



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Women Gather for Annual Education Symposium

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy will once again partner with UJA/JCC Greenwich for the 2020 Women's Education Symposium. Local chairs are Nan Gordon and Toby Lazarus. The event will take place on Wednesday, March 4, from 9:15 a.m. until noon at the YWCA Greenwich, located at 259 E. Putnam Ave., Greenwich. Tickets cost \$60 in advance. Sponsorships are available at \$136 with a choice of book available for each sponsor.

"This new decade brings us new inspiration and exciting speakers," shared Gordon. "The wide array of interesting authors will hopefully attract new partic-



Bev Saltzman Lewyn

ipants. This is such a wonderful way for the two communities to come together."

Attendees will hear from Mois Navon, a California native who was living out the Zionist dream at a hi-tech start-up in Jerusalem when, in 2000, the "dot-com bubble" became the "dot-com crash," leaving him and hundreds of other talented engineers unemployed.

An old colleague suggested he check out a tiny startup operating out of a house in Jerusalem.

That startup was Mobileye, an automobile "vision system" that detects and warns drivers of potential hazards. As a founding member of the engineering team, he built the products that today dominate the autonomous vehicle (AV) market – a success that culminated

in 2017 when Mobileye was purchased by leading chip manufacturer Intel for \$15 billion. It was the largest hi-tech deal in Israeli history.

Participants can choose from two authors in a breakout session. Julie Satow is an award-winning journalist who has covered real estate in New York City for more than a decade. A regular contributor to the New York Times, her work has also appeared on National Public Radio, the New York Post, The Daily Beast and elsewhere.

Her most recent book is "The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most

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Come Hear Ruth Messenger At Temple Beth El



Ruth Messenger

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Ruth Messenger, president of American Jewish

World Service for 18 years and currently the organization's first global ambassador, will be the featured speaker at Temple Beth El on Sunday, March 8, beginning at 9:30 a.m.. Messenger will speak on the topic of "From Service to Advocacy."

AJWS is the leading Jewish organization working to fight poverty and pursue justice in the developing world.

Prior to AJWS, Messenger served as a city council member in New York City and as Manhattan Borough President. A

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Rabbi Avi Weiss to Speak at Agudath Sholom

BY MICHAEL FELDSTEIN

Rabbi Avi Weiss, the founding rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale and the founder of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, will be the scholar in residence at Congregation Agudath Sholom on Shabbat, March 7.

Rabbi Weiss will deliver the Shabbat morning sermon, speak at a community luncheon following kiddush, and share some final thoughts during seudah shlishit, the third Shabbat meal.



Rabbi Avi Weiss

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PJ Library Takes A Jewish Food Journey

(Courtesy of UJF) In February, United Jewish Federation's PJ Library & PJ Our Way held a "Jewish Food Scavenger Hunt" at Whole Foods in Darien. Over 60 people gathered in the store's café to do crafts, hear a story and hunt around the store in search of a variety of "Jewish foods" including challah, lox, matzah and bagels. Everyone who completed the hunt got a prize. (see page 22)



Guest reader Robin Fischel reads the PJ Library story "Something From Nothing" to the children.



The Bloom and Tolkin families enjoy a "Jewish Food Scavenger Hunt" at Whole Foods in Darien.

From UJF's Chief Executive Officer The Value of a Jewish Federation

BY DIANE SLOYER

I ask people for money, not for myself, but for those in need. Some people say, "I could never ask people for money," but when you are asking one Jew to help another Jew they will most likely never meet, it becomes an awe-inspiring task driven by the Jewish values of chesed (loving kindness), charity (tzedakah), and tikun olam (repairing the world).

I hear many objections; it comes with the job!

"I only give to charities I can see."

"I only give to charities with low overhead."

"I only give directly and not to umbrella organizations..."

But no one else will step up when the emergency happens tomorrow. Only Jewish Federation.

Federations have always been there for emergencies around the globe: The



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO.

economic crises in Argentina and Venezuela; natural disasters in Puerto Rico, the Philippines and in our own backyard with Hurricane Sandy. From hurricanes to rockets, from flooding to earthquakes, the Jewish Federation raises the dollars necessary to help communities hit by devastation and despair.

We also gather our Jewish community together during times when our voices must be heard. From supporting Israel during Operation Protective Edge, to standing up to anti-Semitism on our high school and college campuses, to standing in solidarity when three Israeli teenagers were kidnapped by terrorists, we rally, we come together, we stand strong.

We will never abandon and never forget the Holocaust survivors. Because Holocaust survivors suffered unimaginable horrors in their youth, they

require increased care as they age. We must continue to give Holocaust survivors the dignity they deserve. We'll always be here — with social programs, meals, housing and more. Whether in Connecticut, Israel or the former Soviet Union, we'll offer critical care and companionship as long as it's needed. And we'll make sure their stories are never forgotten.

No one else will feed tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors this morning. Only Jewish Federation. Did you know Schoke Jewish Family Service was just awarded a second \$50,000 grant from Jewish Federations of North America, our national organization, to fund a program called Anachnu, focused on socialization of survivors?

No one else will plan the rescue, the relief, the lobbying for funds, the advocacy, the security campaigns. Only Jewish Federation. The Stamford JCC has received a security grant, thanks to the efforts of Jewish Federations Association of CT (JFACT).

You have the power to change the equation.

You can make sure one less Jewish child goes hungry in the Former Soviet Union

You can make sure one less Holocaust survivor lacks homecare and medicines.

You can make sure one less child misses out on PJ library books or a Birthright trip.

You can make sure one less person is excluded by the Jewish community

So, stand up for what you believe in. Get involved, volunteer, be a donor and make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. Help build and strengthen our Jewish community. And save the world. One person at a time.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

February 28.....	5:25 pm
March 6.....	5:33 pm
March 13.....	6:41 pm
March 20.....	6:49 pm
March 27.....	6:56 pm

Agudath Sholom Plans Infertility and Pregnancy Loss Program

BY MICHAEL FELDSTEIN

Abbie Sophia from The Layers Project will be the featured speaker at a program that will discuss infertility and pregnancy loss, to be held on Wednesday evening, March 18, at Congregation Agudath Sholom at 8 p.m. She will share her personal experiences.

The program is titled "Opening the Conversation: Creating a Supportive Community



Dena Block, Yoetzet Halacha.

Around Infertility and Pregnancy Loss," and will be presented by the Steinmetz/Bernstein/Alexander Yoetzet Initiative of Congregation Agudath Sholom.

Following the main speaker, there will be a panel discussion moderated by Dena Block, Yoetzet Halacha (a woman certified to serve as an advisor for

women with questions regarding Jewish family laws) for the Stamford com-

munity. The panel will feature Dr. Ilana Ressler, reproductive endocrinologist at RMA of Connecticut and medical advisor at Yesh Tikva; Reva Judas, founder and director of Nechama Comfort; and Dr. Danielle Thau, licensed clinical psychologist with a specialty in medical crisis therapy.

"Infertility and pregnancy loss is a subject that is usually not discussed, but has a major emotional and psychological impact on individuals who are dealing with these issues. We hope that by opening the conversation, we will be able to better support those in our community who are experiencing the pain associated

with infertility and pregnancy loss," said Block.

Both men and women are invited to attend the program, which will allow attendees to support family and friends experiencing these issues, gain practical tools for handling the subject, and dispel commonly held myths.

Co-sponsors for the program are Chabad of Stamford, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Temple Beth-El, Temple Sinai, Yesh Tikva and the Young Israel of Stamford.

The program is free and open to the entire community. Registration for the program begins at 7:30 p.m.

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'An Evening With Schoke JFS' Will Recognize Dedicated Community Members

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service will hold its annual gala on Sunday, April 26, at 5:30 p.m. at the Italian Center of Stamford, 1620 Newfield Avenue. The gala will honor the service of community leaders with a special celebration of the agency's work across Fairfield County. The evening will be hosted by Master of Ceremonies Alan Kalter of Stamford, and is co-chaired by Liz Kitay and Ronnie Sichel. Sandy Speter will chair the auction.

Schoke JFS will award the 41st Annual Mitzvah Awards to Michael Alexander and the Jewish Sportsmens League (Bruce Blasnik, Gary Bloom, Henry Bubel, David S. Cohen, Marty Donner, Bob Dorf, Bill Gilbert, Paul Gordon, Ed Kweskin, David Lewis, Carl Rosen, Paul Sabbah, David Swerdloff). The 14th Annual Young Leadership Award will be given to David Brand. Risa Goldblum will receive the 2nd Annual Volunteer of the Year Award.

Michael Alexander has had a successful 35-year career in financial services. His connection to Schoke JFS began in 2009 when he joined the board as treasurer; he then served as president from 2012 – 2015 and was immediate past president from 2015 – 2017. He sponsors Schoke JFS' annual shredding event, which benefits the agency's case management and food pantry clients.

The Jewish Sportsmens League is composed of board members, officers and past presidents of Jewish and non-Jewish organizations across Stamford. Four members of the Jewish Sportsmens League currently serve on the board of directors of Schoke JFS, three of whom have served on the executive committee. The Jewish Sportsmens League, founded over 20 years ago, has donated over \$120,000 to Jewish and other causes in Stamford.

David Brand has lived in Stamford since 2012, and is a lawyer who practiced commercial litigation in New York City for 10 years before joining his family's real estate business.

Brand began his volunteer efforts with Schoke JFS in 2013, first at CAS's annual High Holiday Food Drive to benefit the Schoke JFS Food Pantry. He also worked with the Camp Scholarship Committee that annually distributes over \$40,000 in funds so children in Fairfield County can attend Jewish day or sleepaway camps.

Risa Goldblum grew up in Stamford, where



2020 Honorees (l-r) David Brand, Michael Alexander and Risa Goldblum.
(Credit: Alison Wachstein Photography)

she attended Bi-Cultural Day School and Stamford High School. Goldblum's volunteer work with Schoke JFS began in 2013, when she helped deliver Passover meal bags. Since then she has served as a co-chair of the Passover food drive and distribution program. Goldblum also organizes the Rosh Hashana food drive and delivery program, co-chaired the coat drive for two years, leads the agency's annual Thanksgiving meal delivery program and assists with the agency's Anachnu program for Holocaust survivors. She is also a regular volunteer in the Freedberg Family



Jewish Sportsmens League: Standing (l-r): Marty Donner, Paul Gordon, Carl Rosen, Henry Bubel, Ed Kweskin, Bob Dorf, David Lewis, David Swerdloff. Front Row: (l-r) Bruce Blasnik, Bill Gilbert, Paul Sabbah, Gary Bloom. David S. Cohen is not pictured.
(Credit: Jewish Sportsmens League)

ly Kosher Food Pantry, and often brings her family along to help.

General tickets include dinner and dessert for \$180. Please visit [https://www.ctjfs.org/an-](https://www.ctjfs.org/an-evening-with-schoke-jfs/)

evening-with-schoke-jfs/ to reserve your tickets.

Please contact Lisa Rich at 203-921-4161 or lrch@ctjfs.org to place a journal ad by April 6.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

The deadlines for the next issues of

The New Jewish Voice are:

April/Pesach Edition: March 9

May Edition: March 30

Send New Jewish Voice article submissions to Sandy Golove at sandy@ujf.org marked "Stamford Voice" in the subject line.

Expect an acknowledgement; please re-send if you do not receive one.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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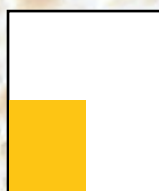
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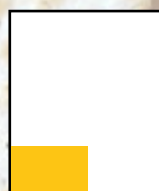
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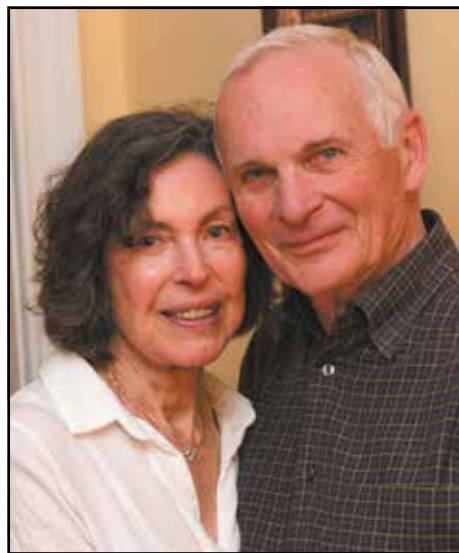
Raise Your Glass at Temple Sinai Annual Gala

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) This year's Temple Sinai gala, Raise Your Glass, will be held at Temple Sinai on Saturday, April 18, and will honor Lesley and Dennis Gehr, along with Rising Star Michelle Poris.

The evening will include cocktails and dinner, as well as silent and live auctions. The annual gala raises funds to support spiritual, educational and social programming for Temple Sinai and the community at large.

Lesley and Dennis have been Temple Sinai members for over 40 years. They are actively involved in Temple Sinai Torah Study groups and play an important role in the temple community.

Dennis has been a board member and has chaired both the person-



Lesley and Dennis Gehr

nel and leadership committees. He has held a number of other task force and committee positions and was VP of administration from 2009-2010. He was a participant in the adult confirmation class, a member of "brotherhood" and an active participant in the synagogue's Friday and Saturday morning Torah study groups. Dennis is the "Challah Baker" for all temple Shabbat dinners.

Dennis is currently treasurer of OCNV, the affiliated foundation to SUNY College of Optometry and is a past JCC board member. In 2012,

he helped to establish the Temple Sinai Legacy Fund. He graduated from Hunter College and after holding several positions in corporations, he started his own firm where he served as president and owner until 1999.

Lesley graduated from Pace University and received her Master's Degree in Social Work from Columbia University. She is a Certified Advanced Master Gardener and is active in the Temple's Arts and Aesthetics committee and Sisterhood. She also enjoys participating in the New Covenant House of Hospitality Christmas dinner and is an active participant in the synagogue's Friday and Saturday morning Torah study group.

Michelle Poris serves as a trustee on the Temple Sinai Board. In addition, she is chair of the religious school committee, a co-chair of the b'nai mitzvah committee and is an integral member of the educator search committee.

Michelle is also involved in the Stamford community as the PTO treasurer at Toquam Magnet School and she actively supports her family's participation in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. She and her husband Lee live in Stamford with their two boys, Jordan and Alex.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to honor and celebrate Dennis and Lesley Gehr for the tremendous contributions they have made to



Michelle Poris

Temple Sinai and the greater Stamford Jewish community. Both Dennis and Lesley have demonstrated their leadership by generously volunteering their time and energy toward the betterment of our congregation and community. It is also exciting to honor Michelle Poris as the Rising Star. Michelle's commitment and energy toward the mission of Temple Sinai serves as an inspiration to our future leaders," said Temple Sinai President Alan Cohen.

To reserve seats for the gala, or to place a tribute ad in honor of the Gehrs or Poris, or for more information about the gala, contact Shelly Welfeld at Temple Sinai at 203-322-1649 or Shelly@templesinaistamford.org.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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www.ujf.org for updates and donations

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The views expressed in editorials and opinion pieces are those of each author and not necessarily the views of the United Jewish Federation.

Letters

The New Jewish Voice welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number. The editor may withhold the name upon request.

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Enjoy 'The Art of Inclusion' at Agudath Sholom

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) The Friendship Circle and Congregation Agudath Sholom Men's Club will present "The Art of Inclusion" with Benji Schussheim on Sunday, March 22, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Congregation Agudath Sholom, during its Passover Fair.

Come to this community-wide awareness event to learn how you can foster inclusion of people with different abilities in all aspects of your life. Hear from Benji Schussheim, who embraces his stutter with joy and positivity. His message teaches us to turn our challenges into opportunities.

Entertainment for children ages 2-9 will be provided.

The event chairs are Mihal Ariyeh, Robin Fischel, Mouchka Heller, Shira Nerenberg, Miriam Sperber and Alisa Weissner.

An RSVP to FriendshipCT.com/Event will be appreciated.

Agudath Sholom to Host Rabbi Avi Weiss

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The weekend will be focused on the recent 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, rising anti-Semitism, and lessons from the movement to free Soviet Jews, for which Rabbi Weiss was a champion. His presentations will all emerge from his personal experiences and lifetime commitment to spiritual activism.

"We are thrilled to be able to host Rabbi Weiss for an entire weekend devoted to activism in the Jewish community," said Rabbi Cohen, senior rabbi at Congregation Agudath Sholom. "We are looking forward to hearing what Rabbi Weiss has to say about his own activities in this area, and learning what we can also do to become more spiritually active in today's important causes."

Rabbi Weiss is the founding president of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, the modern and Open Orthodox rabbinical school in Riverdale, NY. He is also the founding rabbi and rabbi in residence of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, a congregation of 850 families. Most recently, he founded Yeshivat Maharat, a school ordaining women to become Jewish spiritual leaders.

Rabbi Weiss was named one of the 50 most influential rabbis in America by Newsweek magazine for five consecutive years. He is the author of several books, among them "Spiritual Activism: A Jewish Guide to Leadership and Repairing the World." Rabbi Weiss served as the national chairman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, and is the national president of AMCHA – the Coalition for Jewish Concerns.

On Shabbat morning, Rabbi Weiss will deliver the sermon in the main sanctuary on "Am I My Brother's Keeper? Reflections on Rising Anti-Semitism and the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz." He will speak at a community-wide luncheon after services on "Coping with Challenges and Personal Resilience: Fate and Destiny in Our Lives." Rabbi Weiss (in conversation with Rabbi Cohen) will give his final talk after mincha, afternoon services, at seudah shlishit, on "The Nation of Israel as Family and the Roots, Relevance and Resonance of an Inclusive Orthodoxy."

The entire community is invited to attend any or all of the presentations. To find out how you can reserve a place at the community luncheon, please visit cas-stamford.org.

Women Gather for Annual Ed Symposium

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Julie Satow



Mois Navon



Elizabeth Weitzman

Famous Hotel.” “I am thrilled to introduce Julie. My parents celebrated their 25th anniversary at the Plaza and my husband Alan and I were married there. We have celebrated many family occasions at the hotel and I am looking forward to reading the book and hearing from Julie,” shared Lazarus.

Bev Saltzman Lewyn, author of “On the Run in Nazi Berlin,” will speak at the second breakout session. Saltzman Lewyn is the former coordinator of news research for CNN’s National Desk. She is the co-founder of the 2,000-women strong Jewish Women’s Connection/ JWC Atlanta (a Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project-JWRP- “Birthright for Moms” partner organization) and is presently writing “Super Parenting to the Rescue: Get Your Kids To Listen Cooperate and DO!”

Elizabeth Weitzman will close the morning with attendees joining together. She is a journalist and film critic, and the author of more than two dozen books for children and young adults. She currently covers movies for The Wrap and was a critic for the New York Daily News for 15 years. In 2015, she was named one of the top critics in New York by the Hollywood Reporter.

To register please visit www.ujf.org or call Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373 ext. 105.

Ruth Messenger to Speak at Temple Beth El

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tireless advocate and social change visionary, Messenger mobilizes faith-based communities throughout the US to promote human rights. She is also currently doing international human rights work for AIDS Free World and, in 2017, became the inaugural JTS Finkelstein Institute Social Justice Fellow.

Messenger will discuss issues including the theoretical response of Arnold Eisen, chancellor and president of faculties and professor of Jewish thought at the Jewish Theological Seminary, when asked why he was going to the border last November with about 20 Jewish clergy. She will discuss the implications of the group’s intention of witnessing firsthand how current US immigration policy is affecting the individuals seeking entry to America, and share that the answer Eisen wanted to give was: “Because I am a Jew.”

After making the trip Ei-

sen wrote, “Our country can do a lot better with migrants and asylum seekers.” His was a simple, direct and unequivocal response to what he and the others observed on their trip.

Messenger will discuss the moral issues inherent in his response. What is the moral obligation for change that Eisen feels so strongly about? What is our responsibility to one another ... to other Jews ... to people of different faiths? What does advocacy look like in a synagogue? What happens when advocacy and politics collide?

Join Temple Beth El as Messenger seeks answers to these and other questions on Sunday morning, March 8.

The program is sponsored by the Temple Beth El Sisterhood and Men’s Club. Breakfast will be served. There is no charge.

Temple Beth El is located at 350 Roxbury Road in Stamford.

Gan Yeladim Enjoys Activities At Barnes & Noble

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford’s Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center families were entertained with a special story time and arts and crafts activities at Barnes & Noble.



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Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Dinner Has Record-Breaking Turnout

(Courtesy of BCHA) A sold-out crowd of close to 500 guests filled the ballroom of the Hilton Stamford Hotel this past January, to honor several prominent leaders of the Fairfield County Jewish community at the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Celebration Dinner.

According to organizers, the gala evening raised more than \$1 million, and was attended by dignitaries, including U.S. Senator Richard

Blumenthal and Stamford Mayor David Martin. The honorees included Elise and Steven Cohen, Alice and Jason Janush, Tina and Yossi Notik, Laura Kassen, and David Giver.

The Morton G. Scheraga President's Award was presented to BCHA board member Maria Reicin for her dedication and commitment to the school and the Fairfield County Jewish community.



Honorees at the BCHA Celebration Dinner included (front row, l-r) Head of School Jaqueline Herman; honorees Alice Janush, Laura Kassen, Elise Cohen and Tina Notik; (back row, l-r) BCHA President David Pitkoff; honorees Jason Janush, David Giver, Steven Cohen and Yossi Notik.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy 2020 Celebration Dinner Chairs Trevor and Taly Farber (left) and Amanda and Jasper Lewit.



U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (center) chats at the BCHA Celebration Dinner with (l to r) Len and Linda Russ and their daughter Dana Russ and her fiancée Daniel Rose.

Chabad of Stamford Holds Annual Gala Dinner

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) "The Gala dinner was an opportunity to come together as the Chabad family and community," said Leah Shemtov of this year's event. The evening was dedicated to "kindness, caring and community," all of which were in abundance. The evening included an awards

ceremony, a lavish sit-down meal and dessert buffet and a resoundingly successful silent auction and paddle raise topped off by entertainment by illusionist, Ilan Smith. Chabad would like to wish their honorees and volunteers a huge "yasher koach" for their generosity and commitment to what Chabad stands for.



Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov and Chabad Gala Dinner honorees.



(l-r) Ilan Smith, Craig Price, Aron Davidson, Oren Klein, Eric Israel, Lance Beder, John Cristiano, Mark Kaplan. (Credit: Clive and Raema Salmon Photography)

Bits and Pieces

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg on the birth of a granddaughter.

Shira and Reuven Fischer on the birth of a daughter.

Ben and Cara Friedlander on the birth of a son, Jesse Friendlander; and to grandparents to Janie and Ed Friedlander.

Shery Hertzberg on the birth of a granddaughter.

Keren and David Jonas on the birth of a daughter, Anael Dafna Jonas; and to grandparents Debbie and Neil Gershon.

Shoshana and Doniel Levie on the birth of a son; and to grandmother Diane Indyk.

Fran Schechter on the birth of her grandson, Howard Alfred Schechter.

MAZEL TOV ON ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS:

Martha Kramer and John Zimmerman on the engagement of their daughter, Sara Zimmerman to David Stern.

Dallice and Ian Lazarus on the engagement of their daughter Kailyn Lazarus to Noah Weintraub.

Stacey and Rabbi Shimmy Trencher on



the engagement of their daughter, Tali Trencher to Jesse Salver.

Shelly Welfeld on the marriage of her daughter, Kayla Sodaro to Ezra Weiser.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Henry Lapin, son of Jamie Boris Lapin and Paul Lapin.

Cameron Rubin, son of Haley and Darryl Rubin.

Sophie Sigman, daughter of Rebecca and Eric Sigman.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Mel Aminoff: husband of Ruth and father of Leeba, Sarah and Noam Aminoff

Sandy Burn: mother of Lisa Barocas.

Abraham (Roger) Cohen: father of Isaac Cohen.

Patricia Epstein: wife of Simon Epstein.

Marcia Frankel: mother of Michal Frankel Leonard Gold: father of Richard, David and Deborah Gold.

Dion Hoff: father of Robert Hoff.

Richard Isaac: father of Rachel Hager.

Erwin Riven: husband of Carol Riven.

Journalist Jeff Goldman Is Coming to Stamford

(Courtesy of UJF JCRC) United Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council will host Jeff Goldman, retired television journalist for CBS News, on March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Stamford JCC. As a reporter and producer for over 40 years, Goldman covered the White House during the tenures of six US presidents, from the end of the Reagan Administration to the beginning of the Trump presidency.

"We are privileged to welcome such an insider to our community," shared JCRC chair Peter Lilienthal. "With a presidential election upon us, Jeff's presentation comes at an interesting time."

Goldman has been an eyewitness to many major historical events, including six wars and military conflicts. He covered both Gulf Wars, and lived in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for many months during both military interventions. Goldman has also trav-

eled to Israel and other countries in the region multiple times with several presidents, and has traveled the globe with multiple secretaries of state, including Hillary Clinton, Condoleezza Rice and General Colin Powell.

After the historic White House handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Goldman was immediately dispatched to the region. He produced exclusive interviews with key regional leaders to look at the future of the Israeli-PLO conflict. Those interviews were with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, King Hussein in Amman Jordan, and then-Israeli President Shimon Peres in Jerusalem. In addition, he covered the Balkan War and troop interventions in Somalia, Haiti and Iraq.

At the PBS NewsHour, Goldman produced numerous long form documentaries

on a wide range of events which he had witnessed overseas, including the breakup of the former Soviet Union, historic elections in eastern Europe and the Baltic States, and the Mandela election in South Africa. He was the first to interview Mikhail Gorbachev after his meeting with Ronald Reagan in 1985.

At CBS News, Goldman also covered every domestic presidential election since 1996. He has been dispatched to cover breaking news stories around the globe, including the horrific Haitian earthquake in 2010, where over 200,000 people were killed. Goldman was one of the first journalists on the scene with the American search and rescue teams that were dispatched within hours.

Goldman's lecture will be free and open to the public. Registration appreciated at ujf.org/goldman. The Stamford JCC is located at 1035 Newfield Avenue.



Jeff Goldman

'Miriam's Table' Women's Passover Seder Planned



Beth Styles (Credit: Facebook)

BY JILL KIRSCH

In the spirit of the late Debbie Friedman, z"l, creator of the women's seder, musical artist Beth Styles, together with Lisa Rosenstein of Chasing Light Women Speakers, will offer a women's Passover seder, "Miriam's Table," to be held on Thursday, March 26, at 6 p.m. at Temple Beth El. Women of all denominations and faiths are invited, and encouraged to bring their female family members. The seder will be a tribute to women throughout the generations.

Miriam's Table follows the successful women's seder held at the synagogue for the past four years. This year's incarnation, while building on the seder's past success, is expected to have a completely different feel.

"This is a different program, but

the idea of women's gatherings was a success," Styles explained. "We wanted to do something experiential, 'vibey.' The tables will face the sanctuary, where the lights of the 12 tribes around the Ark will shine, along with others, creating a spiritual atmosphere."

This year's seder will be a bit more informal as well. Rather than round tables set in a traditional manner, there will be rectangular tables in a Bedouin-style tent, giving attendees the opportunity to "gather together," Styles continued.

There will be eight women leading the seder, which will be a "storytelling journey acknowledging the contributions of generations of women who have come before us in order for women to have a voice," she added. "This is true especially in the Passover story, where Miriam had such a significant role. She was a hero who was in the 'fine print.'"

Miriam's Table will include "traditional readings, contemporary readings, and people can tell uplifting personal stories," Styles remarked. Attendees can sponsor a table, a candle, a wine cup or a page in the Haggadah, in the merit of a woman in their lives.

The seder's journey will be experienced through music. "As a composer, I tried to figure out how to include Debbie Friedman's music into my program," Styles said. To honor Friedman's impact, her sister Cheryl will be in attendance.

Rosenstein noted, "We are excited to include women who had joined the Beth El seder, as well as broaden our reach to include women involved with



Lisa Rosenstein
(Credit: Chasinglightspeakers.com)

Federation or other Jewish groups, or non-Jews." Women from all back-

grounds will be welcomed to experience "who women have been in our history, both real and legendary."

"The food will be kosher, and the evening will be in the format of a seder, with moderations, so people feel they are still coming to a seder, but with nontraditional elements," she continued. A Mediterranean-style dinner will be served.

A portion of the proceeds from the seder will go to The Jewish Women's Archive. United Jewish Federation and Federation's Women's Philanthropy will be sponsors of the event.

The cost to attend is \$36/adult and \$18/child before March 1. For more information, to become a sponsor or to register, visit <https://chasinglight-events.com/miriams-table/> or <https://events.idonate.com/miriams-table>.

Temple Beth El is located at 350 Roxbury Road in Stamford.

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**United Jewish Federation is pleased to be participating
in the Northeast Jewish Engagement Summit.**

**To encourage community participation, UJF will offer
an \$18 subsidy to the first 20 participants.**

Please contact Diane Sloyer for details dianesloyer@ujf.org.



Sunday, March 22, 2020 • 12 pm – 5:30 pm
Held at: Temple Israel
14 Coleytown Road, Westport, CT

FOR:	Congregations, Federations, and Jewish Organizations Lay Leadership, Staff, and Volunteers
FROM:	New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and More Westport, CT is only 55 miles from New York City, 135 miles from Albany, 150 miles from Philadelphia, and 160 miles from Boston
ABOUT:	Exploring the challenges, learning the skills, and gaining the tools to engage and sustain engagement in an ever-changing and ever-diverse Jewish community
OBJECTIVES:	• Build on efforts to engage participants in their 20's and 30's with or without families • Create clarity around the world of "engagement" including definitions, assumptions, skills building, and professional development • Cultivate the tremendously important communal conversation about the younger demographics' relationship to organized Jewish institutional life as it pertains to their Jewish journeys • Frame infrastructure for local professionals and lay people as a cohort of well-trained builders of our vibrant and diverse community • Collaborate with and learn from leaders around the engagement sphere from national organizations
FEATURING:	Engagement Experts and Organizations, Including: Rabbi Menachem Creditor (UJA-Federation of New York), Drew Fidler (BBYO Center for Adolescent Wellness, KB Goodkin (Jewish Federation of Northeastern NY), Interfaith Family, M2 - The Institute for Experience Jewish Education, Rabbi Mike Moskowitz, Carly Pildis, and Ta'amod
PRESENTED BY:	 Federation for Jewish Philanthropy OF UPPER FAIRFIELD COUNTY  Jewish Federation OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK with support from:  The Jewish Federations® OF NORTH AMERICA
REGISTRATION DETAILS:	Early bird registration (ends March 12) \$36/pp After March 12 \$40/pp Walk-in \$45/pp To register, visit shalomct.org/engagementsummit Kosher lunch will be provided.

UJF and UJA Donors Gather for Major Gifts Event



Harvey and Helene Kaminski catch up with Harvey's childhood friend, Seth M. Siegel.

(Courtesy of UJF) In late January, donors from United Jewish Federation and UJA-JCC of Greenwich gathered for the annual major gifts event, this year held at the Bruce Museum. Guests were treated to a serious yet entertaining presentation by Seth M. Siegel, author of the 2015 New York Times bestseller, "Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water-Starved World." The book is now available in 15 foreign language editions and more than 50 countries. It has won praise from Tony Blair, Michael Bloomberg, Shimon Peres and Robert F. Kennedy, among other global figures.

Siegel is also the author of the much-anticipated book, "Troubled Water: What's Wrong with What We Drink." The book addresses the widespread contamination of America's drinking water, and what must be done to improve it.

Siegel has spoken about water issues before hundreds of audiences on four continents, and in more than 60 US cities. He has appeared in Congress, the United Nations, the World Bank, Google's headquarters and many other venues, as well as dozens of universities, including Harvard, Yale and Princeton. Siegel's views are regularly featured on TV, radio and in print.

Siegel has been recognized for his thought leadership and advocacy on water scarcity and quality concerns. He is a senior fellow at the University of Wisconsin's Center for Water Policy and his commentary has appeared in many leading publications, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post.

Siegel's passionate connection to water began when he wanted to find something positive to talk about with regard to Israel that would impact the world. He continues to be a passionate supporter of Israel and is very involved in AIPAC. He also sits on the Hillel board at Cornell University, where he studied.

Ellen Weber, campaign chair and past president of UJF, closed the evening by sharing the impact of Federation and reminding the donors of the important work their philanthropy supports.



Mort Lowenthal, Kerrin Behrend and David Stein.



(l-r) Claude Bernstein, Kerrin Behrend Elliot and Diane Sloyer, Ken Schwartz David and Beverly Stein.



(l-r) Ed Smith, UJF CEO Diane Sloyer, UJF President David Gordon, Schoke JFS President Beverly Stein, and Eleanor Lowenthal.



Mark Silver, Sherry Steiner, Beverly Stein, Edith Samers and Diane Sloyer.



Ellen and Richard Weber with Sherry Steiner.

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42nd Annual State of Connecticut Holocaust Commemoration



Friday, April 17, 2020 | 10:00 a.m.

Senate Chambers, Connecticut State Capitol,
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11:00 a.m. Lunch | North Lobby

For Holocaust Survivors, program participants and
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RSVP required for buses and lunch to Ayelet Weber at
aweber@jfact.org or 860.727.5771**

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Holocaust Memorial Council.



United Jewish Federation



The Holocaust Education Resource and Outreach Center
A joint initiative between the
Maurice Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies and Voices of Hope

Congregation Agudath Sholom To Host Jonathan S. Tobin of JNS



Jonathan Tobin

(Courtesy of Congregation Agudath Sholom) The Agudath Sholom Men's Club and Agudath Women invite the entire community to attend a lecture, "The BDS Threat to American Jewry: Anti-Zionism and the New Anti-Semitism," by Jonathan S. Tobin, editor in chief, Jewish News Syndicate/JNS.org, on March 22 at 3 p.m. in the Congregation Agudath Sholom chapel.

The lecture will take place during the highly popular annual CAS annual Passover/Mitzvah Fair.

Tobin is one of the most significant contemporary political commentators. He is a regular columnist for Haaretz, Israel Hayom, the New York Jewish Week, the Algemeiner, the Federalist and the New York Post, and is a contributing writer for National Review. He is also writing for other publications, such as the Washington Examiner and Commentary magazine. In his writing he covers the American political

scene, foreign policy, the US-Israel relationship, Middle East diplomacy and the Jewish world.

Before becoming the editor in chief of JNS, an international wire service, Tobin was the executive editor, the senior online editor and chief political blogger for the Commentary magazine. Earlier in his career, he was the editor in chief of the Jewish Exponent in Philadelphia and, before that, the editor of the Connecticut Jewish Ledger. His writing has also appeared in many other publications including the Jerusalem Post, where he wrote the "View From America" column for many years.

"It is our honor to welcome Jonathan Tobin to Agudath Sholom. From his days in West Hartford, where I served as rabbi, he has always maintained a sterling reputation, possesses a voice of wisdom, deep support for shared American and Israel values and an eloquence and erudition in his writings and presentations," said Rabbi Daniel Cohen, senior rabbi of Congregation Agudath Sholom.

Tobin has won more than 50 awards for his writing, including being named top columnist for Jewish publications eight times. He appears regularly on television commenting on politics in the United States and Israel, foreign policy and Jewish affairs.

Tobin was born in New York City, attended local schools and studied history at Columbia University.

The lecture is free and open to the entire community.

Book & Author Conversations Continue at The J

(Courtesy of JCC) Professor Marc Dollinger, Ph.D., historian and author of the controversial book "Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing The Alliance in the 1960s," will be featured in the next "Book and Author Conversations" session at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Avenue, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5.

Dollinger's book, now in its third printing, challenges the accepted wisdom on understanding Jewish participation in the civil rights movement. His challenges are based on both research and personal experience, with a history of activism in race relations and anti-Semitism. He was named "courageous leader of the year" in 2015 by the local Jewish Community Federation for his work against campus anti-Semitism at San Francisco State University, where he holds the Richard and Rhonda Goldman Chair in Jewish Studies and Social Responsibility.

In his book, Dollinger argues that there are three assumptions advanced by Jews for why they involve themselves in the struggle for racial equality, and how all three are false. The real story is much more complicated, Dollinger says, and while it complicates the narrative, it can



Marc Dollinger

lead to deeper learning. If people understand what actually happened over the last 50 or 60 years, they'll be better informed to understand the dynamics of today.

While the book undermines widely held beliefs about the black-Jewish alliance, it also offers hope of a new political consensus based on identity politics, that draws blacks and Jews together and can alter the course of American liberalism.

The JCC is an educational and recreational center, offering exceptional programs, classes and special events designed to enrich mind, body and spirit. "Book and Author Conversations" sessions will be held periodically and announced in advance.

For information, please email Connie Cirillo Freeman at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

United Jewish Federation Officially Launches Harold Grinspoon Life And Legacy Program



Team members from the 11 participating organizations gathered recently at Temple Beth El, where United Jewish Federation officially launched The Harold Grinspoon Life and Legacy program to benefit the local community. The participating organizations have one year to secure a minimum of 15 letters of intent from potential donors.

(Courtesy of UJF) In mid February, National Director Arlene Schiff spent three days at the Federation, meeting with each organization to help them fine tune their case statement, marketing and stewardship plans. Over 60 team members gathered for a training

session on how to have the legacy conversation with potential donors.

"We are off to a great start," shared Life and Legacy Coordinator Lenore Fogel. "It is wonderful to see the Federation bring the community together to secure a future for all of our amazing institutions."

Carmel Academy to Integrate Into The Leffell School

(Courtesy of The Leffell School) After 22 years as a vibrant, independent Jewish day school in Greenwich, Connecticut, Carmel Academy has announced that it will be integrating many of its families and elements of its program into The Leffell School, a Jewish independent school serving approximately 740 students on two campuses in Westchester County, effective the 2020-2021 school year. Carmel Academy plans to wind down its own independent operations at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 academic year.

"Given the current realities of finances and enrollment, we believe that the very best way to ensure a continued, top-quality educational experience for our students is to seek the expanded opportunities and economic efficiencies that come with joining a larger, mission-aligned institution," explained Nora Anderson, Carmel Academy's head of school.

Carmel Academy has an extraordinary legacy of academic excellence, spirited Jewish life and learning and attentiveness to the needs of all learners, particularly through its PALS (Providing Alternative Learning Strategies) program for students with special needs, which will continue under the auspices of Leffell.

The Leffell School was established in 1966 as Solomon Schechter School of Westchester and changed its name in July 2019. The White Plains campus houses grades K-5, and the middle and high schools are located in Hartsdale. The school is known for its rigorous dual curriculum, unique K-12 engineering and entrepre-

neurship programs, experiential Jewish life (including a two-week trip to Israel in eighth grade and its capstone Lev v'Nefesh senior experience in Poland and Israel) and strong college placement.

Head of School Dr. Michael Kay said, "We have long admired the strong leadership and educational offerings of Carmel Academy, whose mission and values are closely aligned with our own. The Leffell School is excited to warmly welcome Carmel Academy families, and our own community will be enhanced through the incorporation of the Carmel community and legacy."

The two schools have long been guided by a common set of priorities, including a relentless commitment to academic success for all students; celebration of traditional Jewish observance, culture, text and language; strong character and values; a warm, nurturing community; and open engagement with diverse perspectives. The boards of trustees and administrations of the two schools are working together to ensure a smooth transition.

Carmel Academy board member Pam Feldstein noted, "We are very proud of what we have achieved as an independent school, and at the same time we feel a strong sense of responsibility to provide an experience for our students that preserves the best of what our school has always represented. We have confidence that integration into The Leffell School community presents the best pathway for continuing our important mission and ensuring that the Carmel legacy endures."

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Moderator: Cathy Satz

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Committee: Mel Bloomenthal, Julie Daniel, Stephen Davidson,
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United Jewish Federation 2019 was a year of innovation

United Jewish Federation, through a thoughtful strategic planning committee, appointed by then President Ricky Arbron, and chaired past President Fred Springer, spent a year and a half challenging current thinking through a creative strategic process and took a deep dive into the critical data.

You, our committed loyal donors have spoken, and with your generosity, over \$1.2 million dollars will be spent in 2020 to impact the growth of our Jewish community! You can see the impact of your generosity below.

Community Impact



Affinity Groups

UJF events provide opportunities for Jewish community members in the same profession or life stage to gather while learning about timely and relevant topics - often with the opportunity to earn professional credits. Groups include: lawyers, doctors, business professionals, NextGen and Chapter Two (empty nesters).



Communal Security Alert System

A community-wide mass security alert system (SCN Alert) will be purchased and training will be provided to all area institutions.



Digital Archiving Project

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County and the CT League of History Organizations (CLHO) have joined together to participate in creating an online catalog of materials to chronicle the history of our Jewish community.



Jewish Community Relations Council

The JCRC works by convening and mobilizing the Jewish community, building relationships, and engaging in non-partisan work focused on education, advocacy, social justice, communal security, support for Israel and combating anti-Semitism.



Jewish Free Loan Society

This program, administered by Schoke Jewish Family Service, will provide financial assistance to community members in need.



JFEST

This Jewish community festival will bring locals and visitors to our community in a fun communal atmosphere with food, music and the opportunity to learn more about our Jewish community. This program will be spearheaded by the JCC.



New Jewish Voice Newspaper

The New Jewish Voice, published by UJF, is provided free of charge to over 5,000 households. Local Jewish communal organizations submit articles and photos, and receive thousands of dollars of free publicity annually.



Shabbat Across Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien

UJF coordinates with the Board of Rabbis to bring our diverse community together to celebrate Shabbat. Our community is one of a few in North America to successfully bring all Jewish denominations under one roof to celebrate Shabbat, thereby reinforcing what makes our community so unique.



Israel and Overseas

The Global Connections program is at the core of UJF's support for Israel and Overseas. Through the Jewish Agency for Israel, Joint Distribution Committee, World ORT and our partnership with the Afula/Gilboa region in Israel, UJF supports those in need as well as the rebirth of Jewish life in countries around the world.



Shalom/Welcoming Program

Through the Shalom/Welcoming program, UJF welcomes new Jewish residents to our community, providing them with information and opportunities to connect Jewishly. The Shalom Baby program welcomes new babies with gifts and provides relevant information to their parents.



Yom Hashoah Commemoration

UJF, together with the Board of Rabbis, brings the community together with impactful speakers and programs to remember entire communities and individuals lost in the Shoah.

United Jewish Federation's 2020 Campaign for Communal Needs Powered By **YOU!**

Thank you to all our 2019 Donors

United Jewish Federation will continue to impact the community with the programs funded below as well as the following ongoing initiatives:

- Behrend Institute for Leadership
- Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps
- Life and Legacy
- Math Mates
- Free PJ Library Books
- Reading Partners
- 3SQUARE
- Women's Philanthropy



Friendly Visiting and
Emergency Funds

Schoke Jewish Family Service will design and implement a friendly visiting program geared toward reaching elderly and homebound individuals looking for companionship. Additionally, a match from Kavod Shef Initiatives will provide emergency financial assistance to Holocaust survivors.



Passover Seder

The Friendship Circle will host and facilitate a Passover seder to allow special needs families from across our community to enjoy the holiday in a comfortable and controlled environment.



Senior Services at Home

Schoke Jewish Family Service will administer and facilitate programming to address an unmet need providing mobile counseling and case management services for the physically impaired and home bound elderly and others.

Senior/Social
Services Support



Community Chesed

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy will design a volunteer curriculum for grades Pre-K through 12 to allow for students to volunteer on a regular basis in the local community and beyond. The purchase of a bus will allow for transportation as needed.



B'Yachad/Together

Schoke Jewish Family Service will provide a welcoming inclusive program for LGBT tweens and teens where Judaism, sexual orientation and sexual identity can be explored and embraced in a safe place.



Celebrate the Holidays

Through this program, UCONN Hillel at Storrs will enhance students' celebrations of the Jewish holidays by distributing traditional foods and give-a-ways in a public space on campus.



Koleinu Community Choir

An inter-generational choir, comprised of community youth and seniors from Atria Senior Living, will be created to perform at local functions. The Choir will be led by Jonathan Cahr and administered by Congregation Agudath Sholom.

Youth and Young Adult Opportunities



PJ Library Programming

UJF's PJ Library and PJ Our Way provide programs for children 6 months to 11 years old and send out books monthly free of charge. These programs serve as connectors for families with young children to the greater community.



Shabbat Together

Shabbat Together is a weekly musical Shabbat celebration for young children and residents of Atria, a senior living facility in Stamford. Musical instruments and snacks will be provided. The program will be led by volunteers in cooperation with PJ Library.



Teen Mitzvah Corp

Coordinated and run by Temple Beth El, this communal teen program will focus on social action, hands-on activities and related field trips.



Celebrate Purim With Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford has a full schedule of activities planned for Purim, and invites the community to join them.

On Monday night, March 9, beginning at 7:15 p.m., they will celebrate Purim with the theme of "Around the Jewish Year @ Purim in the Bakerie." Each holiday on the Jewish calendar will be represented with delicious baked goods, from sweet treats for Rosh Hashanah to a dairy pizza bar for Shavuot and much more.

Megillah readings will start at 7:30 p.m., followed by live music, an open bar, kids' entertainment and lively dancing. Every child and adult in costume will receive a prize. Advanced booking is \$10 per child and \$12 per adult, with a \$45 max per family. The cost at the event is \$12 per child and \$15 per adult, with a \$55 max per family. Late Megillah readings will also be held at 9:30 p.m. that night.

The following day, Tuesday, March 10, Megillah readings will be held throughout the day, at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., noon, 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. If you would like to schedule a Megillah reading at your office or school, or if

you are homebound and would like to arrange a reading, please contact Chabad of Stamford.

Chabad will also host a Purim seudah, holiday meal, starting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10.

Drop in for a l'chaim, toast, a bite to eat and some good Purim spirit. The seudah is a free event, but sponsorship opportunities are available and RSVPs are required. Both events are open to all.

One of the four mitzvot celebrated on Purim is to send mishloach manot, gifts of food, to friends in the spirit of Jewish unity and joy. Mishloach manot, or shalach manos, are gifts that contain two different ready-to-eat foods and are sent, usually by a third party, to a friend or community member on the day of Purim. Every year, Chabad of Stamford sends over 900 mishloach manot to Jewish families throughout Stamford and Fairfield counties.

For more information about Chabad of Stamford's Shalach Manos Project, the Purim party, seudah or Megillah readings, go to www.StamfordChabad.org or contact programs@stamfordchabad.org.

Chabad New Canaan Plans Purim Treasure Hunt

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) The Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center is looking for talented children for a Purim event. On Purim Day, March 10, teams of children will work together to solve a holiday mystery in a thrilling scavenger hunt.

A major theme of the holiday of Purim is hidden miracles. In line with that theme, the children will uncover mysteries in a top-secret treasure-hunt mission. Kids will follow their treasure maps and crack codes while learning about the Purim story. From Esther to Mordechai, from Haman to Acheshverosh, they'll uncover all the major personalities and events.

"We've found that Jewish holidays are a

fantastic time to engage the next generation," said Michal Mendelow, director of the New Canaan Hebrew School. "Our goal is to make the holiday celebrations fresh, exciting and educational. This program is specifically designed to teach children who are not in Jewish Day Schools the joys of Purim."

The program will include dinner, traditional Purim foods, and a multimedia Megillah presentation.

This Purim event will take place on March 10 at 5:15 p.m.

The program is open to the entire community. For more information email Michal@NewCanaanJewish.org.

Get Wild at the JCC Purim Carnival

(Courtesy of JCC) Kids and grownups of all ages are invited to join the fun at the Jewish Community Center's 28th Annual Purim Carnival, planned for Sunday, March 1, from 1-4 p.m.

The JCC will be transformed into a zoo-themed carnival with games, kangaroo bounce house, attractions and prizes. For younger children there will be inflatables, crafts and more.

No Purim carnival would be complete without "animal snacks," hamantaschen

and other delicious treats. Lunch and other refreshments will be available for purchase.

The event will be held indoors at the JCC, located at the intersection of Newfield Avenue and Vine Road in Stamford.

Admission is free. Purchase tickets and bracelets for games and attractions.

Volunteers are needed. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Jason Samuel at 203-487-0973 or jsamuel@stamfordjcc.org.



Four Acrobats skillfully balance and spin silk umbrellas.

'Fabulous Chinese Acrobats' to Perform at TBE Purim Celebration

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) On Monday, March 9, Temple Beth El will celebrate Purim with a special family Megillah reading at 6 p.m. and the traditional costume parade during services.

This year's Purim celebration will feature a performance by the Fabulous Chinese Acrobats, straight from Cirque Du Soleil. This group has thrilled over 15,000 audience members, ranging in age from 6 months to over 100 years old.

This brand-new generation of acrobats brings a new energy and never-before-seen routines. The Fabulous Chinese Acrobats are comprised of four individuals who perform dazzling acrobatic stunts and feats of balance, flexibility, coordination and strength. The astounding feats of skill, focus and athleticism will wow young and old alike and the show is one attendees will remember and talk about for weeks and months after the performance.

These talented athletes tumble and flip, and twist and bend in mesmerizing ways, demonstrating how practice, concentration and hard work turn their bodies into moving works of art. They skillfully balance or juggle items such



Acrobat twists and bends her body in mesmerizing ways.

as huge porcelain planter pots, silk umbrellas, tables or each other as they share this ancient and colorful art form.

Following the performance, the acrobats will answer any questions through their interpreter in an open question and answer period.

The program is sponsored by the TBE Sisterhood and Men's Club.

An adult Megillah reading will be held at 8 p.m.

The community is invited to attend at no charge. For more information, contact Steven Lander, executive director, at 203-322-6901.

Purim Luncheon for Seniors Planned at the JCC

(Courtesy of JCC) Senior adults are invited to attend the JCC's annual Purim luncheon on Friday, March 6, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Shake groggers and enjoy entertainment and a festive meal, with hamantaschen for dessert.

Entertainment will begin at 11 a.m., followed by the luncheon at noon. The luncheon

is being generously sponsored by Betsey and Arthur Selkowitz. Reservations are required by Friday, February 28. Free to all seniors.

To make reservations or for more information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman, director, JCC Arts & Culture and Seniors, at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.



Let's Enjoy a Vegetarian Purim

BY RONNIE FEIN

If you're kosher, eating away from home can be difficult. You might be able to find a suitable restaurant, but maybe not. That's why many of the people I know who are kosher and who also travel a lot have found a way to keep true to their commitment and feel comfortable about their decision: eat vegetarian. It's a good way to avoid non-kosher meat and, of course, there's never an issue about mixing meat and dairy.

That's what Queen Esther chose to do when she lived at King Ahasuerus's palace. Or so I've read. Is it an apocryphal tale? No one can be sure, but most historians stick to that story, and it sounds just fine with me. And even if it is not perfectly true, it has become tradition to celebrate Purim, which begins at sundown on March 9, with a vegetarian seudah, holiday meal.

If this sounds like a tasty idea to you, let me suggest the perfect dinner dish: vegetarian moussaka. It is sumptuous, festive food, perfectly fitting for a joyous holiday. You can prepare it in advance and just pop it in the oven for dinner. This is the kind of vegetarian food that a few of my friends thought was so good, they never went back to a meat-based diet.

Vegetarian Moussaka

2 medium eggplants, sliced into 1/2-inch thick rounds
salt
2/3 cup olive oil, approximately
1 large onion, chopped
2 medium chopped carrots
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
3 Portobello mushrooms, chopped
1 bunch fresh spinach (or 2 packed cups baby spinach leaves)
1 28-ounce can plum tomatoes, undrained
3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
freshly ground black pepper to taste
3 medium Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled
6 tablespoons butter
6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2-1/2 cups milk
2 large egg yolks
1 cup grated Parmesan or Romano cheese

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Place the eggplant slices on a surface and salt

them lightly. Let sit for about 15 minutes, then wipe the surface dry with paper towels. Brush the slices with about four to five tablespoons of the olive oil and place them in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes, turn the slices and bake for another 12-15 minutes, or until the slices are tender. Let the slices cool. Reduce the oven heat to 350 degrees.

Heat six tablespoons of olive oil in a sauté pan over medium heat. Add the onion and carrots and cook, stirring occasionally, for four to five minutes or until the onions have softened. Add the garlic and mushrooms and continue to cook for another three to four minutes. Add the spinach and cook for one to two minutes. Add the tomatoes, parsley, oregano, cumin and cinnamon. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Cook for about 15 minutes or until the sauce is very thick.

Cook the potatoes in a large pot of lightly salted water for about 15 minutes, or until tender. Let the potatoes cool, then peel and slice them into 1/4-inch rounds and set aside.

Make a béchamel white sauce: heat the butter in a saucepan over medium heat. When the butter has melted and looks foamy, lower the heat, add the flour and whisk the ingredients for two to three minutes. Gradually add the milk and whisk the ingredients for two to three minutes or until a thick sauce has formed. Stir about a half cup of the hot sauce into the egg yolks, stir to blend the ingredients and add the mixture back into the saucepan. Stir in 3/4 cup of the cheese, whisk the ingredients until smooth and set aside.

Lightly grease a 9"x13" oven proof casserole. Layer the ingredients as follows: half the eggplant on the bottom, then the potatoes, then the vegetable sauce, then the remaining eggplant. Cover with the béchamel sauce. Sprinkle with the remaining 1/4 cup cheese.

Bake for about 45 minutes or until top is bubbly and golden brown.

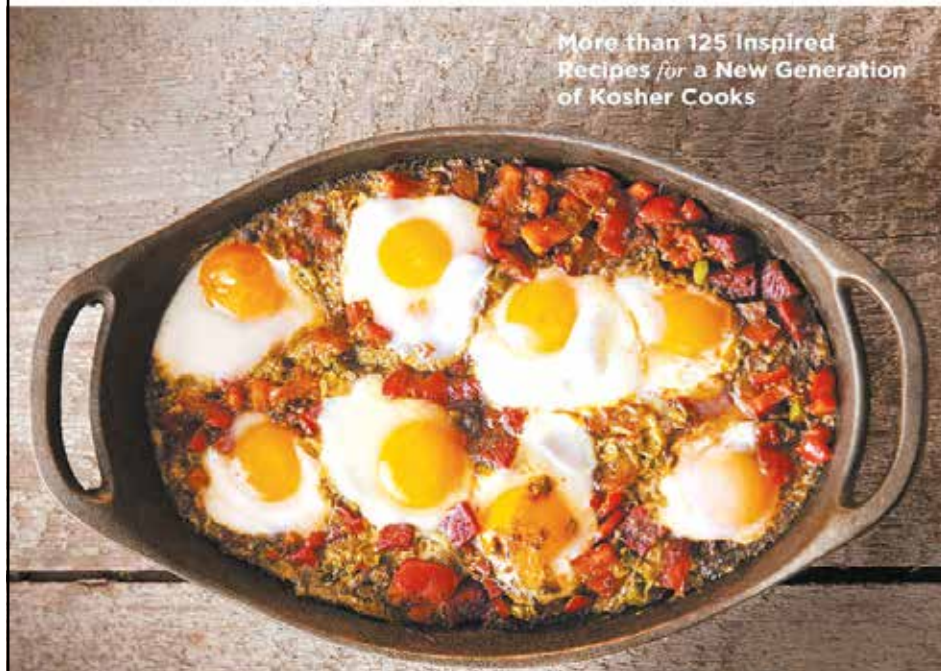
Makes 8 servings

Ronnie Fein is a cookbook author, food writer and cooking teacher in Stamford. She is the author of *The Modern Kosher Kitchen* and *Hip Kosher*. Visit her food blog, *Kitchen Vignettes*, at www.ronnie-fein.com, or find her on Facebook at [RonnieVailFein](https://www.facebook.com/RonnieVailFein), Twitter at [@RonnieVFein](https://twitter.com/RonnieVFein), or Instagram [@RonnieVFein](https://www.instagram.com/RonnieVFein).



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The cover of Ronnie Fein's newest cookbook, "The Modern Kosher Kitchen."

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Our Impact in Israel

A glimpse of UJF's partnership with Afula-Gilboa

(Courtesy of UJF) For the past 50 years, United Jewish Federation has been part of the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC). SNEC currently includes 12 New England Federations and partners with the Afula-Gilboa region in the North of Israel.

This past January, Dinah Miller-Marlowe, UJF's SNEC chair; Nancy Mimoun, SNEC regional co-chair; and UJF staff member Sharon Franklin participated in a SNEC mission where they spent four days in the Afula-Gilboa region of Israel meeting with local lay leaders and visiting the projects our community funds.

Afula-Gilboa is known as a periphery community in Northern Israel. It houses a large percentage of immigrants, and most residents fall into a lower socio-economic bracket. Afula has 58,000 residents and Gilboa has 33,000 residents, including five Arab villages.

In 1970, the then-UJA campaign launched Project Renewal, designed to help periphery towns in Israel. Twenty years ago, SNEC was established. Today, 46 different partnerships exist throughout the US, Canada and Europe, all focused on maximizing dollars for, and programming in, different regions in Israel. Partnership Together (P2G), is a program of the Jewish Agency for Israel that links communities in the Diaspora with communities in Israel.

SNEC is currently funding 10 non-gov-

ernmental organizations (NGOs). These programs vary by year, based on need and allocations made by a committee of all SNEC partners.

Miller-Marlowe shared, "I am excited to take on the role as the UJF board chair of SNEC. Our Federation does amazing life-saving and community building work in the region. I feel incredibly blessed to have spent four days seeing the impact of our work. Every dollar makes a measurable difference."

I have been involved with the partnership for over 20 years and have visited annually. I have seen our impact make a measurable difference," expressed Nancy Mimoun.

Some of the highlights of SNEC's programming in the Afula-Gilboa region include the following:

Afula Youth Future: This program has trained counselors who teach at-risk children how to deal with bullying and home environments that are frightening or neglectful. Children are in this program for at least three years.

The Sandwich Club: This is a project of Afula Crowns (a local community center), and brings together 200 at-risk teens daily to make sandwiches for the next day's lunch for children who "forget" their lunch. They feed about 300 children a day, but the need is for 500.

Tarbut Movement: Through this program, young artists and educators have created urban kibbutzim to strengthen weakened towns. They use culture as a vehicle for self-empowerment and social change to support the future of Israel.

LGBTQ/Home in the Valley: This advocacy groupworks to get needed services for the LGBTQ community and create accommodating solutions for a shared society.

Jewish-Arab Joint Basketball Team: Gilboa is home to six Arab villages and this basketball team brings together Israeli Arabs and Jews to create respect and integration through sports. Given the complexities of the region, co-existence initiatives such as this are crucial.



US/Israel SNEC steering committee.

Ethiopian Beit Alpha Absorption Center: While Ethiopian aliyah has been going on since the 80s, there are still more Ethiopian Jews wanting to return to their homeland. Ethiopian immigrants today are mostly older people; they need to learn new life skills, especially those necessary for embracing a new and different society. There are 450 new immigrants currently living in the absorption center, which assists with their process of acclimating to western life.

DOROT Ba Gilboa: Five hundred seniors, age 62 and up, use this senior center every day. It offers different services for older seniors, including exercise groups for clients with Parkinson's disease and vision and hearing services.

Beit Singer: This therapeutic boarding school serves children ages 7 to 18 from around Israel. The school focuses on mainstreaming residents, and they receive support until they are 25 years old. The school encompasses a therapeutic zoo, which helps teach the children responsibility. Future plans include communal housing for their lone soldiers for when they return from duty.

Rape Crisis Center: This provides support for victims and families, including advocacy, legal, education, and prevention. The Afula center is a satellite of the center in Haifa and the plan is to ultimately build a local facility.

Emunah Sarah Herzog Children's Center: This therapeutic center houses 50

residential and 70 day clients from 6 to 18 years old. Its goal is to create a functional family/home that is nurturing and safe.

Emek Medical Center: This 588 bed hospital is for both Jews and Arabs. SNEC support is currently directed to the Dream Clowns Program, where trained medical clowns keep children distracted so they do not need to be put under anesthesia for medical tests.

Marching Together for a Shared Future: This important initiative promotes coexistence between Jews and Arabs. It runs joint activities where participants get to know each other to dispel fear and stigma. The goal is to build a facility for these activities and ultimately duplicate the program throughout Israel.

"Seeing these programs and how they made a positive change on the communities of Afula-Gilboa was a gift I hope I can repay in my chairing our communities partnership with SNEC," added Miller-Marlowe. "Together we can do so much more."

"In addition to our financial support, the partnership is very interested in making people to people connections— money is great, but relationships strengthen the world Jewish community and the Israeli community to understand the unique culture of both communities," she concluded.

For more information on the partnership, contact Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org.



Marching band greeted guests.



Ethiopian Buna, coffee ceremony.



Participants met with local interfaith basketball team.

Chabad of Stamford Girls Bond At Shabbaton



Girls at Chabad of Stamford's Bat Mitzvah and Beyond Club experienced an authentic shabbaton, bonding and connecting with other girls and youth leaders, culminating in a post Shabbat group laser tag outing.

Bi-Cultural Teens Honor Legacy of MLK Jr.



On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Stamford "ReSurfers" traveled to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center in Long Beach, N.Y. to participate in a day of chesed, community service. The Stamford delegation included students from Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School, who worked alongside dozens of community center members and local Jewish teens to repair and restore 40 donated bicycles that were then gifted to local children in need. The teens—Doug Herman, Juliet Lewis, Ella Hoffman and Avi Wiederhorn—also participated in an assembly honoring the legacy of the late Rev. Dr. King. Resurf/NCSY is a national teen-based chesed organization, with a New England chapter based in Stamford.

Friendship Circle Superbowl Party Is Super Fun

(Courtesy of The Friendship Circle) On Superbowl Sunday, The Friendship Circle adults gathered together in The Friendship Circle lounge for their own Superbowl party. This new tradition began last year when Chana, a Friendship Circle staff member, developed the idea.

"I felt like everyone was celebrating and in the spirit. Why shouldn't these young adults socialize and have fun like everyone else in a safe and enjoyable environment?" she said.

The party goes spent the evening like millions of football fans everywhere. They watched the game on the big screen, enjoyed the football decorations and paraphernalia, and shared a large Superbowl spread. Some of the classic Superbowl foods included wings, franks and blanks, fries, chips and

guacamole, and hot cocoa and brownies for the second half. The adults had fun playing board games with their friends, watching the game and laughing together.

Dovi Zucker, an adult Friendship Circle member, said, "I had such a great time playing board games and hanging out with friends! It was a really fun night!"

The Superbowl party is just one of the many programs and activities that The Friendship Circle of Fairfield County conducts. There are many other events for adults and children with special needs, as well as services for their families. To learn more about the Friendship Circle of Fairfield County and how you can get involved, please contact Malya Shmotkin at Malya@friendshipct.com or 203-409-1543.



(l-r) Craig Dinerstein, Eytan Nisinzweig and Dovi Zucker eat and chat during the Friendship Circle Superbowl party.

Learn About 'Positivity Bias' With Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's longstanding weekly "Torah and Tea" classes for women added a new dimension this winter with the introduction of a 10-week program based on the inspiring book "Positivity Bias" by Rabbi Mendel Kalmenson.

For Leah Shemtov, "The significance of studying this book is crucial in giving us all a positivity boost each week and helping us gain the tools we need to overcome negativity."

Rabbi Kalmenson's book, based on the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, shares the ideals of positive thinking, positive communica-

tion and positive action with stories and examples to inspire. In Shemtov's words, she introduced this class because although "it may be cloudy and grey outside, this class can help us all find the silver lining and learn how to turn things around in order to create our own 'Positivity Bias.' Each class explores how positivity can be a choice and shows the power of reframing which can help everyone find their silver linings."

Each Torah and Tea class is self-contained and can be taken individually or year round. For more information on Chabad's adult learning opportunities, please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org.

UJF Welcomes New Additions With 'Shalom Baby' Visits

(Courtesy of UJF) Stamford native Adina Adelman and her son Eli recently received a Shalom Baby visit from Sharon Franklin, United Jewish Federation managing director of campaign and community engagement. Shalom Baby is a program providing new babies (and their parents) a warm welcome to the community, including a gift bag filled with baby items, helpful information and a PJ Library book. If you or someone you know is expecting or has recently had a baby, please contact Franklin at sharon@ujf.org, or call 203-321-5364 to arrange a Shalom Baby visit.



Adina Adelman and her son Eli.

Israeli Film Series Continues at The J

(Courtesy of JCC) Join David Citrin, the Jewish Engagement & Innovation Coordinator, as he screens award-winning Israeli films at the JCC. Following each film, Citrin will explore the many facets of Israel and facilitate a discussion.

"Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story" will be shown on Thursday, March 26, at 7:00 p.m.. This film is the story of Yonatan Netanyahu, commander of an elite Israeli army commando unit

who was killed during Operation Entebbe, a hostage-rescue mission carried out at Entebbe Airport in Uganda on July 4, 1976, after members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the German Revolutionary Cells hijacked an Air France plane with 248 passengers aboard.

For more information, contact David Citrin at 203-487-0961 or dcitrin@stamfordjcc.org.

Join Mitzvah Mondays at Schoke JFS

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) On the third Monday of each month, children of all ages from toddlers to teens are welcome to bring a minimum of 10 items to help restock the shelves of the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry. The pantry needs items such as canned fish, vegetables, fruit, beans, cereals, peanut butter, tomato sauce, juice, pasta, rice, nuts, dried fruits, granola bars, tea and coffee, laundry detergent, dishwasher soap, cleaning products and personal care products.

Thank you to the organizing committee chaired by Hilary and Ari Goldstein, Robin and Jason Fischel, Jami and Scott Fener and Robin and Mike Himelstein. Please assist Schoke JFS with food collections. Drop off food items at 196 Greyrock Place, Stamford. Donations can be made online www.ctjfs.org/kosherfoodpantry.

If you have questions, please contact Lisa Rich at 203-921-4161 or LRich@ctjfs.org.

UConn Center for Judaic Studies to Offer Hebrew Language Crash Course

(Courtesy of UConn Center for Judaic Studies) The UConn Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life is pleased to announce that Dr. Liora Brosh is teaching a free non-credit "crash course" in conversational Modern Hebrew. Professor Brosh, a native speaker, holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from

the Hebrew University in Israel.

Pre-registration is not necessary and no texts are required for purchase. No prior knowledge of the language is expected. All sessions will be held in Room 313 at the UConn Stamford campus on Mondays from 6:30-8 p.m.: March 9, March 23, April 6, April 20.

Carmel Fourth Graders Win 'Tzedakah Coin Challenge'



(Courtesy of UJF) Federation's annual Super Sunday brings the community together by engaging area school children in the "Tzedakah Coin Challenge." The class that raises the most money for charity wins a pizza party. Melissa Vitti's fourth grade class at Carmel Academy won the challenge and recently enjoyed their pizza party. The children learned about the work UJF does locally, in Israel and in 72 countries around the world.

Schoke JFS Achieves COA Accreditation

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service has achieved its sixth national re-accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services.

COA accreditation is an objective, independent and reliable validation of an agency's performance. To achieve COA accreditation, Schoke JFS first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer peer reviewers from around North America confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews. Based on their find-

ings, COA's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that Schoke JFS had successfully met the criteria for accreditation.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. To learn more about COA, please visit www.coanet.org.

Schoke JFS services 15 towns in Fairfield County including the greater Stamford, Westport and Bridgeport areas. Please visit www.ctjfs.org for a complete list of services and programs.

Schoke Jewish Family Service Introduces One-on-One Financial Coaching

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service is offering an opportunity for one-on-one financial counseling and coaching. Jake Meyer, a financial executive and Schoke JFS volunteer, will coach clients on select Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Stamford office of Schoke JFS, 196 Greyrock Place.

Meyer will discuss and teach clients about personal finance and budget

goals. He will help individuals create and manage a personal budget, teach a better understanding of credit and help them make wise financial decisions to reach set financial goals. All instruction will help lead to financial sustainability.

The coaching will be by appointment only. Please contact Rebekah Kanefsky by phone at 203-921-4161 or email at rkanefsky@ctjfs.org to reserve a session.

For more information, please visit www.ctjfs.org.

Congratulations, BCHA Hackers!

(Courtesy of BCHA) A team of students from Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School have emerged champions of the 2020 Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE) Hackathon, held Wednesday, January 29, at Yeshiva University in New York City. The team's victory follows on the heels of BCHA Upper School's first-place win at the CIJE Innovation Day competition held last May in New Jersey.

Two teams of BCHA Upper School students, all members of the Stamford school's engineering program, were among 150 students from 18 different schools to participate in the annual Hackathon, created by CIJE in partnership with Grow Torah and Yeshiva University. This year's competition challenged students to come up with ways to leverage technology and the community to address the most critical environmental issues of today to create a healthier and sustainable present. Each team was then allowed just four



The two teams from Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School who participated in the CIJE Hackathon on January 29, together with their engineering program teachers. Front row (l to r): Alex Kramer (grade 11), Shira Haron (grade 10), Emily Seligson (grade 10). Middle row (l to r): teachers William Berson and Dr. Paul Castle. Back row (l to r): Etan Doft (grade 11), Zane Roshe (grade 11), Donny DeFala (grade 11), Josh Marcus (grade 10) and Josh Schulman (grade 11).

hours to brainstorm, develop a solution and design and build a prototype of a related IOT (Internet of Things) device.

"CIJE Hackathon gave our engineering students the opportunity to use their design, construction and coding skills to create a prototype device to solve a real world problem. BCHA is very proud of the teamwork, tenacity and talent they showed," said Dr. Paul Castle who, together with William Berson, heads up the Upper School's engineering program.

The Auto Composter created by the BCHA team of Shira Haron, Donny DeFala, Etan Doft and Alex Kramer was awarded first place. The winning device uses a soil moisture sensor and online monitoring of the soil to automatically mix the soil nutrients as needed. The team also incorporated a Peltier tile that heated the soil to ensure maximum dissolved nutrients in the soil.

The BCHA Upper School team that included Emily Selig-

son, Joshua Marcus, Zane Roshe and Joshua Schulman also successfully met the CIJE Hackathon challenge with their innovative Faucet Saver, a device intended to detect faucet leakage, notify owners via text message and preserve runoff until the problem can be fixed.

"At the BCHA Upper School, our students understand that they are learning and growing their skills, competencies, and confidence in order to be and become contributors to our world," said Upper School principal Rabbi Shimmy Trencher. "Their exemplary performance, yet again, is a testament not only to their skill and training but also to their passion, creativity and teamwork. These 21st century skills are essential for success in a changing world and are constantly nurtured here at BCHA."

The Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education is a non-profit organization providing STEM resources and curriculum to more than 250 schools that expose students to problem-solving perspectives and hands-on technical skills that scientists and engineers use to solve real-world problems.

For more information about the BCHA Upper School, please call (203) 329-2186.

Holocaust Survivors Relax With Mind And Body Connection



Participants learn relaxing breathing techniques.

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Victoria Boyko, a licensed yoga instructor and Franklin Method Educator, recently led a small group of Holocaust survivors in the Anachnu program in exercises to improve the mind with movement of the body. All participants sat in chairs in the conference room of the Schoke JFS Smilow Family Campus in Stamford. Many of the routines involved arm and leg raises and stretches along with breathing techniques to relax and "let go" of negative thoughts.

Anachnu is a program supported by a grant from the Jewish Federations of North America Center for Holocaust Survivor Care program. The grant helps Schoke JFS advance person-centered, trauma-informed supportive services for Holocaust survivors in Fairfield County. Claims Conference, Kavod Shef and Federation's Kuriansky Teen Tzedekah also support the Anachnu program.

For information or questions, please contact Marina Sapir, program director, at 203-570-0872 or email msapir@ctjfs.org.

Meet RETIRED CORRESPONDENT JEFF GOLDMAN

THURSDAY,
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HIGHLIGHTS OF JEFF'S 40 YEAR CAREER

- Served 6 Presidents.
- Covered both Gulf Wars.
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- Witnesses the historic White House hand shake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.
- Interviewed Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, King Hussein in Amman Jordan and then Israeli President Shimon Peres in Jerusalem.
- Covered the Balkan war and troop interventions in Somalia, Haiti, and Iraq.
- Traveled around the globe with Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton, Condoleezza Rice and General Colin Powell.

This program sponsored by UJF's JCRC and free and opened to the public.

RSVP's Appreciated ujf.org/Goldman

For questions, call (203) 321-1373



United Jewish Federation



JCRC
Jewish Community
Relations Council

Chabad of Stamford's JWC Celebrates Leah Shemtov's Birthday



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's Jewish Women Connected joined to celebrate Leah Shemtov's birthday with a class on Jewish birthday customs and a fun hands-on cookie decorating class with master baker and cookie decorator Rifki Turner of Rifkis Petite Treats.

Attention Teens! JHSFC Wants to Give You Prize Money

(Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County) The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is again offering prizes in conjunction with National History Day (NHD). This is a competition which encourages critical thinking and supports research skills.

Any Connecticut student in grades 6-12 whose entry in any category or division incorporates an aspect of Jewish history, Jewish heritage or a Jewish individual into the 2020 NHD theme, "Breaking Barriers in History," will be considered for a monetary award. In addition, JHSFC will recognize the winners, their teachers and their schools at a special program.

Past winning entries have dealt with subjects such as Golda Meir, The Six Day War, Mordechai Anielewicz, Barbara Walters, a grandfather who survived World War II, FDR and the Jews and Leo Frank. Past winners have come from schools in Stamford, Greenwich, Westport, Weston, Fairfield, Avon and Hartford.

The Connecticut State Contest, which is managed by the Connecticut Public Affairs Network, will hold its Fairfield County regional contest on April 4, its state contest on May 2 and its national contest in early June. Any adult interested in serving as a judge in the regional contest should contact Rebecca Tabor Conover, head of Connecticut History Day, at 860-368-0738.

Complete student details regarding Connecticut National History Day can be found at historydayCT.org. Those interested in creating a project and developing their perspective and understanding of history through research are welcome to contact the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County Archives at 203-359-2196 for assistance to find appropriate materials and prepare their entries. Last year's winning entries and more information about JHSFC can be found at www.jhsfc-ct.org.

Reading Partners Participates in Professional Development Series

(Courtesy of UJF) As part of the United Way's initiative to help Stamford youth achieve success, Federation Reading Partners in the Early Grade Reading Community Action Network joined for the first of a three-part literacy professional development series given by Stamford Cradle to Career public school administrators. The first session focused on the topic of oral language as it relates to literacy.

Volunteers from United Jewish Federation's Reading Partners and other organizations were treated to an hour and a half multi-pronged approach to developing oral language skills. Different educators presented varying approaches to the topic, and then provided small group hands-on activities that volunteers can implement when reading and working with their students.

Melanie French, a Reading Partner at

Davenport, said, "It was great to be reminded of the importance of oral language versus decoding and I am always looking for new things to do with my kids, so some of the exercises and games that were modeled were great and I will use them with my students."

Reading Partners has been a program of UJF for over 20 years and strives to offer continuing support to their volunteers by having workshops throughout the school year as well as staff liaisons at each school to help with any reading questions that arise. Cradle to Career is offering a live stream and recorded link to be viewed later for those who are unable to attend.

For more information on becoming a part of the Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor UJF Reading Partners, please contact Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org or 203-321-1373 X115.

Temple Beth El: Rockin' for 100 Years

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Temple Beth El kicked off its 100th anniversary year at Temple Rock on February 1 when the social hall was transformed back to the prohibition years of the 1920s when the temple was

founded. Over 220 people danced to 1920s music by The Galvanized Band. The prohibition bar was a popular stop, as well as the hot dog stand. A huge buffet of 1920s comfort food was catered by W Kosher Catering & Events.



Dressed for the celebrations are (l-r) Caryl Poser, Malerie Yolen-Cohen, Sue Plutzer and Judy Aronin. (Credit: Aviva Maller Photography)



(l-r) TBE member Alan Sosnowitz and guest dancers Gwen and Parker Ackerly, Mark and Karen Milosky and their crank wood and metal antique gramophone and 100 year old picnic table set. (Credit: Aviva Maller Photography)

Schoke JFS Spearheads Passover Food Collection

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) This year, the largest food delivery program at Schoke Jewish Family Service (JFS) will take place on March 29, ahead of Passover, at which time over 300 bags will be distributed to community members experiencing food insecurity. The program chairs, Risa Goldblum, Liz Kitay and Marina Sapir, will provide the necessary leadership, assisted by support from community organizations.

Local Stamford temples, synagogues, Jewish schools and organizations will be engaged in the collection process. On March 22, Hebrew School students and families from Temple Beth El will collect food at the Stop & Shop supermarket in Ridgeway Shopping Center. Temple Sinai Hebrew school students and families will oversee the actual bagging and distribution event on March 29. Dan Katz of FoodTown will generously donate Kosher for

Passover products, including traditional food items vital to the Seder table, such as grape juice, matzah, macaroons and much more. Harry Rich of HL Rich and Sons Moving Company will transport food from donation sites to the Schoke JFS office. The March 29 packing event will be held at the Schoke JFS - Smilow Family Campus, located at 196 Greyrock Place.

Those interested in getting involved with this Passover program can join the March food drives at Stop & Shop, or donate Passover food to the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry. Contact the office to be a volunteer and help with bagging and delivering of the Passover food.

If you know of someone who could benefit from the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry services, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or email rkanevsky@ctjfs.org. All services are strictly confidential.

PJ Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

► Free Jewish books are available through PJ Library for kids 6 months to 8 years of age. Each child in this age range can receive their own book. Sign up for a monthly book at www.pjlibrary.org.

► PJ Our Way is now available for kids 8 ½ to 12 years of age. Sign up for a free chapter book at www.pjour-way.org.

► Sign up for a free \$100 PJ Library Get-Together. Plan a fun gathering with two or more other families raising Jewish children. Throw a Purim party, welcome Shabbat PJ Library-style, volunteer together or invite friends to participate in your own great idea. Sign up at www.pjlibrary.org/GetTogether.

► Celebrate Purim in Hollywood on Sunday, March 8, at 3 p.m. with PJ Library & Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. Enjoy a carnival, crafts, snacks, a costume parade and more. RSVP to www.ujf.org.pjpurim. The program will be held at BCHA, 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford. Free program but registration appreciated.

► **New:** Pizza & Pajamas Shabbat Work-



Sharon Franklin

shops is a three-part series that will start on March 12 and will include a craft and education about Shabbat candles. The cost is \$7 per child, and pizza is included. Sign up at www.ujf.org/pjworkshop. Other workshop dates are April 30 and May 21.

► **New:** PJ Library Story & Play Time will be held on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 9. Drop in to hear a story and enjoy some play time. For children 3 and under with a parent or caregiver. Meet in the library at 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford. This is a free program.

► PJ Library's Pre-Passover Supper & Song will be held on April 2 from 5-6:30 p.m.. There will be music, crafts and plenty of chametz. The cost is \$7 per child, and includes dinner. To sign up go to www.ujf.org/pjpass-over. Location TBD.

► Join one of UJF's "Play Together" neighborhood groups and enjoy fun home gatherings or outings. Free of charge. To find out more, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



Ice Cream Cone *Mishloach Manot* (Purim gifts).

GREAT PURIM IDEAS FOR YOUR FAMILY!

The holiday of Purim celebrates the story of Queen Esther and Mordechai, and the victory of the Jews over the wicked Haman.

- Dress in costume! Looking for easy no-sew costumes for your kids? Go to <https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pj-blog/february-2017/how-to-diy-purim-costume>.

- Go hear a family Megillah reading on Monday night or on Tuesday. Bring

your noise makers (groggers)!

- Give to the needy and fulfill the mitzvah of matanot le'evyonim. This can be as simple as putting coins in a tzedakah box or delivering food or clothing to a shelter.

- Bake hamantaschen, a triangle cookie shaped like the villain Haman's hat. Go to <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosher/rainbow-hamantaschen> for a colorful recipe!

- Make mishloach manot, a Purim gift of food for a friend. See below for a fun, edible and easy mishloach manot idea. You will need cones, plastic baggies or icing sleeves, ribbon and an assortment of candy of your choice.

Step 1: Place a cone in a baggie or icing sleeve and move to the bottom of the plastic.

Step 2: Fill with your choice of candy, tie a ribbon in a knot at the top, then curl the ribbon to make it festive.

For more information on anything PJ, please contact Sharon Franklin, managing director of campaign and community engagement, at (203) 321-1373, ext 109 or email sharon@ujf.org.

UJF's PJ Library and BCHA Celebrate Tu B'Shevat

(Courtesy of UJF) On Sunday morning, January 26, United Jewish Federation's PJ Library partnered with Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) for a "Winter Warm Up" program which offered fun activities for the whole family. Over 60 people attended the event which showcased BCHA's Maker Space. Families enjoyed a waffle breakfast, story time and crafts. Kids



Children enjoy playtime at the PJ Library/BCHA Winter Tu B'Shevat program.



Nicole Mokovsky reads a PJ Library story to the group.

celebrated Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish holiday celebrating the birthday of the trees, by decorating pots and planting a variety of herbs, which they took home.

This free program was held at BCHA and organized by Miriam Sperber, director of admissions, and the early childhood team at BCHA. This event was made possible by UJF, which received a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools.



Families learn about Tu B'Shevat and how to plant herbs.

Mark your calendars for the next PJ Library/BCHA joint program, entitled "A Hollywood Purim," which will be held on March 8 at 3:00 p.m.

For more information about UJF's PJ Library, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org. To learn more about BCHA, contact Miriam Sperber at msperber@bcha-ct.org.



Young families enjoy a waffle breakfast and crafts in BCHA's Maker Space.

PJ Library Story & Play Time NEW

PJ Library

United Jewish Federation

3/17, 4/21, 5/19, 6/9 • 9:30-10:00am

Library, 1035 Newfield Ave, (JCC) Stamford

PJ Library invites you to drop in to hear a story and enjoy play time.

For ages 3 & under with a parent or caregiver.

Free monthly program.

For questions contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or 203-321-1373 ext. 109

BYOT - Bring Your Own Toys



PJ Library 'Gets Together' for Shabbat



Hannah and Lilah set the Shabbat table in anticipation of welcoming their guests. They were both active participants in planning and setting up for their PJ Get Together Shabbat dinner.

(Courtesy of PJ Library) PJ Library's Get Together gatherings offer a unique way for families raising Jewish children to socialize with friends both new and old. Families can register online and receive \$100 towards the expense of their gathering. Stamford resident Darren Bahar and his daughters Hannah and Lilah have hosted a couple of PJ Library Get Togethers, which brought friends together to celebrate Shabbat.

"I have enjoyed doing it and will continue to do so. I have had quite a few families over to my home that I wouldn't normally have, which has been fun for both me and my children. I am also teaching my girls that Shabbat is important. We sang Friday night songs, ate a traditional Shabbat dinner and had a really good

time with our guests. My grandparents always had people over for Shabbat meals, and I want my kids to do the same one day as well," said Bahar.

His daughters are 8 and 10, and he involved them in the Get Together preparations by having them help with the cooking, set up and clean up.

To hold a Get Together, you must be a current subscribing PJ Library or PJ Our Way family (sign up at www.pjlibrary.org). You can host multiple times and receive up to four reimbursements during the Get Together period, which closes April 30. After your Get



Hannah and Lilah's Shabbat table.

Together, simply fill out a brief report and submit several photos, and you will receive your \$100 reimbursement. Besides Shabbat gatherings, other Get Together ideas have included Chanukah parties, social action projects and Yom Kippur break the fasts.

To read more about PJ Library Get Togethers or to sign up go to www.pjlibrary.org/get-together2020 or contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or 203-321-1373 ext. 109.

PJ Library Takes a Jewish Food Journey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



In addition to the scavenger hunt, families learned about the Jewish environmental teaching of baal tashchit, the idea of not being wasteful or to destroy, and to take care of our planet. Kids decorated a fabric grocery bag they could take home. Families then heard the PJ Library book "Something From Nothing," by Phoebe Gilman.

Thank you to guest reader Robin Fischel, and to the Darien Whole Foods for being a sponsor of this program. For more information about PJ Library or PJ Our Way, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or 203-321-1373 ext. 109.



INVITE YOU TO A BRAND NEW 3 PART SERIES

Pizza & Pajamas



SHABBAT EXPERIENCE

Learn all about Shabbat customs, blessings, foods & more.

1st Program: Thursday, March 19th 5:30-6:30pm
1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford

Featuring guest educator Sandi Waldstreicher,
Educational Coordinator at the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School.

LEARN ABOUT THE FRIDAY NIGHT SHABBAT EXPERIENCE INCLUDING
PREP & DINNER...WITH SONGS, BLESSINGS, DANCE, CRAFTS & MORE!

Make your own shabbat candle holders to bring home.
\$7 per child covers materials & pizza dinner.

Sign up for one or come to all 3 programs!

Other program dates: April 30th & May 21st

Contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org for more info.

Love of Swimming Leads to Chesed

BY MOLLIE HERZ

When I was 5, I started to take swimming lessons. Three years later I started swimming competitively. I loved being in the water, and participated in swim meets to improve my time. I thought I would swim competitively for a long time, but after six years I felt I wanted to expand my love for water and try something new.

When I was 12 and about to become a bat mitzvah, I knew I had to pick an organization for my mitzvah project. I was looking for something that involved aquatics. My mom had told me that there was a non-profit organization called Swim Angelfish that comes to the Stamford JCC every Wednesday. Swim Angelfish uses the water's therapeutic properties to strength-



Mollie Herz

en and treat people with special needs. I knew right away that this was what I wanted to do.

I was so excited there was an organization that combined two things I loved to do, swimming and playing with kids. I got in touch with Ailene Tisser, who is one of the founders of Swim Angelfish and asked her if I could volunteer in her program to help raise money for the organization. She was very excited and knew the perfect family which the money I raised could help. Each week I would go to the JCC and help her with different children. I enjoyed meeting all of them and learning about their different needs and how I was making a difference in their lives.

After my bat mitzvah, I was upset that my project was over and I wouldn't be helping Swim Angelfish anymore. However, I realized that I didn't have to say goodbye

and decided I could continue volunteering. I continue to have that same amazing feeling every time I get in the pool and know that I am helping the kids and the Angelfish program.

Mollie is currently a 10th grader at Stamford High School. There she is vice president of the Friendly Faces group which integrates students with special needs into the student body. She is a part of the student council and also participates in programs led by BBYO. She lives in Stamford with her parents and has both an older and younger brother. Mollie loves activities that involve the water, such as swimming, paddle boarding and canoeing. Besides activities in water, she also likes to sing and bake.

Reimagining the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

(Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County) If history is the creative art of documenting and translating the past into the present and the future, then The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is bringing history alive and bringing people together. In the past year, the Society has produced programs, book talks, a named lecture, and a groundbreaking award luncheon. In addition, the Archives is the scene of a modernizing project - digitalizing the collections of documents, photographs, oral histories, and ephemera. As an almost 100 % volunteer run non-profit organization, volunteers make everything possible.

JHSFC members take the mission seriously: "JHSFC strives to build community through sharing and preserving Jewish history, heritage, and culture. We tell the story of the human experience through Jewish eyes." Most people do not know that JHSFC is one of only three Jewish Historical Societies left in the state of Connecticut. On the other hand, JHSFC is one of 20 historical societies in Fairfield County, and the only one to represent Jewish history and create a Jewish presence in Fairfield County.

This year brings a new project to light, "Embrace Human Dignity and Resilience." According to Peter Lilienthal, "We are doing something extraordinary - working with our strategic partners to create a platform for Holocaust and genocide education in Connecticut schools. For adults, we co-sponsored a Kristallnacht film at the Ferguson Library and a Holocaust Remembrance event for International Holocaust Day at the Fairfield Library."

Last spring, a projection art production, "Remembering Pacific Street,"

was shown at night on the outside wall of Macy's. Before there was a mall, there was Pacific Street, the site of many family store businesses. Using state of the art technology, over 200 people came to the Stamford Town Center to see what used to be there. According to Lester Sharlach, "Stay tuned this summer for a brand-new documentary film: Remembering the Family Store in Downtown Stamford: 1940-1965."

Eva Weller relates, "Over the past three years, JHSFC has been developing the Mann Lecture, a series of in-depth lectures presented by nationally known speakers on topics of vital importance: Remembering Nuremberg; What Happened Then and Why It Matters Now, presented by John Q. Barrett; Immigration to the US - Myth and Reality, presented by Dr. Jeffrey S. Passel; and Seeking Justice and Protecting Human Rights in a Perilous World, presented by Roya Hakakian."

What's more, Jonathan Fass reviewed the book, "Biography of the Talmud" and Dr. Anne Peskin gave the inside scoop on "Jewish Gangsters." Plus - Marcie Schoenfeld says, "We always serve refreshments!"

JHSFC has reimagined the society for a 2020 vision: becoming the "go to place" for information about Jewish history; expanding the scope from Stamford to all of Fairfield County; and educating people using the most up to date means possible. Leah Tillman invites everyone, "Come see for yourself; visit the Irwin and Vivian Miller Archives, 990 Hope Street [Rear], Stamford."

For more information, contact The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow, by phone: 203-321-1373 ext.150, by email: info@jhsfc-ct.org or on-line: <http://jhsfc-ct.org/>

Bi-Cultural Upper School Teens Refresh and Recharge at Special Shabbaton



(Courtesy of BCHA) Students at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School recently travelled to a retreat center in Canaan, New York for a relaxing shabbaton.

The weekend included guest speakers, learning opportunities and lots of games, as well as time to relax and bond with one another.

The laid-back weekend spent with friends allowed students to return to campus refreshed and recharged.

"A hallmark of a Jewish education is its focus not only on the mind but also on the heart and soul," explained BCHA Upper School principal, Rabbi Shimmy

Trencher. "At BCHA Upper School, we're committed to creating experiences, in and out of the classroom, that develop our students' connections to each other and to their heritage. To have our students come together, from different denominations, Jewish backgrounds and geographic areas, was truly uplifting."

Chabad of Stamford Boys Enjoy New Learning Group

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's latest initiative for youth was introduced this past January for boys in second to seventh grades. The boys meet each Thursday evening at Chabad and start the evening with sports, followed by a parsha and Mishna learning session, snacks and stories. Each week's learning sessions end with a raffle and grand prizes. The classes are free and open to boys and their dads.

For more information on Chabad's youth programs, please contact youth@stamfordchabad.org.



Boys at Chabad of Stamford's newly formed weekly learning group.

The New Jewish Voice
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Stamford, CT 06905

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TOGETHER, **WE** DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

WE BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER

We believe that no child should go to bed hungry. That every senior has the right to live with dignity. And that all Jews should be able to live – anywhere in the world – without fear of persecution. The Jewish Federation's annual fundraising campaign is focused on helping people in need, rescuing people in danger, and keeping Jewish life strong.

We have always believed that together we can make the world a better place. And we have the track record to prove it.

CARING FOR THE NEEDY

Every day, the Jewish Federation supports programs that feed, clothe,

shelter, counsel and rescue thousands of people here at home, in Israel and around the world.

This year, with unemployment levels at historic highs, and families and seniors struggling to meet their most basic needs, more people are turning to us for help than ever before. And together, we can make an enormous impact.

SUSTAINING JEWISH COMMUNITY

Even as we focus on increased needs for humanitarian services, we know that Jews around the world are feeling renewed excitement about being part of the Jewish people.

Together we can help fulfill their Jewish dreams – and yours – whether that means traveling to Israel, becoming a Jewish leader on campus, learning Hebrew or sending a child to a Jewish preschool or camp.

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

We believe that helping people in need and nurturing Jewish community is our privilege and our responsibility. But we need your help. Please make a generous donation to the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign today. Consider making a legacy gift to secure the future of the Jewish community. And make a stand for what you believe.



United Jewish Federation

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

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