the world.

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



**United Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien

BETTER TOGETHER

## What About Us?

### Temple Beth El Forming New *Chavurot*

By Steve Lander

With the successful launching of the new Temple Beth El Young Couples group, people started asking “What about 60+ singles?” “What about empty nesters?” “What about Interfaith families?” “What about LGBT?” “What about Birthright Israel Alumni?”

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman and Temple Beth El are answering, “Yes, we’re here to bring people together. Getting small groups together who are at similar places on their life’s (and Jewish) journey is *precisely* what it’s all about.” So far, the following *chavurot* (friendship groups) have already or are being launched: Young couples with no children, families with young children, empty nesters, 60 Plus Jewish singles and Elders. And Temple Beth El is willing to launch even more.

The *chavurah* for “Young Couples with No Children” kicked off with a wine and cheese followed by Kabbalat Shabbat services at TBE. The group has already run a number of social events and is building in numbers. Young couples throughout the Jewish community are welcome to join. To learn more about the group, contact the co-chairs, Matt Miller and Jamie Morvitz at mattmiller585@gmail.com.

Now forming is an “Empty Nesters” *chavurah* for both recent or long time empty nesters. The group is looking to have interested people join the committee to plan future activities for the group. Those interested should contact, Sue Shapiro at sbshapiro@hotmail.com or Carl Shapiro at cshapiro@optonline.net or call 203-353-0657.

The “60 Plus Jewish Singles” *chavurah* is planned to launch on Friday, May

2, at 6:30 pm, with a wine and cheese reception followed by the temple’s Kabbalat Shabbat musical service. An *oneg* (reception) will follow services. This is an opportunity for 60-plus Jewish singles to meet others in the community and participate in activities planned throughout the year. The group will also host a light dinner on Thursday, May 29, prior to the program featuring the comedian, Marion Grodin, talking about her book “Standing Up: A memoir of a funny (not always) life.” Grodin, successful screenwriter, comedian and daughter of comedy actor Charles Grodin, describes how her sense of humor got her through all the awkward, challenging and trying moments of her life, including childhood crushes, divorce and weight gain. For information on the group, contact Lois Hofshi at smallgal@optonline.net or Sari Pearson at sarigp@aol.com.

The “Beth El Families” *chavurah* caters to couples with young children. Programming includes Tot Shabbat once a month, each with a special theme, and all types of programming with and without young children. The next Tot Shabbat program, “Spring Planting and Renewal,” will be held on Friday, May 2, at 5:30 pm. The children will plant seedlings and the service will integrate learning about planting and renewal.

For further information on Beth El Families, contact Dana Horowitz at dana-horowitz@yahoo.com or Lisa Manheim at lisago1@gmail.com.

Beth Elders, another *chavurah*, was formed several years ago and does programming around holiday themes. For information on the programming serving the senior community, contact Steven Lander at execdir@tbe.org.

#### ► CAS free mezuzah campaign

Those interested in having a *mezuzah* for their home, or who know a neighbor or a friend who lacks a *mezuzah*, now have the opportunity to receive one. Congregation Agudath Sholom is offering a free *mezuzah* and home visit to post it at the entrance to all Jewish homes in Fairfield County. For more information, contact Rabbi Daniel Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org.

## Standing Up: A Funny (Not Always) Life

### Comedian Marion Grodin’s Memoir at TBE

After what was called “a hugely successful stand-up comedy appearance” at Comedy Night last December, Marion Grodin will return to Temple Beth El, Stamford, on Thursday, May 29, at 7:30 pm, to talk about her book “Standing Up: A Memoir of A Funny (not always) Life.”



Marion Grodin

The title “Standing Up” references both her long and well-established comedy career, and her life, where she has stood up to many obstacles that could have easily overwhelmed others. “To see her act is to know how honest she is about herself and all she’s gone through,” said Steve Lander. “When it comes to comedy, Marion Grodin can pretty much do it all. When it comes to life... well, she’s still working on paying her parking tickets, and trying not to eat cake.”

Grodin knows first-hand that laughter is “truly the best medicine,” having survived breast cancer, divorce and various addictions – including an inappropriate relationship with Haagen Dazs – as well as the pressure of being Charles Grodin’s daughter. Her dream is to be able to integrate her diverse life experiences, genuine concern for people, and unstoppable ability to make *everything* funny, all in a forum that is both entertaining and helpful to other people.

Grodin started out as a staff writer for

the network sitcoms “It’s a Living” and “Princesses,” was put under contract to Twentieth Century Fox and later went on to sell six screenplays. Just as she was about to embark on her seventh screenplay, it dawned on her that her father had not lovingly nicknamed her “Mouth” for nothing. She decided it was time to start saying all these funny things she was writing for other people to say. So, for the last 15 years,

Grodin has been called one of the hottest comics in the country. She is a favorite at New York City’s top clubs, where she regularly headlines.

Called one of the country’s top emcees, Grodin’s ability to improvise has allowed her to master the art of talking with the audience. Her trademark is her affectionately edgy style; always as self-revealing as she is probing of the audience. “The result is a hilariously personal review of her book,” said Lander.

Grodin has also been seen on NBC’s “Late Night with Conan O’Brien” and ABC’s “The View.” In addition, she worked as the Charles Grodin show’s comedy producer, making regular appearances on the MSNBC show. She also hosted her own radio show for CBS, over a two-year period.

The program is free, but reservations are requested by going to [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org).

#### ► “The Shabbat Experience”

Temple Sinai will be host a Friday night service called “The Shabbat Experience,” on June 27. Beth Styles and the New World Chorus will join with Rabbi Jay TelRav, Cantor Morgovsky, members of the Temple Sinai Choir and other guests in making to create an evening of music, spirituality and learning.

“This special service will take us on a soulful journey, as we become present to the magnificence of creation and all we have contributed throughout the week,” says Styles. “With profound prayer, meditation, inspiring music, mystical thought and readings, we begin to experience a deep feeling of accomplishment, love and connection with ourselves, our community and the Divine.”

In addition to the Jewish community, “The Shabbat Experience” is open to everyone. People of all backgrounds and faiths are invited to attend. For more information and to let the synagogue know who will be attending, visit [newworldchorus.com](http://newworldchorus.com). Temple Sinai is located at 458 Lakeside Dr., Stamford.

#### ► Bat Mitzvah Club and BMC Beyond

The Chabad House Stamford’s Bat Mitzvah Club (BMC and BMC Beyond) is geared to girls of bat mitzvah age and beyond (sixth-eighth grade) to get together and discuss, explore and understand topics related to emergent Jewish womanhood and Jewish identity and pride, and to develop leadership skills, under the guidance of the BMC leaders.

The Bat Mitzvah Club meets six times a year, with a few extra gatherings, such as a 26-hour Shabbaton sleepover, *shalach manot* packing, a movie night and more.

The club is made up of girls with varied Jewish backgrounds and educations, including girls from public schools, Jewish day schools and private schools, who all come together to enjoy each others’ company over dinners, arts and crafts, lessons and learning.


This year’s BMC will culminate with a Mother-Daughter Tea to be held at Chabad Stamford on Sunday, June 8. A highlight of the event will be a challah baking class with Leah Shemtov, allowing the girls and their mothers a “hands on” approach to the women’s mitzvah of challah baking. The event, although geared toward current BMC and Beyond group members, is also open to members of the public who would like to learn more about BMC and its curriculum for their daughters who are coming of bat mitzvah age. For more information, contact [programs@chabadhousestamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadhousestamford.org).

The Young Leadership Division and  
Jewish Twenties and Thirties  
present


## Dodgeball tournament

Wednesday, July 16th at the JCC  
7:00pm - Dark

For more information, please email [Rebekah@ujf.org](mailto:Rebekah@ujf.org)



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

# FAMILY CENTRAL

## For May & June 2014

Members and non members are warmly invited to all events listed.

### FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

#### JCC

- **BREAKFAST WITH ELMO.** Sunday, May 4, 10 – 11 am. Ages 1 - 8 with parent or caregiver. \$12 per person / \$9 JCC members if register before Apr 26. Thereafter \$14/\$11.
- **FUN AND SINGING WITH NATASHA AND STEVE.** Wednesday, May 21, 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Ages 1 - 8 with parent or caregiver. JCC Family Place "sing along, sup along" evening with Pizza. Concert tailored to young children. \$12 per person / \$9 JCC members if register before May 13. Thereafter \$14/\$11.
- **KIDS TRIATHLON.** Sunday, Jun 15, 8:00 am. Ages 4 to 14. Children given the opportunity to be fit and active, build friendships, reach their potential and have fun. For more info, visit [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org) or contact Mo Concepcion: (203) 487-0971 or [mconcepcion@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:mconcepcion@stamfordjcc.org)

#### CHABAD

- **LAG B'OMER FAMILY CELEBRATION** Sunday, May 18, 12 noon. Fun, music, games and hot dogs, hamburgers plus roasted marshmallows.
- **SHAVUOT DAIRY BUFFET & ICE CREAM PARTY** Wednesday June 4, 11 am & 6 pm. Celebrate Shavuot as we read the 10 commandments, followed by ice cream party & dairy buffet. Free.
- **LOAVES OF LOVE FAMILY CHALLAH BAKE** Thursday, June 19, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Kids welcome. From kneading dough to peeling vegetables, cooking baking and packing it up, this is your time to give to those who need it most by baking Challah and making chicken soup for the "Shabbat 2 Go" packages.

### KIDS GRADES Pre-K - 8

#### CHABAD

- **P.O.G.S. (Parsha & Other Great Stuff) Grades K - 2.**
  - ◆ Weekly science & cooking club. Wednesdays, 4 - 5 pm. \$10 p/ session.
  - ◆ Open House Wednesday, May 28, 4 – 5 pm, for pre-K to Grade 1 who are eligible next year to try out P.O.G.S. Free.
- **Chai Five Mitzvah Club.** Grades 3 – 6. Get involved in community needs and projects. Wednesday, May 14, 5:30 - 7 pm. Fee: \$20 p/session includes dinner.
- **Bat Mitzvah Clubs & BMC Beyond.** Sunday, May 4, 6 - 7:30 pm for girls in grades 6 – 8 whether your Bat Mitzvah is coming up or you have already celebrated. \$20 p/session.
  - ◆ Sunday, June 8, 6 – 7:30 pm. Mother-Daughter Tea and Challah Bake Class. Final class.

#### TEMPLE BETH EL

- **Adat (Community) Shabbat.** Drop off program for grades K - 2. Sights and sounds of Shabbat with Darice Bailer. Prayers plus fun engaging songs, stories, and dancing. Saturday, May 17, 11 am. Free.

#### TEMPLE SINAI

- **Shevet Achim (Guys getting together).** Sunday, May 18, 12:20 – 2:20 pm. For boys Grade 7. Addresses confidence, greed, materialism, body image and healthy relationships. With Rabbi Jay TelRav. Free.

### YOUNG KIDS WITH PARENT/CAREGIVER

#### TEMPLE BETH EL.

Tot Kabbalat Shabbat – Spring Planting and Renewal. Age 5 & under. Older siblings welcome. Music, stories and song led by Cantor George Mordecai and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman. Light Shabbat dinner for kids. Friday May 2, 5:30 pm. Free.

#### CHABAD

- **Tiny Treasures.** Birth to 30 months. Warm Jewish atmosphere. Connect with other moms. Fee: \$15 per class. First class free. Wednesdays, 9:15 - 10:15 am. And celebrate Shabbat on Fridays, 10 - 10:45 am with "Got Shabbat?"
- **Tiny Treasures Shabbat Lunch.** For all families with kids birth to 30 months. Bring mom, dad and big brothers & sisters. Enjoy Shabbat lunch together and meet other young families. Saturday, May 3, 1 – 2:30 pm. At the Shemtov Home, 10 Brandt Road.

#### TEMPLE SINAI

Tot Shabbat. Saturday May 10, 9 am & Friday June 13, 5 pm. Birth to age 7. Dancing, singing, crafts, praying and playing. With Rabbi TelRav and Cantor Morgovsky. Learn about Shabbat and holidays. Free.

#### BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL

Mommy, Daddy, Music and Me. For toddlers. With Jonathan Cahr and Rachel Bahar. Wednesdays, May 7 & 21, June 11. 1:30pm – 2:10 pm. Music, movement, nursery rhymes, Jewish songs and story telling. Free.

#### JCC

- **BABIES AND BABBLE.** New weekly playgroup. Wednesdays thru May 28, 12:30 – 1:30 pm. Birth – 2 years. For more info, contact Galit: (203) 487-0974 or [groloff@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:groloff@stamfordjcc.org) or Dana: (646) 246-6446. [Babiesandbabble@yahoo.com](mailto:Babiesandbabble@yahoo.com). One-time fee: \$25/\$18 JCC members.
- **MOVIN' AND GROOVIN'** Tuesdays, April 29 – Jun 17, 10:30 – 11:15 am. 12 – 30 months. Children swing, spin, jump, stretch, leap, roll and climb with rhythm, music and song. \$184 for 8 sessions/\$152 JCC members.
- **MUSIC TOGETHER** Birth – 5 years. Nurtures children's natural enthusiasm for music and movement. Call Music Together (203) 256-1656.
- **SWIM LESSONS** 6 – 36 months. Sunday or Tuesday or Thursday mornings through 6/19. Times based on age. Children learn correct swimming movements, increase muscle strength and coordination. Swim diaper with bathing suit required. For more info, Daniel Servelli: (203) 487-0990 or [dservelli@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:dservelli@stamfordjcc.org). Fees based on # sessions.

### TEENS GRADES 8+

#### KULANU

Classes meet Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm at JCC. Fun diverse opportunities to connect to Judaism. Fee: \$36 /month. Contact [Danielle@ujf.org](mailto:Danielle@ujf.org) or (203) 321-1373 x104

#### SPEAK UP FOR ISRAEL

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

#### KURIANSKY TEEN TZEDAKAH CORPS

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

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

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

#### BBYO

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

#### JEWISH STUDENT CONNECTION

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

#### TEMPLE SINAI

Rosh Chodesh for Girls. Grades 6-12. Led by Erica Santiago. Sunday, May 18, 12:20 - 2:20pm. Builds self-esteem, leadership skills and Jewish identity. Free.

### CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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

#### JCC

- **Jump Start:** Therapeutic classes for ages 2 - 4. Language, social and motor skills encouraged. Safe, fun, accepting environment. Contact Sue McGraw (203) 487-0966.
- **R&R (Relax & Recreate)** Social group for grades 6-8. Fun, structured, safe environment. Build social skills and relationships. Contact Dinushka De Silva at (203) 487-0946 or [dde SILVA@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:dde SILVA@stamfordjcc.org).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# What's On for Adults

May & June 2014

Members and Non-members are all warmly invited to all events listed. See contact info below for more info, to confirm programs and to register.

## YOM HASHOAH

### YOM HASHOAH SEDER

Community Commemoration Sunday, Apr. 27, 7 pm. At Temple Sinai. Parking is limited but additional transportation provided from the JCC to Temple Sinai will be provided beginning at 6:15 pm.

### FILM: SIX MILLION AND ONE PLUS FILMMAKER TALK

Monday, Apr. 28, 7 pm. State Cinema, Hope Street, Stamford. Filmmaker David Fisher will talk about the making of the film after the screening. See article.

## YOM HA'ATZMAUT/TZAHAL SHALOM

### JCC

• **COMMUNITY YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION.** Tuesday, May 6, 5:30 pm. At the JCC. Celebrate Israel's 66th birthday with the officers of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces). Experience Israel: the land, culture, food, people and music. **Town Hall Meeting** at 7:30 pm where the officers share stories and talk about Israel. Fee: \$5 per person.

• **COCKTAILS & COMEDY.** To benefit JCC Tzahal Shalom. Saturday, May 10, 9 pm. At the JCC. 18 years and older. Drinks, dairy dessert buffet and lots of laughs as Israeli comic MODI takes the stage. Toast visiting IDF officers. For info, contact Nancy Schiffman: (203) 487-0941 or nsichffman@stamfordjcc.org.

• **MEET ACTIVE DUTY IDF OFFICERS** face-to-face for meaningful conversations during their stay. Sunday, May 4 – Sunday, May 11. All are welcome to attend parlor meetings and events. Visit [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org) for schedule and information.

## GOLF & TENNIS

**JCC GOLF & TENNIS OUTING.** At Rockrimmon Country Club. Monday, June 2. To benefit the JCC JumpStart program for children with special needs. Includes a day of golf and tennis, lunch, cocktail hour and awards party. For player / sponsorship info, contact Shannon Jacobs at (203) 487-0965 or sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org.

**JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES (JEWISH HOME).** Golf & Tennis Invitational. Monday, June 23. At Rockrimmon Country Club, Stamford. For more info, call Dayna (203) 365-6409 or dhayden@jseniors.org.

## SINGLES & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

### TEMPLE BETH EL - 60 PLUS JEWISH SINGLES.

• **WINE AND CHEESE** Reception Friday, May 2, 6:30 pm. for 60 plus Jewish Singles followed by a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service.

### CHABAD - 20s AND 30s

• **LOAVES OF LOVE COOKING MARATHON PLUS DINNER.** Sunday, May 4, 3:30 – 5:30 pm. From kneading dough to peeling vegetables, to cooking & baking and packing it all up, this is your time to give to those who need it most; by baking Challah and making chicken soup for the 'Shabbat 2 Go' packages. At Chabad. No charge.

• **BBQ.** Usher in the summer and warm weather with a BBQ! Sunday, June 15, 5 pm. At Chabad. Fee: \$12 per person.

## FOR MEN

### CHABAD

• **Men's End of the Year BBQ.** Schmooze, relax and hang with the guys! Thursday, June 19, 8 pm At the Shemtov's Deck, 10 Brandt Road. Fee: \$36/\$25 early bird.

## SENIORS

**JCC MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON.** Thursday, May 8, 11:30 am – 1 pm. At the JCC. Live entertainment. Free to seniors. Reservations required by May 2. Contact Connie Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

**JCC FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON.** Thursday, June 12, 11:30 am – 1 pm. At the JCC. Live entertainment. Reservations required by June 6. \$3 suggested donation. Contact Connie Freeman 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

### JCC SOCIAL SENIOR PROGRAMS - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the JCC

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

• **Fridays:** Morning Movie: 10 am though Apr 11. Israel Discussion with Matan Samovskiy: 11:30 am.

• **Kosher Lunch** each day, 12 - 1 pm. **Birthdays luncheon:** Apr. 29, May 27 & June 24.

• **Thursdays:** Fun and Games, 1 - 3 pm. Mah Jongg, Scrabble, Bridge, Pokeno etc. All welcome. Reservation required for lunch and transportation. Free except suggested donation for lunch (\$3) and transportation (\$1 each way). For info: Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

### JCC RETIRED MEN'S CLUB

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

## OPEN EVENTS

### WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY (UJF) SPRING DINNER.

With Dr Ruth (Westheimer) Thursday May 15, 6:30 pm. Fee \$100 p/person/ \$118 after 5/1. Teenagers ages 16-19 \$50. At Temple Beth El. See article page 1.

### BICULTURAL DAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION DINNER

Sunday, May 18, 5 pm. At Stamford Hilton. Honoring Walter Suchatowitz and Jacqueline Herman. Outstanding teacher awards to Felicia Carriero and Frank Cronson.

### JCC

• **NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.** Tuesday, May 20. Depart JCC at 9:30 a.m. Private tour including new exhibit "Groundbreakers: Great American Gardens & The Women Who Designed Them". Bring or buy lunch. Limited capacity. Reservations required by April 28. Fees: \$60 per person/\$50 JCC members.

• **EXPLORE WOODLANDS CEMETERY.** Monday, June 9, 11:15 am. Renee Kahn, nationally known preservation consultant and author, leads a cemetery tour and shares stories of its past. Meet at the entrance, 66 Woodland Place at 11:15 am. Lunch on your own. Free. Reservations required by June 2. Contact Connie Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

### JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL OF CONNECTICUT (JHSC)

• **SPRING GALA.** Sunday, May 18, 5:30 pm. Featuring guest speaker Anita Diamant, author of "The Red Tent". At the Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton. Honoring Jo-Ann Price and her parents, Leo and Libby Nevas. Event Tickets: \$180. For info, contact 203-907-0055 or jlipshitz@jhsct.org.

### CHABAD

• **AN EVENING OF WINE, CHEESE & ART.** Thursday May 8, 7:30 pm. Artist, Devorah Raichman, will give insight into her art inspired by Hebrew letters, words and passages. At Chabad. Fee: \$18 per person / \$25 at the door.

### TEMPLE BETH EL

• **ANNUAL CANTOR'S CONCERT.** With Cantor Mordecai and visiting musicians. Sunday, June 8, 7:30 pm.

### TEMPLE SINAI.

• **THE SHABBAT EXPERIENCE.** Friday, June 27. Open to the multi-faith community. Welcome Shabbat with profound prayer and music. New World Chorus, Cantor Morgovsky, the Kolot Sinai and other special guests. Music produced by Beth Styles.

## FOR WOMEN

### JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES (JEWISH HOME).

• **Spring Luncheon & Boutique:** Women's Auxiliary. Monday, May 5, at the Waterview in Monroe, CT. With guest entertainer, **mental and magician, Oz Pearlman.** Cost: \$118-\$250. For more info, contact Dayna Hayden: (203)365-6409 or dhayden@jseniors.org.

### CHABAD

• **WOMEN'S SHABBAT.** Friday, May 16. Candle lighting & Oneg 7 pm. Dinner 7:45 pm. Warm our spirit and rejuvenate the soul with singing, stories and sharing. At Chabad. Fee: Before 4/30 \$45 / JWC member \$36, Thereafter \$54/\$45.

• **JWC GARDEN PARTY.** Monday, June 9. An evening to hang out with friends, sip a drink and discover what the summer can hold in store for you in personal growth and commitment. At the home of Meredith Cohen. Fee; \$15 /JWC members free.

• **PARENTING CLUB FOR MOMS.** Join other moms to discuss, debate and gain insight. Based on the book "Raising Your Kids Without Raising Your Voice" by Sarah Chana Radcliffe. **Thursdays, May 22 & June 26,** 9:30 am in the Chabad Conference Room OR 8 pm at Rotating Homes. Fee: \$10 per class or \$50 for the session

## ADULT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### 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 x 115 or Readingpartners@ujf.org.

### JCC KOSHER LUNCH PROGRAM FOR SENIORS.

Help set up and serve lunch on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Contact Connie: (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

### JFS DRIVERS NEEDED.

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

### JHS (JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

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

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

### HADASSAH TEA@2.

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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

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

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

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

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

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

**Jewish Historical Society:** (203)321-1373 #150 • [jhslic@yahoo.com](mailto:jhslic@yahoo.com) • [www.stamfordhistory.org/jhslic.htm](http://www.stamfordhistory.org/jhslic.htm)

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

**Temple Sinai:** 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203)322-1649 • [www.templesinaistamford.org](http://www.templesinaistamford.org)

# “Wonder of Wonders”

## A Cultural History of “Fiddler on the Roof”

BY CAMILLE A. KRAMER

Alisa Solomon, author, teacher and award-winning drama critic, will discuss her book, “Wonder of Wonders: A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof,” on Sunday, May 18, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County’s May Featured Program. It will be held at the New Canaan Library, 151 Main St., New Canaan, starting at 4:30 pm, with refreshments at 4 pm, and is free and open to the public. The program, co-sponsored by the New Canaan Library and Elm Street Books in New Canaan, is a feature of the library’s Authors on Stage series.

Solomon traces the history of the Broadway musical, “Fiddler on the Roof,” which has now passed into the realm of cultural landmark as it has entertained audiences worldwide for the last 50 years.

She explains the importance of the character Tevye, the milkman, created by Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem, to the Jewish world as well as to society at large. Tevye is followed from his debut on the Yiddish stage, to his becoming a symbol of oppression, to the stages of Broadway and ultimately to a Hollywood film.

“Fiddler on the Roof” is considered a universal modern story of conflicts, traditions both being lost and held onto, the “generation gap” before such a term was even coined, and the sense of being inwardly uprooted. “Wonder of Wonders: A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof” celebrates a show about tradition that is now considered a tradition itself.



Alisa Solomon

Solomon teaches at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, where she directs the Arts and Culture concentration in the M.A. program. She was a theater critic and general reporter for the *Village Voice*, as well as a contributor to *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *Tablet*, *The Forward*, *Howlround.com*, *killinthebuddha.com*, *American Theater*, *TDR – The Drama Review* and other publications.

Her first book, “Re-Dressing the Canon: Essays on Theater and Gender,” won the George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism. Her numerous credits include the editing of several books.

“We all remember and can relate to the song, ‘Tradition,’ which captures one of

the essential foundations of Jewish heritage and life today and over centuries,” said Eva Weller, president of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, “and we are delighted to co-sponsor with the New Canaan Library and Elm Street Books an esteemed author who will share insights about what has become a remarkable icon for all.”

Optional registration can be made online at <https://jhsfcmayfeaturedprogram.eventbrite.com>. Click on “sign up with e-mail.” For further information, contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148, or e-mail [elissa@de-kaplan.com](mailto:elissa@de-kaplan.com) or check JHSFC’s website, <http://jhsfcct.org/programs.html>.

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



## ADULT EDUCATION

May & June 2014

Members and non members are warmly invited to all events listed.  
See contact info below for more info, to confirm programs and to register.

### JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

• **WONDER OF WONDERS: A Cultural History of Fiddler On The Roof.** Sunday, May 18, 4 pm. At New Canaan Library. Speaker: Author Alisa Solomon traces the history of the Broadway musical. A universal modern story of conflicts and traditions.

• **A CHILD OF CHRISTIAN BLOOD: Murder And Conspiracy In Tsarist Russia: The Beilis Blood Libel.** Sunday, June 1, 5 pm. At Darien Library, 1441 Post Rd. Speaker & Author: Edmund Levin. For more info: [elissa@de-kaplan.com](mailto:elissa@de-kaplan.com) Free.

#### BOOK TALKS

• **Wednesday, May 21, 2 pm.** “The Story Teller” by Jody Picoulit. Against the background of the Holocaust, the author weaves the character’s stories around the powerful issues of forgiveness, love, justice and redemption. Presenter: Sondra Melzer At Harry Bennett Branch Library, Vine Road, Stamford. Free. For info: Marcie (203) 359-9148.

### UCONN JUDAIC STUDIES

**THE AFTERLIFE OF A BIBLICAL FIGURE: King Saul In Hebraic And English Literary Traditions.** With Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy. Final lecture of spring series. Thursday, May 1, noon - 1:30 pm. In the MPR (Room 108). Cost: \$15 p/person, including lunch.

### AGUDATH SHOLOM

#### DVAR YOM B'YOMO

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

#### PARSHA PERSPECTIVES AND PARADIGMS

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

#### TASTE OF TORAH

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

### TEMPLE SINAI

#### BEGINNERS' TORAH STUDY

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

### TEMPLE BETH EL

**COMEDIAN MARION GRODIN.** Thursday, May 29, 7:30 pm. Stand-up comedian presents a review of her book: “Standing Up: A Memoir of a Funny (not always) Life.” Free. See article.

#### SACRED ENCOUNTERS

Tuesdays, 7:30 pm. Kabbalistic study using “The Lost Princess” by Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. With Cantor George Mordecai. Free. For info, (203) 322-6901 x 303 or [cantormordecai@tbe.org](mailto:cantormordecai@tbe.org).

### JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES

**SEINFELD AND AGING: What Popular Culture Can Teach Us About Caring for Older Adults.** Wednesday, May 28, 7:30 pm at The Jewish Home 175 Jefferson Street, Fairfield. With Mark Lachs, MD, MPH • Clinical Director, Cornell Center for Aging Research and Clinical Care • Professor of Medicine & Co-Chief, Geriatrics and Gerontology, Weill Cornell Medical College • Director of Geriatrics, New York-Presbyterian Healthcare System. For more info/rsvp, contact Kim Gintoli (203)365-6463 or [kgintoli@jseniors.org](mailto:kgintoli@jseniors.org)

### JCC

#### SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL.

Lunch And Learn with Matan Samovsky, Israeli Shaliach. Thursdays, 12–1 pm at the JCC. May 22: Politics in Israel: The Right, The Left, Political Parties & the Last Election. With short videos and time for Q&A. Bring your lunch – dairy desert provided. Free. To register or for info: (203) 487-0961 or [msamovsky@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:msamovsky@stamfordjcc.org).

### HADASSAH

#### BOOK CLUB

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

- Apr. 30, “Lady at the O.K. Corral: Josephine Marcus Earp” by Ann Kirschner.
- June 11, “A Guide for the Perplexed” by Dara Horn
- July 23, “Jacobs Folly” by Rebecca Miller.

### CHABAD

#### LUNCH & LEARN

Kabbalistic insights on different topics that pertain to our lives today. Every Wednesday, 11:30 am-12:45 pm. \$5 per class includes lunch

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

**UJF Jewish Education & Engagement Program**  
(203) 321-1373  
[www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org)  
[rabbikarp@ujf.org](mailto:rabbikarp@ujf.org)

**Temple Beth El**  
350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford  
(203) 322-6901, ext. 306  
[education@tbe.org](mailto:education@tbe.org)  
[www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)

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

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

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

**Temple Sinai**  
458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford  
(203) 322-1649  
[www.templestain Stamford.org](http://www.templestain Stamford.org)

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

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

**Young Israel of Stamford**  
69 Oaklawn Ave., Stamford  
(203) 348-3955  
[www.yistamford.org](http://www.yistamford.org)

# Learning Comes to Life During Fourth-Grade Project

BY DORA SALM

Imagine what it would be like for historical figures like Clara Barton, Sam Houston, Harriet Tubman, Theodore Roosevelt and Steve Jobs to be gathered in the same place to answer questions and talk about their lives. This is what happened at Bi-Cultural Day School's Fourth Grade Living History Night on March 27.

Following months of research and writing their historical figure reports, the Bi-Cultural fourth graders put on the costumes they had made (including wigs, spectacles, armor and space suits) and took on the personas of their subjects as they answered questions from the gathered parents about what it was like to refuse to ride in the back of the bus, invent the light bulb, make Oscar-winning movies or be president of the United States.



Fourth-grader Ruthie Price, who studied Steve Jobs, talked technology at the Fourth Grade Living History Presentation.

The Living History project is a time-honored tradition at Bi-Cultural. Each student is given the task of choosing an important person who has made a major contribution in American history. The project provides a link to the fourth-grade unit of study on Unites States history and geography, as well as reading biographies. The fourth graders are encouraged to read and study about someone whom they might not have otherwise heard about, but who has accomplished something intriguing to them. The culmination of the project is the presentation, an event in which each student is dressed up in full character as their historical figure as their families travel from student to student asking relevant questions about each notable person.

"This project brings learning to life – it's the highest form of learning because you not only have to learn

and know your information, but you have to present and teach it to adults," explained Michelle Gordon, one of the fourth-grade teachers.

Although the students enjoyed using their creativity and imagination as they designed and assembled their costumes, the project is much more than just dressing up in character. "The costume is the fun part," Gordon explained, "however, we learn how each person changed the face of history. It is literally learning in disguise."

One fourth grader who got to dress up as someone completely different was Ruthie Price, who studied the historical significance of technology leader and Apple creator, Steve Jobs. Price explained that she enjoyed all aspects of the assignment, including conducting the research, learning about her person and then presenting the important parts of Jobs' life to visitors that evening.

See "Project" on page 17



Avi Gordon dressed as Mark Twain explained answers questions from Dr. Mark Rosovsky.



Ori Divon as John Glenn speaks with Shani Soloff.

May & June 2014

## SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

### JFS COUNSELING, MEDIATION & CRISIS

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

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

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

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

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

### JFS EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

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

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

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

### JCC CARING FOR SENIORS

Additional listings on ADULTS WHATS ON page under SENIORS.

**JCC Support for Blind and Visually Impaired Adults. Thursday May 8 & June 12, 1 - 2:30 pm.** At the JCC. Guest speaker on topics relevant to vision loss. Reservations required. For info, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman: cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org or (203) 487-0983.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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

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

### JFS DIVORCE & BEREAVEMENT

**JFS Bereavement Support Group. Wednesday, 11 - noon** at JFS Stamford office. A safe haven to explore your thoughts and feelings about grief with emotional, physical, and spiritual support. For info, contact Rosemarie Delia (the facilitator): (203) 921-4161 or rdelia@ctjfs.org

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

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

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

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

### JFS CARING FOR SENIORS

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

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

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

# Carmel Students Win National Art Contest Awards

BY JULIE LAPIN

Three of Carmel Academy's eighth-grade students have been honored in RAVSAK's 2014 Judaic Art Contest. Carmel's students were chosen from among more than 400 students representing 20 Jewish day schools across North America. RAVSAK, a network organization of Jewish community day schools, sponsored the contest to encourage students to use creativity and passion for text study to interpret curriculum and create original works of photography, sculpture and visual art. The student entries were judged by professional Jewish artists.

Carmel Academy eighth-graders Sam Levy and Isabele Cohen were given honorable mention in the Middle School Visual Arts category, and Stamford resident Luiz "Duda" Voldman received the Staff Pick honor in the same category. All three



Artwork created by Stamford resident and Carmel Academy eighth-grader Luiz "Duda" Voldman. He was one of three students at Carmel Academy honored in a North American Judaic Art contest.

students were chosen to be featured in RAVSAK's magazine, HaYidon.

See "Awards" on page 18

# Carmel Raises Funds for Pets Alive



Carmel Academy's student and staff raised more than \$1,100 for Pets Alive Westchester, an animal shelter in Elmsford, NY, which recently lost its building due to severe structural damage. Pets Alive Westchester has formed a bond with one of Carmel Academy's PALS special education classes, which has volunteered at the shelter over the course of the year. The students dedicated their annual student vs. teacher basketball game at the Pep Rally by hosting a "Pet Rally" - collecting pledge donations based on total points scored during the game.

# JHSC Students Excel in National Science Competition

The Jewish High School of Connecticut has announced that, for the second time in three years, a JHSC team made the top 10 percent in the Toshiba ExploraVision competition, winning the team an honorable mention.

By placing in the top 10 percent out of 5,000 entries, the JHSC team is only one of four teams in Connecticut to reach this level of distinction and places the students as the highest ranked ninth grade team in the state.

In the Toshiba sponsored competition, teams researched and selected an emerging technology, and explored its

creation, function and operation. In addition, they projected their chosen technology 20 years into the future and prepared an in-depth report that conveyed their vision of how it might develop. The JHSC team's submission was the "Graphilter," which uses reverse osmosis through a graphene filter to purify water supplies.

Dr. Paul Castle, principal and faculty coach, extended his congratulations to the students on the team "for their commitment to the project over many months, their resilience, their teamwork and their well-deserved success."



L-r: The winning team included freshmen Alexandra Frenzel of Milford, Jacques Ben-Avie of New Haven, Katya Labowe-Stoll of New Haven and Rafi Brodie of Trumbull. The school also recognized 11<sup>th</sup>-grader and 2012 team captain Eva Gerber of Woodbridge for mentoring this year's team.

# Kulanu at Chelsea Piers



Teens from Kulanu took a break at Chelsea Piers on March 19, hitting at balls in the batting cages, climbing the rock wall and jumping on the trampoline. Above: Keren Rubin climbed the rock wall.



Jenna Plotzky and Marisa Kurz took a swing in the batting cages.

## Circle. . . Continued from page 8

Once every two years, more than 1,000 people come to show their support for inclusion and acceptance in the Stamford community, and to celebrate the teens who make this a reality for so many families. One of the Friendship Circle's goals is to make the Jewish value of "Love your neighbor like yourself" come to life. Those interested in attending are asked to visit [www.FriendshipCT.com/Evening](http://www.FriendshipCT.com/Evening) for more information and to make reservations.

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

## Life. . . Continued from page 16

Price discovered many things about Jobs that she did not know previously and was excited to learn that he made her favorite device, the iPad mini: "This is such a fun project and I got to research someone in a really fun way."

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

## 10th Annual Rabbi Alex Goldman Memorial Essay Contest for Teens

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and the Rabbi Alex Goldman Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce the 10th Annual Rabbi Alex Goldman Memorial Essay Contest for Jewish 10th-12th grade students.

*The Rabbi Alex Goldman Scholarship Fund was established to strengthen the Jewish identity of our teens by providing opportunities to enhance their skills in Judaic studies or writing on Jewish topics.*

*The Rabbi Goldman Memorial Essay Contest is a tribute to Rabbi Goldman who was a historian and avid writer, authoring over 20 books all with Jewish themes.*

If you wish to participate in the contest, please write an essay based on your experience participating in one or more Jewish teen organizations in the Greater Stamford area and its affect on your Jewish identity by completing the following prompt:

***I never thought I would...***

First prize	\$1,000
Second prize	\$500
Third prize	\$250

The winning essays will be announced at United Jewish Federation's Town Hall Meeting on June 18th.

All entries must be received no later than 9:00 pm, Thursday, May 22. They can be emailed to Danielle Alexander at [Danielle@ujf.org](mailto:Danielle@ujf.org), or hand delivered or mailed to United Jewish Federation, 1035 Newfield Avenue, Suite 200, Stamford, CT 06905.

Essay submissions must be:

1. 500-750 words
2. Double spaced using Times New Roman 12 point font
3. A cover page should include your name, grade, address, phone number and email
4. Please do not put your name on the individual pages of the essay

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity!

For more information, contact Danielle at 203-321-1373, x104 or [Danielle@ujf.org](mailto:Danielle@ujf.org)



VOICES AND VIEWS

Parents: Read “The Purim Superhero” to Your Children

BY JERRY SILVERMAN

*Jewish Federations of North America encourages parents to read a diversity of books about our diverse community to their children. The decision to embrace, through kids’ books, the richness and diversity of Jewish life is a gift. (Via keshetline.org.)*

Nate couldn’t decide what he wanted to be for Purim – follow his heart and dress as an alien or succumb to peer pressure and wear a superhero costume? It was a tough decision for a little boy, but he got some help from his two dads.

“The Purim Superhero” is one of PJ Library’s book selections for March. For nine years, and in partnerships with various donors and Jewish Federations, PJ Library has been sending free monthly book selections to Jewish children up to age 8.

Created by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, it’s a tremendous program that not only encourages reading, but does so in a Jewish context. Each month, 130,000 books are sent to families in North America, and the program has expanded to Israel and additional countries as well. Many Federations have PJ Library gatherings to connect and engage families.

As “The Purim Superhero” demonstrates, children receiving those books learn about more than Jewish holidays and traditions. They learn about Jewish life, and their families find an entry to Jewish communal life. Indeed, a study of 20,000 American Jewish families participating in the project found that 58 percent said the program has influenced their decisions to “build upon or add a Jewish tradition to their home life” and 62 percent said it “increased their families’

positive feelings about being Jewish.”

Through PJ Library, books that focus on families with adopted children, disabled children (and kids with disabled family members), interracial and intermarried families, Jews of color, secular and Orthodox families, and, in this case, LGBT Jews, young children are exposed to the multifaceted world that is today’s Jewish community.

Books such as Elizabeth Kushner’s “The Purim Superhero” reflect life that so many of us already see in our communities, our children’s schools, our synagogues and Jewish camps and sometimes in our own families. Few among us can say that we don’t know a child with two moms or two dads.

PJ Library predicted, though, that this particular book might raise questions, so it made the selection available only by request as an additional book. Some ques-

tioned why didn’t they just automatically send it to all. I applaud the HGF for being sensitive, realizing we have a community that is diverse and offering a choice. The response has been overwhelming. In less than two days, PJ Library had exhausted its stock of 2,000 books. They quickly ordered thousands more.

A very few in our community were alienated by the choice of this book and have dropped their subscriptions altogether, even though they had the option of simply not selecting the book. That’s their choice, of course, but that’s also unfortunate. Those few families that canceled entire subscriptions are missing out on a wonderful gift for their children – a gift that demonstrates that not all families are the same – and one that is so much bigger than this single great book.

At Jewish Federations, we believe that

every Jew deserves a welcome place in our community. We encourage PJ Library to continue sending children books that reflect the Jewish community’s wonderful diversity. We recognize that not every family will choose to read every Jewish book to a child, but each family should be able to make the decision on its own. But those families who do choose to read all the books will be giving their children a tremendous gift – a gift that allows them to see the richness and diversity of Jewish life.

*This article is reprinted with permission from Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). Jerry Silverman is president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of North America.*

*For more information on PJ Library or to see a copy of this book, contact Danielle Alexander, UJF director of community engagement and outreach at danielle@ujf.org or 203-321-1373, ext. 104.*

YOUNG VOICES

My NCSY Mission to New Orleans

Kindling a Spark for a Brighter Future

BY ELIANA KOEHLER

At the end of February, NCSY (the international youth movement of the Orthodox Union) took 20 girls from Ma’ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls in Teaneck, NJ, and nine girls from local public schools to New Orleans in the hope that together they would build an experience. I cannot speak for all 29 of us, but I can speak for myself and can confirm that this was more than just a trip; it changed me.



Eliana Koehler

Rabbi Ethan Katz, director of New Jersey NCSY and veteran leader of many disaster relief trips, explained from the beginning what this mission to New Orleans was all about. After arriving, we would spend five days doing community service and building leadership skills. We would then return home as leaders, with new friendships and a feeling of contentment about how we spent our time.

Hurricane Katrina struck nearly nine years ago, washing away the people and homes of New Orleans in its path. Although the physical destruction was alarming, what shocked me even more were the values brought out among

the people of New Orleans. Even when all seemed lost, there were those who were ready to push beyond the wreckage and move on to a new day. They left the past in the past and focused on improving the future. Over Shabbat, Jackie Pressner Gothard, former president of Orthodox Union member synagogue Congregation Beth Israel and a New Orleans resident, shared her story with us.

Jackie was the first woman president of Congregation Beth Israel and was in office during Hurricane Katrina. During the hurricane, the *shul* flooded with nearly 10 feet of water, destroying the building and all its contents, including seven Torah scrolls. While many congregants left town and did not return, Jackie powered through. With passion, hard work and help from other Jews both locally and nationally, Jackie helped build a new synagogue, holding a warm positive attitude that never ceased during the process.

From Jackie, I learned a new idea about leadership. A leader identifies the issues that lie before him or her, but does

not dwell on the past. They picture tomorrow and then sketch that image into reality. Hearing and reading the stories that happen is not enough to inspire the next generation of Jewish leaders. You need to do something; you need to take action. Meeting Jackie sparked something in me that day. Maybe it was confidence, or just being more aware; whatever it was, I know I want to make a difference because there is no one telling me that I can’t. I may prevent myself from success, but there are always others supporting me and rooting for me. I can knock down the walls that I may have formed, keeping me from achieving my goals. As Theodore Herzl once said, “If you will it, it is no dream.”

I may have changed physically, gotten a little sunburned, but my heart, my confidence in my abilities to succeed, that was the true transformation. Everyone is capable of greatness. All we need is a little spark that we can kindle into a flame, lighting a candle to a brighter future. The mission, that was my spark.

*Eliana Koehler is a 10<sup>th</sup>-grader at Ma’ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls.*

*For a teen community service project, check out the jserve ad on page 19. For information on the annual Goldman essay contest, see the ad on page 17.*

Awards . . . . . Continued from page 17

The theme of the contest, which is open to middle and high school students, was “Creating Together: Fear and Splendor.” Carmel’s eighth grade students reviewed several texts from Exodus addressing the building of the *Mishkan* and the making of the Golden Calf. They then discussed the positive and negative effects of group dynamics, said Carmel Academy art teachers Lori Amer and Audrey Reich.

“When we learned of the program, we knew it would be perfect for our eighth-graders,” said Reich. “During a brainstorming session, the students came up with a list of words that described the emotions, images and concepts that arose from our discussions. Their responses were imaginative and insightful, and at times provocative. These triggered the powerful artworks that emerged. We are so proud of the level of thought and craft the students devoted to this project.”

Prior to embarking on their artistic interpretations, the students viewed slides of historic and modern interpretations of Moshe and the Golden Calf by artists such as Nicolas Poussin, Jacopo Tintoretto, Marc Chagall and Emil Nolde. Then they used materials of their choice, including

watercolors, markers, colored pencils, Cray-Pas and assorted papers for collage, to create their own interpretations, said Carmel’s art teachers.

“Carmel Academy’s students did a superb job at both crafting their artistic statements and producing their artworks. It is clear that both teachers and students

invested significant time and energy into applying what they have learned in their text study to their artworks. The results were stellar,” said Lisa Inberg, RAVSAK’s student programs coordinator.

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



*Three Carmel Academy eighth-grade students were selected among 400 entries to be honored by RAVSAK in the organization’s annual North American Judaic Art Contest. L-r: Luiz “Duda” Voldman, Isabele Cohen and Sam Levy.*

**THE NEW JEWISH VOICE**

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# Making the Exciting Transition to Middle School

BY DORA SALM

In an evening that was both social and informational, current fifth graders and their families gathered in the Bi-Cultural Café on March 26 to hear about the program and world of middle school.

Principal and Head of School Jackie Herman emphasized how the Bi-Cultural program, which blends both secular and Judaic studies, as well as experiences to encourage personal growth and development, embraces families as well as students. "Middle school is an exciting time, and our school is ever-evolving and adapting to meet the needs of our families," explained Herman to the assembled fifth-graders and their parents.

## Oasis . . . . .

Gurion University of the Negev and its Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research with his colleague Josh Arnow. During that visit, he witnessed breakthrough technologies and world-class research that related to living in arid zones. Simultaneously, he was exposed to the harsh circumstances of the ever-increasing Bedouin community, which was suffering from being a nomadic people living in a land of Western and urban sprawl. The conditions, said Ben-Eli, were untenable.

"It did not seem right that full citizens in a country like Israel would live in desperate circumstances when there were such incredible technologies being developed nearby," Ben-Eli said.

Ben-Eli met Dr. Mohammed Alnabari, mayor of Hura, a Bedouin town of 15,000 people. Forward-thinking and originally a chemist by profession, Alnabari immediately bought into Ben-Eli's vision of developing a model project that would showcase the integration of many development issues in one microcosm. The philanthropic support of Arnow and his father, Robert, allowed Ben-Eli to get started.

The Arnow family, which funds the Robert H. Arnow Center for Bedouin Studies and Development, has continued to support the project; the government of Israel has heavily invested in the project, too, as has the Jewish National Fund and other foundations and private donors. The total cost of actually implementing the project is an estimated \$6 million.

The building process has not been without obstacles, said Alnabari, noting that only now, seven years later, are all of Wadi Attir's permits secured and the land prepared for building. He said the bureaucracy was challenging on all fronts. There are issues of mistrust between the Bedouin communities and the Israeli government, and there are deep tribal divides among the Negev's 200,000 Bedouin people.

"This is very politically and culturally sensitive," said Arnow. "The climate in the Negev is extremely tense. But this project is one of its brightest spots."

Why? Nothing like the developing Wadi Attir exists in the world, according to Ben-Eli. While there are "fabulous sustainable projects around the world," he said, those initiatives tend to focus on one aspect of sustainability. Wadi Attir is systemic and holistic in that it will bring together the Sustainability Lab's five principles of sustainability related to the material domain, the economic domain, the social domain, the spiritual domain, and the domain of life. Additionally, the village is aimed at building an economic future for the Bedouin.

At Wadi Attir, infrastructure is being built to leverage Bedouin traditional values, experience and aspirations. In the farm, Bedouin workers will grow a mixed herd of goats and sheep organically for the production of a range of dairy products, including Bedouin cheeses that don't require refrigeration. Another area will harness Bedouin medicinal wisdom, by cultivating medicinal plants and herbs and developing a line of health products for sale on the mainstream market. Wadi Attir will reintroduce nutritious, indigenous vegetables and create a hub for eco-tourism, and Ben-Eli also hopes it will offer a graduate level certificate program.

Most of the Bedouins could not handle the paperwork to market their products in Israel to people outside their immediate area, to obtain health certificates and, potentially, even kosher certifications. Through Wadi Attir, said Alnabari, all of this will be possible. Additionally, Wadi Attir will serve as a model for Israel-Bedouin collaboration. "It is good for the people," said Alnabari. "It makes them feel good as citizens. It makes them proud to be part of Israel."

On a recent Tuesday in March, Wadi Attir Director Yunis Nbarey unlocked the gate to the village. The land spreads for 400 dunams (99 acres). Nbarey became involved as a volunteer when the project was in its infancy. He said that at that stage he clocked dozens of hours to rally the community and move the initiative forward. He doesn't have a high school degree, and before this he had never served in a leadership role.

Nbarey said his family became frustrated with the time he was spending working on Wadi Attir in its infancy,

Herman also explained that students are encouraged to develop their own leadership skills and to increase their personal "voice" as they take an increased level of ownership of their own learning.

As a seasoned middle school voice, sixth-grader Sarah Broder provided the younger members of the group with a detailed account of all the new changes that will affect the students' daily lives, including working on group and individual class projects and selecting elective courses.

Many electives are offered as part of the Judaic studies curriculum, which is headed up by Director of Jewish Studies Michal Smart. Elective course offerings range from topical courses such as Jewish history and "Topics

in Talmud," to activities like Jewish cooking and baking, photography, chorus, woodworking, student newspaper, sewing and Israeli dancing. In addition, middle schoolers are encouraged to become part of the student council.

Middle school also includes an emphasis on project assignments and increased class work. As an example, Adrienne Robinson, director of secular studies, explained that the current sixth grade class read more than 530 books as part of a grade-wide reading project. To incorporate technology into the reading process, the students tracked and rated their book selections online. All middle school students carry their own laptops, as technology and digital learning are integrated into each class throughout the curriculum. Robinson explained that the use of lockers is a popular and time-honored tradition of the moving up from elementary to middle school, and that many students are excited to begin that tradition. Three sixth-grade students, Douglas Herman, Rina Marlowe and Kate Rich, were on hand to demonstrate how to best organize a locker.

Students can also participate in the school's after-school sports teams and clubs. Coach Joe Nealon of Bi-Cultural's physical education department explained that the full sports line-up includes basketball, fencing, baseball, yoga, wrestling, floor hockey, tennis, Ultimate Frisbee and skateboarding. "Our sports teams just keeping growing and growing," he said, adding that BCDS will begin offering a girls' softball team as well as a field hockey, soccer and ski team beginning with the next academic year. The announcement was greeted with cheers from the group.

The evening closed with the distribution of a BCDS laptop bag and sponge "Go Bobcat" logo sports hand for each upcoming sixth grade student.

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

Continued from page 1

but Nbarey persisted. He smiles quietly at the fruits of his labor, at land cultivated, planted and prepared to hold the soon-to-be physical structures that will open project Wadi Attir. "I saw the influence it could have on the children. They see Wadi Attir and they know that if they have a plan, if they work hard, then they can make their dreams happen," said Nbarey.

"First the idea was just a raindrop," Alnabari said. "Now it is raining." Alnabari said the team, which consists of 12 staff and as many as 50 or 60 contract workers, should complete the building phase by the end of 2014. After that, the ecosystem will truly come alive and could reach as many as 70,000 Bedouin in some capacity.

"Everyone thought this was a complete pipe dream. Most people said it would take 10 years to get through the bureaucracy. It took us half that time... Ben-Eli, Dr. Alnabari and the Bedouin community have put in blood, sweat and tears, and we've still got a lot of work ahead of us," said Arnow.

**J-SERVE**  
JEWISH TEENS SERVING THE WORLD  
Presents

# Color Fun Run

All proceeds from this event will benefit children with cancer

**Sunday, April 27 • 1 - 4 p.m.**  
at the Stamford JCC

J-Serve is a community event driven and led by teens.  
This year we're doing our very own 1-mile Color Fun Run.  
**Show up in white and leave covered in color!**

**Two Races!** Check-in for both races begins at 1 p.m.  
9th grade - adults: Race starts at 1:45 p.m.  
Family run: 6th-8th grade, children K-5th grade  
welcome if accompanied by a parent: Race starts at 2:30 p.m.

Registration fee for participation is \$18 and it includes the Fun Run, an ADULT sized shirt, and Barbeque celebration. Additional donations are encouraged. Registration online at [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org), or call the JCC welcome desk at (203) 322-7900.

For more information contact Harrison Peck at 203.487.0970 or [hpeck@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:hpeck@stamfordjcc.org).

All proceeds will be donated to help provide amazing summer experiences to children battling cancer at Sunrise Day Camp.

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WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF  
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# *Spring 2014 Dinner*

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

*Dr. Ruth Westheimer*

*Generously underwritten by the Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation*

Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 6:30 pm  
Temple Beth El 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, Connecticut  
*Raffles, Book sale and signing by Dr. Ruth*



Dietary laws observed | Catering by Main Event  
**Please RSVP at: [www.ujf.org/WP](http://www.ujf.org/WP)**  
Cover charge \$100 by May 1, \$118 after May 1  
Young women 16-19 years old, \$50  
*No minimum gift required*

SPONSORSHIP \$360

Sponsors are entitled to attend the dinner and pre-dinner cocktail reception with  
Lions and Pomegranates and a special meet and greet with Dr. Ruth

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