



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Cantor's Concert to Feature Zamir Chorale

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Cantor Katie Kaplan is pleased to announce that the Zamir Chorale and Zamir Noded ensembles, under the direction of Maestro

The Zamir Chorale is the leading voice of the Jewish choral movement and sets the standard for Jewish choirs in North America.



Zamir Chorale

Matthew Lazar, will perform at Temple Beth El at the Annual Norma and Milton Mann Memorial Cantor's Concert on Sunday, June 11 at 7:00 pm. Temple Beth El will honor Mia and Lonny Weinstein at the event.

Zamir Noded was established to provide a high-level musical opportunity for young adults to sing in a Jewish choir with like-minded peers. Both ensembles

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Aaron's Place at Stamford Hospital to Provide Comfort

(Courtesy of UJF) On June 12 at 5:00 pm, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) will honor the memory of Aaron Zvi Sichel with the dedication of a "special place" at Stamford Hospital. "Aaron's Place" will be a dedicated room, donated by Stamford Hospital, where community members, seeking a place to grab a kosher snack, light candles or have a Shabbat meal, can seek refuge while in the hospital caring for a loved one. Aaron, of blessed memory, was the nephew of long-time Stamford residents, Ronnie and Steve Sichel.

In addition to the donation of the room, Stamford Hospital is taking the extra step of dedicating one elevator in each elevator bank to be a "shabbat elevator" meaning that on the Sabbath, it will stop at each floor without anyone having to press a button.

"UJF will be spearheading these efforts," said UJF's CEO Diane Sloyer.

"We are grateful to the leadership of Stamford Hospital for donating a dedicated space to provide respite and comfort to the Jewish community, and for a lead gift from Aaron's family to make this space a reality. Together with Ronnie Sichel, UJF will be identifying volunteers to maintain the room and shop to stock and prepare the room for Shabbat. Fundraising efforts will be ongoing to maintain this room for all in need," Sloyer continued.

This heartfelt tribute is a testament to Aaron's profound impact on those around him and his unwavering commitment to his faith, community, and compassion.

Aaron's journey began in March 2014 when he received the devastating news of a late-stage bladder cancer diagnosis at the young age of 33. A resident of Baltimore, he was an active and beloved member of the Jewish community,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

3 Upcoming Programs

5 JCRC News

12 Bits & Pieces

8 LIFE & LEGACY

15 International News

Friendship Circle Teen Volunteers

Friendship Circle teen volunteers gathered for the final training of the 2022-2023 school year.

The event was hosted by Chris and Regina Young. Behavioral Therapist Abby Dunn led the teen training, focused on "Understanding Your Special Friend." Attendees also participated in a teen-led Friendship Circle "Jewpardy" game created by Isabel Sigman and Alex Young.

Friendship Circle Director Malya Shmotkin said, "We have really seen the teens' leadership skills flourish this year! The Teen Board and volunteers have taken full advantage of the trainings, mentorship and other opportunities made available to them. We are incredibly proud of this group of young men and women."

To get involved with the Friendship Circle, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com



From UJF's Chief Executive Officer Together as One

BY DIANE SLOYER

April was an overly ambitious month for the small and mighty staff of UJF. Through the leadership of our Jewish Community Relations Council Director Sharon Lewis and UJF's Community Shaliach Yoav Yaron, we celebrated Israel and her 75th birthday in style with 16 events in 7 days. The highlights and a plethora of photos were shared in the last issue of *New Jewish Voice* newspaper.

As part of the 7 days of commemoration and celebration, a communal Yom HaZikaron ceremony at Congregation Agudath Sholom was held to mourn soldiers lost in battle and victims of terror and then with the raising of the Israeli flag, we turned to a community celebration.

I shared a few words to open the event, part of which is something I wanted to share with you in this message. For me, it speaks to Federation's role in our broader, diverse community. A role that acknowledges our differences and celebrates our commonalities.

"...In sacred remembrance of those who gave their lives for the sake of Israel, and to celebrate 75 years of the State of Israel, we are here tonight to remember, mourn and then celebrate



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

as ONE united community.

"Creating community in a polarized world is difficult and requires constant effort. The struggle is real but so important - and that is why our work at Federation is as crucial as ever.

"When a soldier or victim of terror dies, the entire country mourns.

No one asks 'what synagogue did they pray at' or 'did they pray at all' or 'where did they live?'

"That is why it is so important to struggle together to ensure that our greatest aspirations are achieved.

"I am hoping that today is a reminder of just how precious this inheritance, Israel and our Jewish peoplehood are to us.

"We have promises to keep to ALL people in our homeland and the Jewish world. And once again, we have reason to both mourn, and through our tears, find our way to also celebrate."

Federation is not about membership or dues. There is no "belonging to" Federation. Yes, we do exist because of the generosity of so many of you. But, no matter how our donors "do" or "don't do" Jewish, each and everyone of you matters. Diversity makes us stronger when we don't let it get in our way.

Aaron's Place at Stamford Hospital to Provide Comfort

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

known for his dedication to hosting Shabbat meals and volunteering with a Jewish roadside assistance organization.

During his intensive medical treatment in Maryland and New York, Aaron discovered a newfound passion—exploring the private rooms known as "bikur cholim" (literally "visiting the sick") rooms, created for patients whose Jewish observance was difficult to maintain within the hospital environment. These rooms provided a haven for Jewish patients, offering kosher meals, Shabbat candles, prayer books, and a sense of community. Aaron found great joy in rummaging through the rooms' treasures, sampling kosher snacks, and engaging in heartfelt conversations with fellow patients and their families.

What resonated with everyone who knew Aaron was his exceptional kindness, generosity, and selflessness.

He constantly sought ways to make a positive impact on others' lives and always prioritized the well-being of his friends. Aaron fought his battle with cancer for eleven months, never giving up on the hope of recovery. In his final hours, surrounded by loved ones, they sang his favorite Billy Joel song, offering solace and love.

"United Jewish Federation's decision to name 'Aaron's Place' at Stamford Hospital serves as a beautiful tribute to our nephew, who was a remarkable individual," said Ronnie Sichel. "It stands as a testament to the enduring impact of his *menschlichkeit* (humanity) and his unwavering commitment to helping others. Aaron's memory will forever be etched in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him, and through 'Aaron's Place', his spirit will continue to inspire and bring comfort to Jewish patients and their families in our communities for years to come."

Schoke JFS Observes Mental Health Awareness Month

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Caring for one's mental wellbeing is essential to overall health. In recognition of Mental Health Awareness month in May, Schoke Jewish Family Service (JFS) is spotlighting the services of the Kuriansky Family Counseling Program and various support groups. Schoke JFS endeavors to break the stigma associated with mental health challenges each and every day.

Schoke JFS provides many ways of accessing mental health care. Schoke JFS's great team of clinicians offers individual therapy on a regular basis.

However, there is no universal shape or size for mental health services; Schoke JFS actively seeks creative ways to meet each individual where they are and fulfill what they need.

Schoke JFS also offers community support groups at no or low cost to participants. The beauty of support groups is understanding some problems are better solved as a community. Clients learn from each other. Being in a group reduces the feelings of loneliness that often creeps in. Support groups

help individuals challenge their internalized stigmas: it is harder to blame yourself when you see others struggling, too.

The therapeutic approach offered by Schoke JFS is dynamic and incorporates movement, mindfulness, socialization, and problem-solving. Currently, Schoke JFS offers support groups centered on divorce, spousal bereavement, general bereavement, and brain fitness. Additionally, the agency is working to implement a caregiver support group, which is expected to begin in the summer of 2023.

For those looking to connect with community in a slightly different form, Schoke JFS offers socialization groups. Through the monthly Sunday Social group, the agency connects widows and widowers in community-based, social settings.

Throughout Mental Health Awareness month, learn more about the many resources that Schoke JFS offers the community. Individuals with ideas on how Schoke JFS can further meet the needs of the community are welcome to contact Leah Schechter, Chief Program Officer, 203-921-4161, lschechter@ctjfs.org.

Intergenerational Dignity Grows Pack

In honor of Mother's Day, UJF's Women's Philanthropy President Tara Shapiro opened her home to educate the community about Dignity Grows and to pack 100 bags for local organizations. These bags will be distributed to Schoke Jewish Family Service, West Hill High School, and New Covenant House. Federation distributes between 100-300 bags monthly. Bags cost as little as \$10 and provide feminine hygiene and personal care products for women. Ending period poverty is at the core of Dignity Grows mission.

For more information contact Taly Farber, Taly@ujf.org.



Coffee and a Murder

(Courtesy of UJF) On Wednesday morning June 21, United Jewish Federation will partner with UJA-JCC Greenwich and the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County to host author Lisa Belkin.

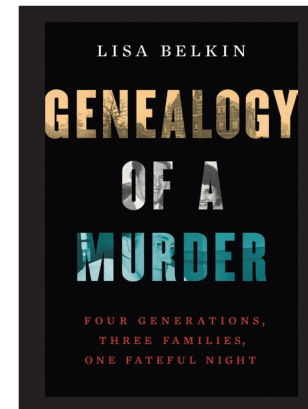
Belkin's new book, *Genealogy of a Murder*, is a multigenerational tale of three families whose paths collide Independence Day weekend in 1960 with the murder of a police officer. The close-knit community in Stamford is shocked. The killer remains at large, while on a

beach not far away, a young Army doctor on vacation from his post at a research lab in a maximum-security prison, faces a chilling realization. He knows who the shooter is. In fact, the man - a prisoner out on parole - had called him only days before.

In *Genealogy of a Murder*, journalist Lisa Belkin traces the paths of three men, one of them her stepfather. She examines the coincidences and choices that led to one fateful night. The result is a brilliantly researched, narratively

ingenious story, which illuminates how we shape history even as we are shaped by it.

The event will take place in a private home in Stamford at 10:30 am and the cost is \$10 per person. Coffee and light bites will be served. Dietary laws observed. Register at www.ujf.org/belkin.



Author Lisa Belkin

Cantor's Concert to Feature Zamir Chorale

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will be singing their own sets of music as well as singing together in a program of music honoring Israel at 75 years.

Cantor Katie Kaplan stated, "Choral enthusiasts will be thrilled to hear a variety of beloved selections from the two ensembles, and I will be singing as a soloist with each group as well as with the combined ensemble. It is an honor and dream fulfilled to be hosting these dynamic groups and sharing Jewish choral music within the Stamford Jewish community."

The honorees for the evening, Mia and Lonny Weinstein, along with their children Emily and Eddie, have been active members of Temple Beth El (TBE) since 2002. Mia

has been a member of the Board of Trustees for 14 years and is a Past President. She was co-chair of the Sisterhood Gift Shop, has worked on numerous committees, and is an active member of Sisterhood from which she received the Rose Rosner Award. As a member of the Men's Club, Lonny enjoys socializing with fellow TBE members.

Their children, Emily and Eddie, attended Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, and Mia was a member of their Board of Trustees for seven years. Deeply committed to the State of Israel, their family has traveled there together and has also marched in the Israel Day Parade in New York City. Mia represented TBE as a graduate of the first class of United Jewish Federation's Behrend

Institute for Leadership, sat on the board of the Women's Philanthropy division of UJF, and was a Reading Partner at Stark Elementary School for 13 years. Mia has been on the Board of Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County for the past 3 years.

Mia and Lonny continue their commitment to modeling Judaism in their home and strongly believe in the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). They are very proud of the vital role that Temple Beth El serves in the Stamford community and are humbled by this honor.

There will be an online tribute journal. A dessert reception will follow the evening's event. The concert is sponsored by the Mann Family in loving memory of Norma and Milton Mann, z'l.

The concert is recommended for ages 10 through adult. General admission tickets are \$36 in advance (\$45 at the door). Admission for students ages 10 to 18 is free.

Tickets are available at www.tinyurl.com/tbecc23

For information, please contact Steven Lander, Executive Director, 203-322-6901, x304.



Zamir Noded



Cantor Katie Kaplan (PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)



Honorees Mia and Lonny Weinstein.



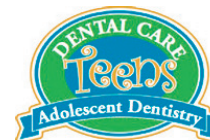
Come and meet Dr. Fred Harris!

Dental Care Kids Is Getting Ready For Summer!

Summer time is a great time to get a good check up.

Dental Care Kids Open 7 Days A Week!

Board Certified Dentists and Orthodontists for Children and Adolescents!



www.DentalCareKids.com • www.DentalCareOrthodontics.com

1500 Summer St., Stamford, CT

Call Today for New Patient Special Offers!

203.883.4457

Most insurance accepted with no out-of-pocket expense for check-ups*

*As long as you are eligible, have met all deductibles, have benefits remaining and your plan is UCR or equivalent.

NextGen Gears Up for Summer

**BY MELANIE VORM,
UJF NEXTGEN DIRECTOR**

Spring is in full bloom and warm sunny days are right around the corner. You might already have your beach days planned out, but UJF's NextGen has a hotter-than-hot program planned for the next few months that you do not want to miss. Save the dates for:

June 11, 2023 - Kicking Off the Summer: Hike and Picnic Style! Pack

those peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and get your sneakers on – we're going on a (family friendly) hike! Bring your own picnic as we hang with other NextGeners afterwards.

July 30, 2023 - L'chaim to Summer BBQ: Burgers, beers, music, and just a jolly good time with other young Jewish leaders. We'll drink to that. *L'chaim!*

September 20, 2023 - Winding down the summer: Making sure we start off the Jewish New Year right, the next topic in our series of "Weekday Wine Down"

will be **Mindfulness, Meditation and Judaism.**

UJF's NextGen is dedicated to building a strong Jewish community here, in Israel and throughout the world. Its mission is to be a connector for all young Jews in their mid-20s, 30s and 40s. Whether Jewish, "just Jewish", or Jewish, NextGen's aim is to act as a gateway dedicated to empowering Jewish identity and building Jewish community through social events, meaningful volunteer programs, educational activities, and

philanthropy.

"As the director of UJF's NextGen, I'm so happy that we can provide programming that reaches community members from all different demographics and life stages at our events. It's so great to see everyone come together to just enjoy one another's company. This is why we do what we do," said Melanie Vorm.

For more information and to get involved with United Jewish Federation's NextGen, contact Melanie Vorm at melanie@ujf.org

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

"The New Jewish Voice" (USPS #184) is published by the United Jewish Federation Inc.
2009 Summer Street, Suite 301 Stamford 06905.

www.ujf.org for updates and donations

Michael Schlessinger President
Diane Sloyer CEO

Advisory Committee

Meryl Gordon Chair
Wendell Maxey UJF Director of Marketing
Allison Greenbaum, Meryl Japha, Arlene Rosen,
Nancy Schulman, Ellen Weber

Jewish Link Media Group

The Jewish Link Media Group edits and publishes
The New Jewish Voice.

Opinions

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

Letters

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

Kashrut

We are not responsible for the Kashrut of any advertiser's product or establishment.

HOW TO REACH THE EDITOR:

Mail: Sandy Golove
2009 Summer St., Suite 301 Stamford, CT 06905
sandy@ujf.org; (203) 912-9945

Send article submissions via e-mail to
Sandy Golove at sandy@ujf.org
marked "Stamford Voice" in the subject line.

**HOW TO REACH THE
ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE:**
DIANE SLOYER

Phone: (203) 321-1373, ext. 1
E-mail: dianesloyer@ujf.org

Remembering the Family Store Returns This Summer

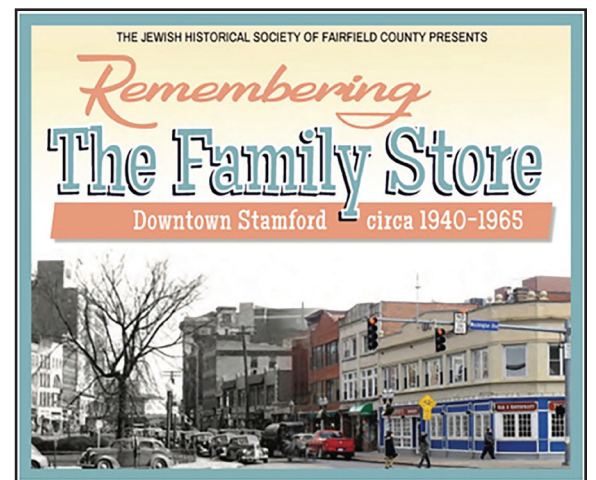
(Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County) The 2022 documentary *Remembering the Family Store*, an ode to Stamford's downtown (circa 1940-1965) produced by the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC), premiered at Stamford's Avon Theatre last June. Multiple showings attracted more than 1500 viewers, garnering rave reviews for its nostalgic look back at the family-owned businesses that were the backbone of the city in the mid-20th century.

Thanks to a generous grant from the B.L. Manger Foundation, Inc., the film is returning to the Stamford community, with screenings at selected venues this summer. According to production coordinator of the film and JHSFC board member Gail G. Trell, plans will be underway for online viewing and streaming.

The idea for the project originated with Stamford native, Lester Sharlach (1929-2020) of blessed memory, a

longtime community leader and a founding member/former president of the JHSFC. He collected vintage photos of memorable storefront scenes from the JHSFC archives and the Stamford History Center and would entertain local audiences with his slideshow from the era when "mom and pop" stores reigned supreme. Several years ago, the JHSFC engaged filmmaker Marge Stapor Costa to interview surviving owners of the shops and their family members, and to incorporate photos and archival materials in order to create the 75-minute documentary.

"The JHSFC is grateful for the funding that will bring *Remembering the Family Store* to audiences who were unable to see it last summer and those who are eager to



see it again," said JHSFC board president Peter Lilienthal. "Thank you to the Stamford-based B.L. Manger Foundation!"

For more information about the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, or to volunteer, please contact via email at info@jhsfc-ct.org or 203-359-2196.

Experience Classic Broadway with a Twist

(Courtesy of The JCC) The JCC Performing Arts department is proud to present *Miscast* on Saturday, June 17 at the Stamford Jewish Community Center. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the show will start promptly at 7:00 pm.

Miscast promises to deliver beloved show tunes with a twist. The best voices in Fairfield County will come together in support of The

JCC Performing Arts department to sing classic Broadway hits in roles they would not traditionally be cast in. This means you can expect to hear your favorite Broadway songs like you've never heard them before.

All proceeds from the event will go towards building resources for The JCC Performing Arts department. This support will enable the department to provide

inclusive opportunities for all who walk through their doors.

Ticket prices for *Miscast* for JCC members: \$25 for a single ticket, \$45 for a couple. For community members: \$40 for a single ticket, \$75 for a couple.

For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, please contact Meghan Meehan at mmeehan@stamfordjcc.org.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

June 2 8:03 pm
June 9 8:07 pm
June 16 8:11 pm
June 23 8:12 pm
June 30 8:12 pm

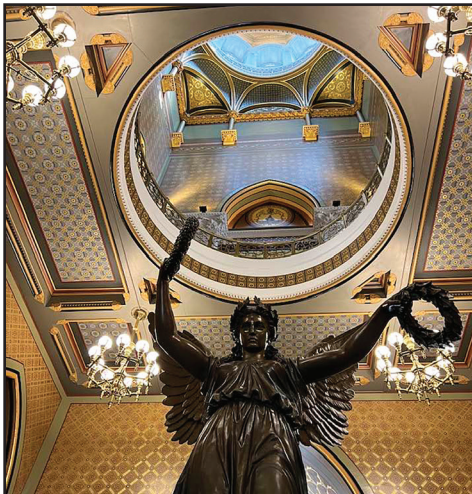
UPCOMING DEADLINES

July/August – Issue

Deadline: Monday, June 5, 2023

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

Advocacy Works



Atrium Capitol Building

(Courtesy of UJF) A Stamford delegation lobbied for the support of two key programs at Jewish Federation Association of CT (JFACT) Advocacy Day in Hartford on May 10. The delegation consisted of Margery Abrams, Beverly Stein, David Stein, Linda Spilka, Diane Sloyer, Federation CEO and Sharon Lewis, Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). This delegation joined close to 100 other Jewish community



Representative Hubert Delaney in the House Chamber with members of the Delegation.

members from Federations across the state for the morning meeting. Thirty-two legislators, the State Comptroller and Cathy Osten, Senate Chair of the Appropriations committee attended the event.

The delegation lobbied for funding of a curriculum coordinator to implement Holocaust and genocide education, for support of refugee programs, and for floating days for holiday observances based on one's religion.



(l-r) The Stamford Delegation: Linda Spilka, JCRC Director Sharon Lewis, UJF CEO Diane Sloyer, Beverly Stein, David Stein, Margery Abrams, and Michael Bloom, Executive Director of JFACT.

The Stamford delegation was able to spend quality time with Representative Hubert Delaney (D), representing the 144th District (Stamford) and explain to him the importance of the curriculum coordinator. After reviewing the proposed legislation, Rep. Delaney said he would be a co-sponsor of the bill in support of that position. The delegation also had an opportunity to speak with Rep. David Michel (D) 146th District (Stamford), Rep. Rachel Khanna (D)

149th (Greenwich and Stamford), Rep. Keith Denning (D) 42nd (New Canaan, Ridgefield, Wilton) and Rep. Tracy Marra (R) 141st District (Darien and Norwalk).

After the meeting, Rep. Delaney escorted the Stamford delegation on a tour of the State Capitol including the House and Senate chambers.

For more information or to become involved with UJF's Jewish Community Relations Council, contact Sharon Lewis, JCRC Director at slewis@ujf.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcoming Spring at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Gan Yeladim) During the month of Nissan, the children at Gan Yeladim had an exceptional opportunity to say a special *bracha* (blessing). This blessing is said when more than one blossoming fruit tree is first seen within the month of *Nissan*, the first month in the Jewish calendar. It is a Jewish custom

to recite this blessing, and it is only recited once a year when fruit trees are first seen in bloom. Thanks to two Gan alumni parents, Lael and Danielle Shapiro, who planted beautiful fruit trees at Gan several years ago, the children (and adults) are able to gather as a school and enjoy this unique experience together each spring.



(l-r) Eli Lifshitz, Baila Giver, Ezra Watman, Mason Tepper, Amira Speter and Emmy Bettan enjoy the flowers.

Join us for
"A Taste of the Good Life."

MOZAIC
Concierge
Living
Life with Community



A NEW LIFE PLAN COMMUNITY

by **Mozaic Senior Life** (formerly Jewish Senior Services)

Mozaic Concierge Living on Long Ridge Road in Stamford (Opening 2027) will offer 168 luxury Independent Living residences featuring high-end finishes, state-of-the-art spa and gym, abundant amenities and concierge service for your every need.

Join our Priority Reservation Club and secure your future with substantial savings and benefits.

Learn more at our informational luncheons, happening each month. To reserve your seat or to become a Priority Reservation Member today, please contact us at **203-396-1140** or **info@mozaiccl.org**.

mozaicconciergeliving.org



Advocacy and Inclusion Highlighted During Mitzvah Day

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) On Sunday, May 7, Temple Sinai welcomed 300 congregants for Mitzvah Day. In its 27th year, Mitzvah Day continues to be about building a *kehillah kedoshah* (sacred community) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). This year, Temple Sinai created a half-day program focused on advocacy and inclusion with projects and sessions designed to help participants think about caring for and protecting the environment, pursuing justice and fighting for civil liberties and challenging economic inequality.

Angela Davis said, “I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.” This idea was the guiding force behind the Mitzvah Day program.

Some of the projects and sessions included:

CARING FOR AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate Action Workshop: Moving Our Money to Impact the Climate Crisis

Temple Sinai is a member of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition. The session provided information about banking and investment options available and helped participants think about moving money to greener alternatives to impact the climate crisis.

PURSUE JUSTICE AND FIGHTING FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES:

Planting Seeds of Inclusion

Participants painted beautiful flowerpots to be distributed at Pride in the Park, in celebration of the LGBTQ+ community to plant seeds of community and welcome.

Inspiring Civic Engagement

Led by Temple Sinai congregant and Representative Eric Morson, with guest Representative Matt Blumenthal, the session helped participants think about the importance of participating in civic life.

Sharing Dignity with Women

United Jewish Federation's Dignity Grows partnered with Temple Sinai to create tote bags that include necessities to address hygiene inequity and period

poverty.

Reaching Women

The REACH (Reproductive Equity, Access & Choice) Fund of Connecticut joined Temple Sinai congregants to create emergency contraception kits for distribution at community events. They also discussed abortion access in Connecticut and how to work toward reproductive equity, freedom, and justice for all.

Supporting the Freedom to Read

In response to book challenges and bans across the country, Stamford, in conjunction with Ferguson Library, announced the city is designated a book sanctuary – the second city in our nation to do so. Temple Sinai members came together to design bookmarks to be distributed at Ferguson Library to honor this bold move.

CHALLENGING ECONOMIC INSECURITY

Mobile Pantry Grocery Challenge

Participants visited the Schoke JFS Kosher Mobile Food Pantry for a “shop and stock” Mitzvah Experience.

Sandwich Making

Participants made 300 sandwiches for New Covenant Center, in support of its mission to provide nutritious meals to all who are hungry.

Touch of Love

Congregants created tray touches – beautiful paper placemats – for participants of Meals on Wheels.

Tending to the Needy “IN YOUR GATES”

United Jewish Federation's Community Shaliach Yoav Yaron joined Temple Sinai participants on Mitzvah Day to discuss the importance of helping those in our Jewish community.

Mitzvah Day concluded with a BBQ, sponsored by Temple Sinai Brotherhood, where volunteers celebrated the positive impact they can all make in the world, from toddlers coloring bookmarks to seniors packing Dignity Grows bags. Everyone can be an agent of change.



Mitzvah Day volunteers help pack UJF “Dignity Grows” bags for those in need.

Books for All!

(Courtesy of UJF) The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partner volunteers visited United Jewish Federation offices during the first week of May to select books to give to the students they have partnered with throughout the school year. It is the first time since the pandemic that the book selection has taken place in person. The volunteers took time to catch up with each other and hear about each other's experiences as they browsed through the books. Books will be distributed at each school's end of year celebration for the students who participated in the program.

Reading partner volunteers will be celebrated at the “End of Year Breakfast Celebration” on June 7 at Temple Sinai.

Author and Illustrator Lizzy Rockwell is this year's featured speaker. Her artwork can be seen in picture books, magazines, games and on walls. She studied art and art history at Connecticut College and drawing and illustration at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Rockwell is the illustrator of over 25 children's books by a variety of authors including her mother, Anne Rockwell.



Leah Baker, Pam Hirschfeld, Lenore Fogel, and Susan Kellman select books for their students.

She is the author/illustrator of *Plants Feed Me*, *Good Enough to Eat: A Kid's Guide to Food and Nutrition*, *Hello Baby!* and *The Busy Body Book: A Kid's Guide to Fitness*.

Readers will gather to celebrate the first full year back in schools from 2020. If you would like to become involved in Reading Partners for the 2023-2024 school year, please reach out to Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org

UConn Professor Contributes to Book on Amos Oz

BY NINA LOTSTEIN

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, Professor Emeritus at the University of Connecticut and founding Director of the UConn, Stamford, Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies, recently contributed a chapter to a new book of collected essays on the fiction and legacy of the internationally renowned Israeli writer Amos Oz (1939-2019).

The volume, *Amos Oz: The Legacy of a Writer in Israel and Beyond* (ed. Ranen Omer-Sherman, SUNY Press, 2023), includes essays by veteran scholars, and is dedicated to the enduring legacy of the Hebrew writer Amos Oz, whose works have been translated to 45 languages and recognized with universal accolades and many Israeli and international awards.



Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy

Professor Aschkenasy shared, “I know that many in our community still remember my classes on Amos Oz's fiction, and his stirring lecture, as a guest of the UConn, Stamford Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies, many years ago. Oz belonged to the generation whose childhood was spent under the British mandate

and the struggle for Independence, but who lived their formative years in the newly born State of Israel. Oz criticized Israel's moral and ethical failings, but his faith in the Zionist idea and loyalty to his homeland were unshakeable.”

Nina Lotstein is the former Chair of the Board of Directors, UConn Stamford, Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Writing Contest Winners Announced

(Courtesy of UJF) In honor of Israel@75, United Jewish Federation sponsored a creative writing contest and announced the winners at the Yom Ha'Atzmaut Festival on April 26, 2023.

Writers were invited to write on one of several prompts and submissions were judged in separate age brackets. The winners are:

Elementary School	Middle School
First Prize Hayden Goldie Zalis, grade 4, Rogers International School.	First prize Avigayil Chavkin, grade 6, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy.
Second Prize Dylan Sayer Zalis, grade 4, Rogers International School.	Second prize Daniella Raich, grade 6, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy.

100th Birthday Celebration

BY AVIGAYIL CHAVKIN, 6TH GRADE

An utter excitement arouses
I glance at each direction and sight
Blue and White surrounding me
Numerous people singing and dancing

Each one wanting to be
Part of Israel's 100th birthday
Everyone uniting as one
The feel of togetherness

Waving flags in the brisk wind
As streets are filled with joy
Astonishment is all I can think about
While the festive lights and flags
Symbolizing the different paths
Israel has been through

Special memory to cherish and remember
A sudden urge for it to never end
Unforgettable moments lasting
A lifetime

How do I gift Israel for still staying strong?



What words do I say?
Such a special miracle as Israel
Has been lasting for 100 years

It has never backed down
While the flag is still
Standing here to this day
Tall with pride

Throughout years Israel has
Been home to thousands
And here I am
Glaring at what has been
A true miracle

Israel's 100th Birthday

BY HAYDEN GOLDIE ZALIS AGE 9, ROGERS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

On Israel's 100th birthday, I think there will be peace and harmony between the many neighboring countries of Israel. I think that there will be free borders between them. The neighboring countries and Israel will become an alliance based on sharing many different resources. Each country will be represented in a main government body. They will be able to speak whichever language they please. I think everyone ten years old and above will have a right to vote. There will be another female prime minister who will be respected and help Israel be unified and peaceful. I think the population will grow. I also think that wealth will grow too! I think that Israel will develop and produce new fruits and veggies that



other countries or states have never heard of. I think that every single car in Israel will be electric. There will also be many tall buildings and there will still be many farms and kibbutzim. I also think that there will be teleportation and the te viv subway will be done and ready to ride. There will be a city just for art. This is what I think Israel will look like on its 100th birthday!

Israel at 100

BY DYLAN SAWYER ZALIS, AGE 9, ROGERS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

When Israel is 100 there will be hoverboards flying and skyscrapers scraping the sky.

Some people eat in front of a bar and hover cars honk and people walk around shopping and spaceships rocket into space.

Fireworks are being thrown into the sky as well as a huge number of cars being turned into hover cars.

On and on and on, going click click click, it's super annoying but it's really cool to watch.

The population is growing so much more, by 1,000 people a day.

Israelis are becoming billionaires. It's just really cool and it's so exciting, and it's really fun and it's reality in 2048.

Peace was established with every country around Israel because Israel



said enough! This country belongs to us the Jewish people and you might not like this but we will not tolerate it anymore so you will sign a petition against attacking us or else we won't stop until you Do!

That's how all countries around us are peaceful and that's how they became peaceful.

The end.

Israel's 100th Anniversary

BY DANIELLA RAICH

A festival of fun
Under rays of sun
Gold balloons in bunches
Festive, delicious lunches

A festival of delight
Day till night
Joyous crowds in the street
Celebrating in the heat

A festival of gratitude
A joyful mood
A constellation of drones in the sky
Shining jets way up high



A festival of love
A reminder of the dove
Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut each year
Now the 100th anniversary is here

LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll

United Jewish Federation is proud to partner with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to bring the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community the Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY Program. Through communal efforts, the following individuals have made a commitment to one or more Jewish communal institutions to secure our Jewish future. The names in blue indicate that formal actions have been taken.

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

30 Anonymous
 Adrienne & Michael Alexander
 David Amsellem
 Alice & David Andersen
 Jeri Appel
 Mark Appel
 Ricky Snow Arbron
 Suellyn Bache
 Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
 Rachel Tyd & Robert Beldock
 Gayle & Mitchell Bell
 Debra & Michael Berg
 Dina & Paul Berger
 Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz
 Berkun Family
 Daron & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
 Jen & Andy Bernstein
 Melody & Claude Bernstein
 Bruce Blasnik
 Judith Block
 Ilana Springer Borkenstein & Daniel Borkenstein
 Jodi & Richard Boxer
 Amy Bubel
 Henry Bubel
 Blake & Daniel Bueckman
 Judy & Jeff Cahn
 Kate & Peretz Cik
 Roberta & Alan Cohen
 Andrea & David M. Cohen
 Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen
 Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeff Cohen
 Judy & David S.* Cohen
 Mimi Cohen
 Rachel & Ephraim Cohen
 Saul Cohen*
 Marsha Colten
 Tracy & Nahum Daniels
 Janice Steinberg & Stephen Davidson
 Andrea Dener
 Elayne Dener
 Rabbi Yisrael Deren
 Helen & Marty Donner
 Fran & Bob Dorf
 Shoshana Dweck
 Heather & Glenn Dynner
 Debra & Dan Faizakoff
 Michelle Fanwick
 Esta & Jay Feinsod
 Sharon & Michael Feldstein
 Peggy & Jerry Fensterstock
 Linda Hurwitz & Richard Fine
 Robin & Jason Fischel
 Gail Berman & David Fogel
 Stephanie & Howard Fogel
 Lenore Fogel
 Ilan Fogel
 Miriam Lavinsky & Morton Folb*
 Beverly Frank
 Sharon Franklin
 Julia & Eli Freedberg
 Connie & Alan Freeman
 Maxine & Jay Freilich
 Susan Frieden
 Rachel & Keith Friedman
 Marc Friedman
 Donna & Edward Fuhrman
 Nancy & Mark Funt
 Lesley & Dennis Gehr
 Gary Gepner
 Carole Gladstone
 Herbert Gladstone*
 Sylvia & Herb Gladstone*
 Leslie Glenn
 Robin Frederick
 Michael Gold
 Abby Goldberg
 Cyndy & Eric Goldberg
 Marilyn & Irving Goldblum
 Alicia & Jason Goldstein
 Caryl & Melvin Goldstein*
 Judy & Howard Goldstein
 Sharon & Bruce Goldstein
 Meryl & David Gordon
 Nan & Paul Gordon
 Linda Gornitsky
 Lorelee & Philip Granowitz
 Shira & Ethan Green

Allison & Frederic Greenbaum
 Sharon & Larry Greenberg
 Susan & Edward Greenberg
 Pam Ehrenkranz & Matt Greenberg
 Rhonda Greif
 Grecia & Ron* Gross
 Caryn Halbrecht & Tommy Haendler
 Jeremy Hager
 Kayla & Leon Hanna
 Scott Handelman
 Wynd Harris
 Jacqueline Herman
 Shara & Rabbi David Israel
 Sari & Alan Jaffe
 Meryl & Ron Japha
 Anne Liss Johnson
 Sadae & Michael Kadish
 Judith & Grant Kallen
 Peggy Kalter
 Helene & Harvey Kaminski
 Chanie Kamman
 Roni & Jan Kaplowitz
 Jason Kaplowitz
 Lisa & Arnold Karp
 Jeannie Kasindorf
 Jessica & Ilan Katz
 Joy Katz
 Larry Katz
 Judith & Sheldon Katz
 Mark S. Kaufman
 Betsy & Peter Kempner
 Madelyne Kirch
 Liz & Marc Kitay
 Elissa & Philip Klapper
 Sally Kleinman
 Harris Kligman
 Susan Kostin
 Arthur Kramer*
 Claudia Kraut
 Norma Kraut
 Jeannie & Brian Kriftcher
 Carol & Allen Krim
 Elizabeth & Scott Krowitz
 Nina Kuch
 Svetlana Kunin
 Jackie & Marshall Kurland
 Lorraine & David Kweskin
 Helen & Ed Kweskin
 Lieba & Steve Lander
 Hannah & Ilan Lastoff
 Dallice & Ian Lazarus
 Shelley Leibowitz
 Lois Stark & Gary Lessen
 Marla & Jason Lewis
 Sharon and Jeffrey Lewis
 Elizabeth Libner
 R. & J. Licht
 Ronnie & Gary Lilien
 Vered & Mark Links
 Lisa & Seth Linzer
 Pamela Feldstein & David Loewenberg
 Eleanor & Mort Lowenthal
 Stu Madison
 Lisa & Jeff Manheim
 Norma & Milton Mann*
 Susan & Len Mark
 Dinah Miller Marlowe
 Seth Marlowe
 Chris Maroc
 Rhonda Schaffer-Maron & Jeffrey Maron
 Melanie Massell
 Sandra Mehl*
 Michal & Rabbi Levi Mendelow
 Janice & Jake Meyer
 Nancy Zimbarg Mimoun
 Bennet Moskowitz
 Marguerite & Kenneth Neuhaus
 Becky & Omer Neumeier
 Rose* & Bruce Newman
 Marsha & Louis Panzer
 Leah & Doni Perl
 Robin Evans & Jeffrey Perry
 Dr. Shay Pilnik
 Michele & Scott Piskin
 Caryle Ferber Poser & Peter Poser
 Tanya Barton- Radin & David Radin
 Enid Randall*

Bonita & Stephen Rappoport
 Judith & Robert Raymond
 Lisa & Harry Rich
 Judy & Adam Rin
 Jamie & Toby Ring
 Betty & Dan* Roberts
 Sonia & Brian Roitman
 Romanowitz Family
 Arlene & Carl Rosen
 Julie & Remi Rosenberg
 Natalie & Mark Rosovsky
 Irma Ross
 Sandra Ross
 Sally & Jim Rothkopf
 Ruth Rothseid
 Terry Newman & David Rubin
 Linda & Leonard Russ
 Bonnie Russo
 Edith Samers
 Renee Samson*
 Sharyn & Richard Sarner
 Sharon L. & Charles H. Saul
 Leah Schechter
 Hilde Scheraga*
 Jayne & Bud Schiff
 Judy Schneiderman
 Nancy Schiffman
 Chaya Segal
 Carol Ruth & Herman Shepherd*
 Monica Smyth & Michael Schlessinger
 Elayne & James Schoke*
 Daniel Schwartz
 Chaya & Levi Segal
 Betsey & Arthur Selkowitz
 Myrna & George Sessa
 Diane & Steve Shaby
 Debbie Katz Shapiro
 Leon Shapiro
 Tara & Richard Shapiro
 Jessica & Laurence Sheinman
 Leah & Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
 Marsha Kaiser Shendell
 Stephanie & Bob Sherman
 Malya Shmotkin
 Ronnie Ness Sichel & Steven Sichel
 Lisa & Grant Silver
 Miriam Landsberg-Silverman & Eliezer* Silverman
 Paula Simon
 Gloria & Randy Skigen
 Marty Skrelunas
 Diane & Elliot Sloyer
 Michal Fox Smart
 Brenda & Bruce* Smith
 Ed Smith

Louise & Ami Soifer
 Greta Solomon
 Miriam & Steve Sosnick
 Sandy & Moshe Speter
 Ed Spilka
 Cantor Micah Morgovsky & Rabbi Benjamin Spratt
 Eileen & Fred Springer
 Beverly & David Stein
 Betsy & Michael Stone
 Gladys & Greg Teitel
 Julie & Rabbi Jay TelRav
 The Estate of Sheila Carmine*
 The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin*
 The Estate of Ronald Gross*
 Rebecca Tipermas
 Gail & Steven Trel
 Pamela & Richard Vogel
 Phyllis & Harvey Walzer
 Annie & Jeremy Watman
 David Wayne
 Ellen & Richard Weber
 Linda Gornitsky & Harvey Weber
 Dana & Carl Weinberg
 Marian Weinberg
 Leon Weisburgh
 Janet Welkovich
 Barbara & Ken White
 Leigh Wilson
 Robyn & Mark Winarksy
 Dana Horowitz & Peter Wolly
 Neda Khaghan & Robert Yaghoubian
 Rita & Abe Yellen
 Marcia Gordon & Seth Young
 Sheryl & Dan Young
 Lauren & Joe Zalis
 Joan Zinbarg*
 Renee Zinn
 Navah & David Zizmor
 Shira & Mitchell Zucker

**Of Blessed Memory
 This is the list provided to UJF at time of publishing. We apologize for any names that have been omitted. Please let us know and the missing names will be added to the next issue of the paper. Names in blue have finalized their commitment at the time of publication.*

LIFE & LEGACY Testimonials

Each edition of the New Jewish Voice features the testimonials of community members just like you who have declared their intent to leave a legacy gift to a Jewish organization in the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish community. This program is funded by United Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Learn why they look to secure our Jewish future and discover your reasons to join them. Together, we can all work to guarantee the future of the Stamford Jewish community we love. For more information, contact Lenore Fogel at (203) 321-1373 or at lenore@ujf.org.

FRED AND ALLISON GREENBAUM TESTIMONIAL

From the moment Fred and I arrived in Stamford almost 25 years ago, we were welcomed immediately into this vibrant and diverse Jewish community. Reflecting on our time here, our fondest memories of raising our children, meeting new friends and participating in social, educational and cultural activities, all revolved around the many Jewish organizations in our thriving community. Our involvement with Chabad (including High Ridge, New Canaan, and Harbor Point), Gan Yeladim Preschool, Friendship Circle, United Jewish Federation, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Temple Beth El, and the Jewish Community Center have enriched our lives in countless ways that we could never have foreseen all those years

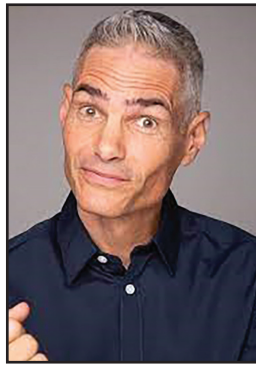


Fred and Allison Greenbaum

ago. We recognize that this community was made possible by the hard work, dedication, and foresight of others, and leaving a LIFE & LEGACY gift will help to sustain our outstanding Jewish community in Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien for generations to come. We hope others who are inspired also by the Jewish community we cherish will join us in supporting this program ensuring our future.

Securing the Jewish Future

(Courtesy of UJF) Leaving a legacy to secure the Jewish future is crucial to the survival of our Jewish community. For the past three years, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien has been working with 10 other community organizations to build their endowments and secure their future as part of the Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY program.



Joel Chasnoff

and David Stein. Lenore Fogel, LIFE & LEGACY Coordinator said, "I am so honored to be working on this event with these community leaders. They lead by example with their legacy gifts and all that they contribute to our community."

Chasnoff is a Jewish stand-up comedian, former IDF soldier, and author of multiple non-fiction books,

including the newly released *Israel 201*. To date, he has performed at more than 1,500 Jewish events in ten countries, from the Melbourne Comedy Festival in Australia to Israeli late-night TV.

"Currently the 11 participating organizations, with the guidance and sponsorship of United Jewish Federation, have secured over 520 'Letters of Intent' for afterlife giving, totaling almost \$15,000,000 dollars in promised bequests. Over \$350,000 of this money has already been realized," shared Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO.

On June 15, over 100 members of the local Jewish community will join together at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center Farmhouse to celebrate their commitment to leave an afterlife gift to ensure the continuity of the Jewish community. Following a celebratory dinner, participants will be treated to a performance by American-Israeli comedian Joel Chasnoff.

This year's celebration chairs are Connie and Alan Freeman and Beverly



LIFE & LEGACY Director Lenore Fogel and UJF CEO Diane Sloyer at the annual LIFE & LEGACY Conference in Springfield MA.

"Having just returned from the annual LIFE & LEGACY conference in Springfield Massachusetts, I have a renewed sense of urgency as to how important Legacy giving is for our Jewish communal future," Sloyer continued.

The LIFE & LEGACY Year Three Celebration is open to all those who

have either signed a letter of Intent or a commitment letter to make a legacy gift to any of the participating Jewish communal organizations.

To learn more about the LIFE & LEGACY program, contact Lenore Fogel at Lenore@ujf.org.

Caring for Jews in Need

(Courtesy of UJF) In early May, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien held a parlor meeting to update community members on the ongoing war in Ukraine and the resettlement of refugees in Israel. Gayle and Howard Rothman hosted over 50 guests who were eager to learn about the ongoing efforts of UJF and its partners.

Howard shared his firsthand experience from when he had traveled to the Ukraine border over a year ago. At that time, he had also flown with a plane of immigrants from Ukraine to Israel. The Rothmans felt it was both an honor and a privilege for them to host guest speakers Natalie Shnaiderman, with The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and Lena Ivanova, a resettled Ukrainian.

Shnaiderman recently rejoined JAFI as Director of Strategy and Resource Development in the Aliyah and Absorption Unit. She is responsible for planning



Lena Ivanova



Howard Rothman

and managing the process of resource development, including mapping of development trends and markets' assessment for the programs and services offered by the Aliyah and Absorption Unit. She explained the involvement of JAFI at the beginning of the Ukraine war and its continued involvement to this day.

Ivanova is one of thousands of young Ukrainian mothers who were brought to safe refuge in Israel with their children by JAFI in the days and weeks following the



Attendees learn about Ukrainian refugee resettlement in Israel.

outbreak of the war in Ukraine. She was born in Odessa and graduated from the Odessa State Economic University, where she met her future husband Aleksander.

In Ukraine, Ivanova worked at a large international bank. After a short time, she and her husband decided to start their own men's and women's clothing business, and their company, SHA Odesa, is still operating. Just before the war, they started selling their

merchandise abroad. Ivanova left Ukraine for Israel during the war, without her husband, who was eventually able to join his wife and children in Israel. The family now lives in Jerusalem.

"The work of the Jewish Agency and its impact on those in need and the firsthand experience of Lena and her family, along with my own personal experience, will be with me forever," shared Howard.



United Jewish Federation

of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County

For 50 years, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien

has provided community building and made a positive impact locally and globally thanks to signature programs like LIFE & LEGACY®, PJ Library, 3SQUARE, Reading Partners, and Dignity Grows, while supporting Jewish communal agencies and institutions who continue to grow and provide valuable resources to an expanding and diverse Jewish population in Fairfield County and around the world.

To learn more, visit www.ujf.org

“Seed to Gan” Project at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Last year, Gan Yeladim launched a yearlong initiative where the children planned and executed a gardening project. The primary focus was planting, creating and caring for the community. The project commenced with discussions and learning experiences around seeds, produce and farms.

The three and four-year old children inquired about how people get food from farms, and what happens when people don't have access to food sources. As a result, the children came to the realization that they wanted to do a *mitzvah* (good deed) and share their food with those less fortunate. The teachers also explored the social and emotional aspect of taking care of plants as they discussed the immense intrinsic joy and pride they felt in nurturing and watching things grow in the greenhouse they built. As the season progressed, the study culminated with a farmer's market.

The children sold edible and inedible items made from plants and herbs that they grew from seeds and “helper” plants. Items for sale included: scrubs made from lavender and calendula, parsley, flowers, fruits, vegetables, flowers and seeds.

This year, planting in the greenhouses has already begun. The children are preparing their new compost bin with coffee grounds and other food items brought from home. Before Tu B'Shevat (the Jewish birthday of trees), the children at Gan started exploring seeds and planting. Their interest was immediately sparked as they watched the seeds grow. They started with a simple experiment with two variables. They planted seeds in two distinct environments, one with shade and one with light. The children hypothesized which seeds would grow faster and eagerly observed them each day. In science they also learn about concepts, such as oxygen

and carbon dioxide cycle. Before Pesach, they grew, observed, and finally used their own parsley at the classroom “model Seder”.

In line with the Reggio Emilia approach to education, the Gan encourages each child to follow their passion and interests. Some enjoy the physical labor aspect of toiling, digging and getting their hands in the dirt. Others enjoyed rock painting or singing and talking to the plants. The class is eagerly anticipating and getting ready to plant in the outside Gan garden. As the garden has expanded, the children have used their artistic skills to paint rocks to line the expanded garden beds.

In the words of Morah Amanda Kelley, who initiated this project along with Morah Belana Warmflash, “I get to experience newness and joy every time I watch



Gan Yeladim “Seed to Gan Project” kicks off this spring with the children preparing their compost bin with leftover food items brought from home. (l-r) Matan Freed, Mason Tepper, Amira Speter and Benjamin Yusupov.

the children experience something new outside. To see how miraculous our planet is, and how they get to be a part of caring for it, gives me great pride, especially in a time when we need to come together and steward our environment.”

Mobile Food Pantry at Israel@75!

(Courtesy of UJF) Jen Bernstein, Director of Food Programs, and Elizabeth Hinds, Volunteer Services and Programs Coordinator, of Schoke Jewish Family Service, came out to celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut with the Kosher Mobile Food Pantry at the Stamford JCC. Schoke JFS thanks United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien for hosting such a memorable and fun day celebrating Israel at 75!



Temple Beth El Welcomed Artist-in-Residence

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Stamford's Temple Beth El hosted a memorable weekend event May 6 to May 8 with artist-in-residence Ben Pagliaro. Pagliaro and Temple

Beth El's Cantor Katie Kaplan led both the Friday evening and Shabbat morning services and led a concert with Keshet Beth El students on Sunday morning.



Congregation Shir Ami Welcomes New Spiritual Leader

(Courtesy of Congregation Shir Ami) Congregation Shir Ami is excited and honored to announce that Rabbi David Evan Markus will become its next Spiritual Leader. He will assume the clergy role that Rabbi David E. Levy has held over the past year in an interim capacity.

Rabbi Markus comes to Shir Ami after 13 years as the Spiritual Leader and Music Director of Temple Beth-El of City Island in New York. In addition to his diverse education programs at Temple Beth-El, he is a senior faculty member at the Academy for Jewish Religion, where he teaches in the seminary's rabbinic and cantorial programs.

A fellow of Rabbis Without Borders, Rabbi Markus has been a scholar in residence for organizations across North America. His writings have appeared regularly in the *Academy for Jewish Religion*, *My Jewish Learning*, *The Wisdom Daily*, *The Forward*, *Moment Magazine*, prayer books, and anthologies. Rabbi Markus currently holds an Oreach Fellowship for spiritual arts innovation, and recently published his first book, *A Year of Building Torah*.

Among his many educational credentials, Rabbi Markus earned double

ordination as a Rabbi and Spiritual Director from ALEPH, a graduate certificate in Spiritual Entrepreneurship from Columbia Business School, and his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School.

Rabbi Markus is the only full-time judicial official in the U.S. who simultaneously serves as a pulpit clergy. Named a global “innovator in public service” by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Rabbi Markus is a lifelong public servant with 25 years of national, state and local impact leadership, as well as Jewish movement leadership and seminary teaching. For his historic dual secular-spiritual leadership, *Jewish Week* honored Rabbi David with its “36 to Watch” designation for 2022.

While Rabbi Markus officially starts on July 1, the Shir Ami leadership team looks forward to introducing him to the community during a Friday evening Shabbat Service at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich on June 23 at 7:30pm. To learn more about Congregation Shir Ami, Rabbi Markus, and upcoming programs, please visit congregationshirami.org.



Rabbi David Evan Markus

Chabad of Stamford Celebrates Rosh Chodesh



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford celebrated *Rosh Chodesh Iyar* (the first of the new month of *Iyar*) with an evening of learning and inspiration. Rosh Chodesh has long been considered a special holiday for women and Leah Shemtov led a class on women's ability to access their 'inner faith.'

Chai Five Mitzvah Club Entertain Seniors

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Evelina Fleysher plays piano to the seniors at Sunrise Senior Living assisted living facility where the participants also sang songs and played games with the residents bringing cheer and connection.



(l-r): Sunny Sendersky, Natan Warmflash, Evelina Fleysher and Julia Tobin.

Young Israel of Stamford Honors Earth Day

(Courtesy of Young Israel of Stamford) In partnership with the City of Stamford and the Fairfield County Jewish Baseball League, Young Israel of Stamford Youth spearheaded a "Mitzvah Morning" park cleanup in Scalzi Park in honor of Earth Day. So much trash was gathered, making the park better for the whole community.



(l-r) Talia Kohl and Eliana Katz picking up trash in Scalzi Park.

To submit calendar events please visit
UJF.ORG/CALENDAR
Any questions, email
TALY@UJF.ORG



United Jewish Federation
of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County

UJF encourages all community organizations to utilize the community calendar!

UJF Community Calendar Listings for June

JUNE 1 THURSDAY

12:00PM SJFS and UJF Holocaust Survivor Day Lunch
8:00-10:00PM Young Israel Youth Fundraiser

JUNE 8 THURSDAY

6:30PM BCHA 8th Grade "Moving Up" Ceremony

JUNE 15 THURSDAY

6:30PM UJF Communal LIFE & LEGACY Third Annual Celebration

JUNE 3 SATURDAY

9:00AM YIS, Annual Education Panel

JUNE 10 SATURDAY

6:30PM Israeli Dance Class
7:30PM Temple Sinai Ruach Havdalah in Concert

JUNE 20 TUESDAY

7:00PM Chabad Tribute to the Rebbe

JUNE 4 SUNDAY

6:00PM UJF Kuriansky Teen Graduation

JUNE 11 SUNDAY

7:00PM Annual Cantor's Concert at Temple Beth El

JUNE 21 WEDNESDAY

10:30AM UJF Author event with Lisa Belkin
7:00PM UJF JCRC Committee Meeting

JUNE 5 MONDAY

Annual JCC Golf & Tennis Outing
7:30PM BCHA 12th Grade Graduation

JUNE 12 MONDAY

5:00PM UJF dedication of Aaron's Place, a new Kosher Comfort room at Stamford Hospital.

JUNE 23 FRIDAY

7:00PM Chabad Friday Night Live
7:00PM Chabad of Stamford Friday Night Live #5

JUNE 6 TUESDAY

6:00PM BCHA Sports Banquet

JUNE 26 MONDAY

6:30PM Temple Sinai Annual Meeting
7:30PM Temple Sinai Board Meeting

JUNE 7 WEDNESDAY

9:30AM UJF/Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners Year End Volunteer Breakfast
6:30PM UJF Behrend Leadership Meeting
7:30PM Temple Beth El Board of Trustees Meeting

JUNE 14 WEDNESDAY

7:00PM JCC Book & Author Conversation with Heather Cabot
7:30PM Congregation Agudath Sholom Annual Meeting
7:30PM UJF Board Meeting

JUNE 29 THURSDAY

9:00AM UJF Teen Leadership Summer Program-Noded-Day Trip

Bits & Pieces



BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

Sandy Golove

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Alison & David Ash on the birth of a daughter, Charlotte Lily Ash; and to grandparents **Sue & Art Greenwald**.

Rachel Bandler & Moshe Cohen on the birth of a daughter.

Erin & Alex Failaev on the birth of a daughter.

Danielle & Gary Freilich on the birth of a son, Benjamin August Freilich, and to grandparents **Maxine & Jay Freilich**.

Wynd Harris on the birth of a granddaughter, Kiva Jane Harris.

Shira & Yoni Schwartz on the birth of a son.

Ronit & Gary Soffer on the birth of a daughter, Sephirah Aurora Pearl Soffer, and to grandparents **Marilyn & Harry Soffer and Chana & Zeev Genik**.

Nancy & Brad Spaulding on the birth of a grandson, Elias Allen Spaulding.

Allison & Jason Usdin on the birth of a daughter, Zoe Reece Usdin; and to grandparents **Laura Markowitz, Stewart Casper & Victoria deToledo**.

MAZEL TOV TO ENGAGEMENT:

Elissa & Philip Klapper on the engagement of their daughter, **Hannah Klapper** to **Elie Lehmann**, son of **Lisa & Rabbi Daniel Lehmann**.

MAZEL TOV - OTHER:

Peter Ebstein and Stu Madison on being honored for their dedicated volunteering at Stamford Senior Center fundraiser event.

Steve Labkoff on receiving a national level award from the Professional Photographers of America for his photograph "Teach Your Children Well."

Sue Greenberg for her 50 years (17,000 hours) of volunteering for Stamford Health.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Ryan Agovino: son of **Jessica & Adam Agovino**.

Elan Bernstein: son of **Heidi & Evan Bernstein**.

Emma Bernstein: daughter of **Alyssa & Michael Bernstein**.

Brody Boris: son of **Laurie & Eric Bouris**.

Jackson Goichman: son of **Mandy Greenberg and Samuel Goichman**.

Sophie Hager: daughter of **Rachel & Jeremy Hager**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Shoshana Borochoy: grandmother of **Josh Sperber**.

Aaron Cohen: uncle of **Daniel Block**.

Rae Cohen: mother of **Jeff Cohen**.

Harold Ginsberg: father of **Shelley Leibowitz**.

Leo Gold: father **David Gold, Jon Gold and Susan Gold**.

David Heckerling: father of **Jeremy Heckerling**.

Rabbi Meir Hershkowitz of Rosh Yeshiva of Stamford's Beis Binyamin.

Lois Kolodny: mother of **Richard Kolodny and Jodie Simek**.

Hannah Lambert: mother of **Craig Lambert and Debbie Smith**, mother-in-law of **Shari Goodstein**,

and sister of **Joe Goldman**.

Joan Lapin: wife of **Harvey Lapin**; mother of **Susan Lapin, Steven Lapin and Lauren Soloman**; and sister of **Roberta Scheller**.

Harriet N. Malkin: mother of **David Simon, Steven Simon, Jonathan Malkin and Jason Malkin**.

Dr. Estelle Metviner: mother of **Monica Blatt, Alexander Metviner, David Metviner, Jonathan Metviner and Neil Metviner**.

Susan Nabel: wife of **Bill Nabel**, mother of **Hannah Lake and Jake Nabel**; and sister of **Jan Neuberger**.

Richard Silverstein: husband of **Beverly Silverstein** and father of **Stuart Silverstein and Caryn Silverstein**.

Michael Weingarten: husband of **Janet Weingarten**; father of **Nicole Sussman and Matt Weingarten**; and brother of **Barry Weingarten, Howie Weingarten and Martha Weingarten**.

Annabeth Winters: mother of **Bradley Winters and Allison Winters**.

Tribute gifts to Federation

are meaningful ways to celebrate, honor and remember family and friends.

Visit: WWW.UJF.ORG/TRIBUTE



The Hebrew Corner

A Monthly Primer by Robert Abrams,
UJF Education Committee Chair

You have probably heard a word that sounds as if it is from Yiddish - Bahlabuhst. It actually originates from the Hebrew and it is two words long - Bah-ahl HaBayit. And the Hebrew term means a homeowner or, more literally, Master of the House. (I don't know if the music composer of Les Miserables had this thought in mind when he wrote the song of the same name.)

Every reader of this article probably recognizes the word "Bayit" as "House." I would like to focus on the word Bah-ahl, meaning "master" or "owner" and even "husband." The three letter Hebrew root of this word is Bet, Ayin, Lamed. And, as stated, it does mean the "master" of something. For example, we often refer to a Torah reader



Robert Abrams

as a "Bah-Ahl Koh-ray," or a master of the Torah reading.

Now let's change things up a bit. Let's switch the positions of the last two letters of the Hebrew root. Instead of the letter order Bet, Ayin, Lamed, we now have Bet, Lamid, Ayin.

This new ordering yields the word "Bah-LAh." And this word root means to swallow, absorb, devour, destroy, and even confuse.

So, by looking at one word BahAhL - owner or master - and then switching the order of the root letters we get the opposite meaning - Bah-LAh - swallowed, devoured, or destroyed. When we look at any particular situation, we have a choice. We can master that situation or be consumed and swallowed up by it.

A Message from UJF's Community Shaliach Finding Outdoor Adventures with Noded

BY YOAV YARON

With the spring season finally arriving with the month of May, it's hard to believe summer is right around the corner with the start of a new UJF program, Noded, and the opportunity to lead local teens on a six-session outdoor retreat for high school students starting in June.



Yoav Yaron

As registration begins to ramp up for the teen travel summer program, I am quickly reminded about the meaning of Noded ("wanderer") and how a life-time of memories and experiences await.

While recently going on a hike at Bear Mountain in Danbury, I saw a resting butterfly. It was small, with blue wings and a pale color. The butterfly marked a warm welcome to spring as it took flight on its own adventure. Shortly after that, I heard soft buzzing sounds and went to get a closer look. I came across a tall, wide, and strong tree that was standing in the middle of the field with hundreds of pink flowers around it. Among those flowers were countless bees and other insects. I took a big deep breath and just enjoyed the sounds and smells of the great outdoors. Chirping sounds came from all around, from the top of the trees all the way

down to the hiking trail where I stood peacefully.

I couldn't help but stand there for a couple of moments; frozen in time allowing the sunlight to warm up my skin. When I left the woods from my Bear Mountain adventure, I felt different. I felt a bit lighter. I felt relaxed. Nature has a

way of allowing people to connect (or re-connect) with the world around us, while also connecting with ourselves. The Torah says, "...for is the tree of the field man," thus there must be a deeper connection between people and nature. Even back home in Israel, I grew up in a household that values nature. The changing of seasons always bloomed with flowers on the kitchen table, a variety of fruits and vegetables in a bowl, migrating birds, and observing the world around us. As a child, I would go outside to see and explore nature and all that it brings.

This summer with Noded, my hope is that the local teens who join in this adventure will also seek and find happiness outdoors as they explore their Jewish identity and connect with Israeli culture with United Jewish Federation.

I know I will.

Community Lag BaOmer Celebration



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford hosted a community Lag BaOmer celebration with over 200 people enjoying music, a BBQ, toasted marshmallows on the *Medura* (bonfire), a trike-a-thon and a petting zoo.

Young Adults Celebrate Lag BaOmer

(Courtesy of UJF) There's nothing like a community coming together, and that is exactly what happened on an evening in May. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Moishe House

Without Walls, Chabad of Harbor Point, and Jewish Twenties and Thirties (JTT) of Schoke Jewish Family Service, over 30 young adults gathered for a BBQ, bonfire and festivities.



BCHA Hosts Leadership Ceremony

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) On May 8, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) hosted the Nancy z"l and Kamal Haron Center for Leadership Ceremony, as seventh graders were recognized for stepping up as school leaders.

"The Nancy and Kamal Haron Center for Leadership and its culmination ceremony are the brainchild of two of our outstanding faculty members, Beth Fritz and Adrienne Robinson, whose vision and ability to turn great ideas into reality models true leadership within our school," said Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, head of school at BCHA. "The event gives our parents the opportunity to celebrate the many ways that our students have demonstrated leadership during this past school year and to motivate expressions of leadership in the future."

The ceremony began with Rabbi Bernstein welcoming parents and students to the event. After seventh-grader Eliora Wolfe gave a *D'Var Torah* (words of the Torah), upper school student Tamar Links spoke about leadership. Charlie Lastoff, Hannah Tobin, and Yoni Weisser expressed the importance of character, compassion, and *chesed* (lovingkindness), respectively. After a video presentation, Rabbi Bernstein was joined on the podium by middle school principal David Giver and handed each student a gold medal to honor the occasion.

The Center for Leadership, created by fifth-grade teacher Adrienne Robinson and fourth-grade teacher Beth



BCHA seventh grader Emma Gordon receives her medal from Middle School Principal David Giver (left) and Head of School Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein. (ALL PHOTO CREDITS: PAUL SILVERFARB)



BCHA seventh grader Yoni Weisser speaks at the Nancy z"l and Kamal Haron Center for Leadership Ceremony.

Fritz, came out of a genuine interest in helping students realize their potential in BCHA, the community, and the world at large. In addition to creating opportunities with organizations like United Jewish Federation, Schoke Jewish Family Service, Friends of the IDE, and Wheel It Forward, the Nancy z"l and Kamal Haron Center for Leadership hosts three influential alumni speakers throughout the school year for BCHA's eighth graders.

Bi-Cultural Sends Its Eighth Grade Off to Israel

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) May 8th was an exciting day at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, as the eighth graders, along with Director of Judaic Studies Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld, Morah Iris Back, and Director of Curriculum and Staff Development Rachel Haron, left for an



BCHA 8th grade students pack the coach bus prior to leaving for Israel for over two weeks. (ALL PHOTO CREDITS: PAUL SILVERFARB)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Chabad of Stamford's JWC Lag BaOmer "Spa for the Soul"

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) More than 130 women attended Jewish Women Connected's 25th Lag BaOmer Women's "Spa for the Soul" evening of rejuvenation and inspiration. It began with creation and relaxation stations featuring hand massages, clay making, painting, beading, henna painting, healthy food demos and more, and was infused with the style and tastes of Chaya Rapaport (@retrolillies), an Instagram food stylist who designed incredible floral arrangements and edible displays. After a relaxing guided meditation, there was a panel discussion, moderated by CBS NY reporter Shosh Bedrosian, which featured a cross section of dynamic women who shared their stories, what inspires them Jewishly and their top tips for navigating the fast-paced world we live in and the many demands on women today.

Bedrosian shared that what inspires her in Judaism is the desire to be the best person she can be. With this in mind, she is kind to others, takes part in her community, gives *Tzedakah*,

and spreads "*Tikkun Olam*" to those around her.

Karen Karniol-Tambour, co-chief investment officer at Bridgewater Associates, explained how she was inspired in her Judaism by her four Holocaust survivor grandparents. In addition, her daughter at Gan Yeladim has reinspired and reignited the Judaism she had previously taken for granted. She shared that although the "mental load" on working mothers and women in general can be heavy, one tip she has is to always do what makes you joyous and to be "present" with your loved ones.

Another panelist, Dana Horowitz, whose career is in the Jewish nonprofit sector, discussed how she keeps motivated knowing that she is helping to make the world a better place through her work. She also explained how the strength of the Jewish community inspires much of what she does. Dana urged the audience to learn the importance of never 'sweating the small stuff' in life and of taking pride and joy in their work every day.

Local artist, author, retired teacher and professional "*bubbe*" (grandmother), Barbara Ashkenas, also spoke at the event. She shared a moving story about visiting the Soviet Union in the 1970s to meet the "Jews of Silence" who had to practice their religion in hiding. She noted how her rabbi encouraged her to take on one *mitzvah* upon her return that the Jews in Russia could not openly practice, and this inspired her to lead a more Jewish life.

Community member and local physician, Dr. Shara Israel, spoke of the importance of having friends and family you can lean on for support and help. She also discussed the positive impact on children when they see a parent doing what they love to do and giving back to the community.

The importance of community was a theme shared by all the panelists, including



(l-r) Barbara Ashkenas, Stacy Miller, Karen Karniol-Tambour, Jessica Sosnovich, Dana Horowitz, and Dr. Shara Israel lead a panel discussion at Chabad of Stamford's JWC Lag BaOmer "Spa for the Soul" (PHOTO CREDIT: CLIVE SALMON)

Jessica Sosnovich. She spoke movingly about honoring her mother's memory by following in her footsteps to chair her own synagogue's youth department.

Finally, Stacy Miller shared tips on how women need to support each other and to 'normalize' the challenges they face. She also talked about learning from one's children, and that it's okay to embrace not attaining perfection, despite someone's best intentions.

The Importance of Good Home Care

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) "I've fallen, and I can't get up." Most people have seen that commercial. How do you stop that from happening? And if it does, what then? Many may have an image of home care for those recovering from an illness or injury, for individuals who are disabled, or maybe for terminally ill persons in need of medical, nursing, or therapeutic care. However, home care is appropriate for any person who elects to live as independently as possible yet also requires basic help with cooking meals, paying bills, or running errands. Services may be needed part-time, intermittently, hourly, or for 24 hours per day seven days per week.

The Schoke Jewish Family Service Home Companion Program connects clients with carefully screened and trained caregivers.

These caregivers provide personalized, customized support in the comfort of one's own home. Schoke JFS performs criminal background checks, examines references, and ensures satisfactory health screening of care providers. The Schoke JFS Home Companion aides complete a seven-week training course, developed by a licensed social worker.

For decades, Schoke JFS has been providing home care aides for all levels of service, including Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs). Schoke JFS strives to connect clients with the highest quality caregivers at the most affordable cost in Fairfield County.

For more information about the Home Companion Program, or to schedule an in-home assessment, contact Isrella Knopf at 203-921-4162 or iknopf@ctjfs.org.



Home Care Aide Vanessa Butler, Schoke JFS Consultant for Senior Services Joyce Riemer, Home Care Aide Lysa Cannon, and Schoke JFS Director of Senior Services Isrella Knopf.

Bi-Cultural Sends Its Eighth Grade Off to Israel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

experience of a lifetime and traveled to Israel! After packing up the bus, an assembly with Pre-K through seventh grade helped send the eighth graders and

staff members off in style. During that assembly, Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, head of school at BCHA, told the class to enjoy every second of this amazing experience and wished them safe travels.



Just before leaving for their Israel trip, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy 8th graders take the stage in the gym.



The students at BCHA gave the 8th graders traveling to Israel a memorable sendoff.

ChatGPT Spices Up Verticals From Digital Health to Car Sales

Here are the latest Israeli tech companies adding the magic of generative AI to their products.

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN
LEICHMAN/ISRAEL21C

Generative AI is transforming the way we do everything from writing term papers to writing code.

Here in Israel, we're seeing more and more companies incorporating OpenAI's massively popular ChatGPT and DALL-E or similar technologies into their own products.

We reported previously that Mixtiles introduced Daydream to bring the magic of gen AI to custom artwork; Tastewise launched TasteGPT to give food and beverage makers product development insights; and Rakuten Viber added a generative AI Chat & Create chatbot to its traditional messaging app.

D-ID, which uses gen AI to animate videos based on images and text, recently launched a realistic-looking artificially intelligent chatbot using popular generative AI tools like GPT3 and LaMDA.

Now, we can share more new ways gen AI is enhancing Israeli technologies:

1. Digital-health startup Kahun has integrated ChatGPT into its XAI chatbot, which patients use ahead of a medical



Doron Sitbon, founder and CEO at Dot Compliance. (PHOTO BY NATALIA GORJI)

appointment to reduce in-office time spent on assessing conditions.

The bot engages in human-like conversation because it understands both medical jargon and everyday language, even slang.

Eitan Ron, CEO and cofounder of Kahun, said, "In integrating ChatGPT, we're really tapping into

the best of both worlds by merging our clinical-reasoning machine with an LLM [large language model] that can interact with patients and physicians with never-before-seen fluency."

2. Dot Compliance has introduced an industry-first electronic quality management system (eQMS) for life sciences.

It's powered by ChatGPT and proprietary algorithms to optimize quality processes, automate tasks and help quality assurance professionals enhance compliance for pharmaceutical and medical device organizations.

"The life sciences industry has quite rightfully a meticulous, yet painstaking process for stewarding new products to

market. This process must remain as safe and detailed as is required, but it can be made exponentially more efficient," said Doron Sitbon, founder and CEO at Dot Compliance. "We are the first company to introduce generative AI to the quality and compliance space in this way."

3. AI21 Labs, an Israeli startup using generative AI to change the way people read and write, has made its Wordtune generative AI feature, Spices, available on Google Docs through a Chrome extension.

Spices does not replace the writer but rather works alongside a writer, generating textual options to add to and enhance sentences. Spices can also suggest statistics to strengthen an argument or sharpen a detail. Unique among current LLMs, Spices cites the original source of the stats it suggests.

4. Talon Cyber Security has integrated its secure enterprise browser with Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service to provide enterprise-grade ChatGPT access to customers.

"The productivity gains that ChatGPT enables for organizations are too game-

changing for us to not make an enterprise-level version of this easily available to our customers," said Ofer Ben-Noon, cofounder and CEO of Talon.

With the integration, organizations can maintain optimal data protection, keeping data put into ChatGPT within the perimeter and preventing it from transferring to third-party services. When using ChatGPT in Azure OpenAI Service, the organization uses its Azure resources, so sensitive data is not delivered to other locations, improving data security and reducing risk.

5. Fullpath (formerly AutoLeadStar), a customer data and experience platform used by 1,000 dealerships across North America, is launching the first ChatGPT4-powered product tailored specifically for automotive dealership.

Fullpath's AI chat will seamlessly integrate with dealership data sources like CRMs, inventory feeds, and car specials so shoppers can interact with the chat in the most sophisticated way. Over 500 North American dealerships signed up for the waitlist to implement Fullpath's Chat GPT4 solution upon its full release.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BCHA Gets Festive for Yom Ha'Atzmaut

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) In April, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut in style. Morah Maytal Lerner and BCHA's Israeli emissaries Shira Elbanz and Hadar Perez, planned a fun-filled day that began with a school-wide assembly and all-student photograph

to honor Israel's 75th birthday. The students enjoyed a falafel lunch outside and participated in various fun activities... from making pickles and chocolate balls to bracelets and art projects, Israeli dancing, Tzahal (Israeli army) training exercises, eating freshly made pita, and so much more!



CONGREGATION
Shir
Ami

Congregation Shir Ami Warmly Welcomes
Our New Spiritual Leader
Rabbi David Evan Markus

Come meet Rabbi David at one of our upcoming services this summer:

- June 23rd - Friday Shabbat Service in our lovely chapel in Greenwich
- July 28th - Friday Shabbat by the Sea Service at Tod's Point
- August 18th - Friday Shabbat by the Sea Service at Tod's Point, & Rosh Chodesh Elul / Hallel-Dance Party

We have an exciting year ahead at Shir Ami and we invite you to join us as we worship, learn, sing, and celebrate together!

To learn more about Rabbi Markus and Shir Ami, please visit www.CongregationShirAmi.org



United Jewish Federation
The New Jewish Voice
2009 Summer St., Suite 301
Stamford, CT 06905

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



**United Jewish
Federation**

of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County

Celebrating
50
YEARS

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 7TH

**Federation is Celebrating
its 50th Anniversary!**

Recognizing the leadership of former UJF Executive Directors
and community members, Sheila Romanowitz and Edith Samers
and celebrating the future of our Jewish community!

EVENT CHAIRS:

Stephne & Kerrin Behrend, Arlene & Carl Rosen,
and Tara & Richard Shapiro

MORE INFORMATION TO COME!