



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Finding Ways to Engage Congregants Despite Social Distancing

BY LARRY STOOGENKE (TEMPLE SINAI) AND JAMI FENER (TEMPLE BETH EL)

As both Temple Beth El and Temple Sinai endured the pandemic over the past year, the need to find creative ways to engage members became even more compelling. Temple Sinai launched Sinai Circles last March; after hearing about this initiative and collaborating with them, TBE followed suit to form their own version, called TBE Clubs. Both programs aim to connect small groups of congregants in meaningful activities and provide a path for members to

pursue their passions and find new friends within the synagogue community. Run by members themselves, these small groups have proven to be a valuable way to connect even during the pandemic.

Temple Sinai has 16 active Sinai Circles, with 150 members currently enrolled. The variety of Circles is vast ranging from activity-based (such as Pilates), to social (including reliving Grateful Dead concerts), to contemplative (meditation) and topical (race relations). Carly Dorman who leads

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Embrace Spring and Community at UJF Women's Dinner

BY NANCY SCHULMAN

United Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy is bringing community women together outside this year for its annual Spring Dinner being held at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. The event will take place on Wednesday, June 2nd (rain date June 3rd) at 6:30 pm and will feature guest speaker Jean Chatsky speaking on "The Judgement Free Guide to Creating the Joyful, Less Stressed Purposeful (and Yes Rich) Life you Deserve". In addition, Arielle Eden, a Stamford native (aka Arielle Freedberg



Jean Chatsky,
guest speaker



Arielle Eden,
guest performer

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The Importance of Family Stories

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

United Jewish Federation's Grandparents Group will hold a virtual program on Tuesday, June 29th at 7pm featuring Marshall P. Duke who will speak on "The Importance and Impact of Passing on

Family Stories." The program is open to the entire community and will provide helpful insights for parents (and grandparents) with children both young and old.

Duke is a professor at Emory University who is interested in personality theory,

family relationships and storytelling. During the program, he will talk about the importance of passing on family stories to kids and grandkids, touching on his research through Emory University on the Holocaust and September 11th. Duke has found that

how you tell family stories and the mix of stories you tell can create an emotional reserve for younger generations as they face their own challenges, while also helping to

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PJ Library and Bi-Cultural Field Day Fun

United Jewish Federation's PJ Library and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) joined forces for a Field Day Fun program on a blustery day in March. Kids had a chance to run, play games, exercise, and see friends on the field at BCHA. For some kids and parents, this was the first in-person social program they had attended since last March.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Athletic Director, Coach Stefan Driehuizen, facilitated the field day games.



Field Day participants receive BCHA frisbees.

From UJF's Chief Executive Officer Acts of Kindness

As we finish a year of isolation, both physical and emotional, kindness and the need for "Ahavat Israel", love of a people, has never been more important. Love people, not things... With so many we love and long to be with kept at a distance, COVID-19, has taught us all the profound impact people and love have on us each and every day.

Both random and intentional acts of kindness have never been needed more, with so many of us feeling isolated, lonely, and depressed.

From the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation website, here are some of my favorites that are easy to do while staying socially distant:

- Send a positive text message to five different people right now.

- Call a neighbor and check in.

- Donate old towels or blankets to a shelter.

- Surprise a neighbor with freshly baked cookies or treats!

- Leave unused coupons next to corresponding products in the grocery store.

- Send a gratitude email to a coworker who deserves more recognition.

- Give away stuff for free on online marketplaces.

- Find opportunities to give compliments. It costs nothing, takes no time, and could make someone's day.



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

- Email or write to a former teacher who made a difference in your life.

- Take a friend's baby for a walk.

Meaningful gestures have meant a great deal throughout this past year and will continue to impact people's lives.

United Jewish Federation's 3SQUARE, Dignity Grows and Reading Partners programs have continued to make a meaningful difference throughout

our community. Federation was here yesterday, is here today...and we pray we can be here for the many tomorrows, no matter what the future brings - good or bad!

United Jewish Federation, a structured organized Jewish communal convener, has not only allowed for these impactful programs to continue but is providing a safety net for our community in its deepest time of need. Over \$500,000 was collected and distributed to local agencies and synagogues to help with COVID-19 relief, scholarships and much more. And throughout this pandemic, UJF continued to lead the community's Life & Legacy program, which, as it nears the end of year one, has secured over seven million dollars to date to impact the long-term health of our Jewish community.

Although we may not know what our "tomorrows" look like, with your continued help and financial support of UJF, we will stand strong and be there for our community.

When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get Giving

BY AMY HIRSHBERG LEDERMAN

Amy will be the keynote speaker at UJF's Year One Life & Legacy Celebration to be held on June 23rd. (see ad on page 10)

For more than a year, COVID-19 has limited our life choices; it has inhibited and in most cases, prevented, our prior, uninhibited ability to spend time with family, friends and colleagues. We sheltered in place while yearning for the simplest of activities: shopping, going to work, going out to dinner or the movies. We struggled to "feel" close in times of grief

and sorrow as well as occasions of joy. Yet for my 95 year old mother, COVID-19 did less to restrict her world than the years and infirmities that have accompanied nine decades of living.

Most of Mom's friends are gone and my father, just three months shy of his 100th birthday, died two years ago. But while Mom is wheelchair bound, her mind is impressively agile. And while her physical mobility wanes, her capacity to offer guidance, inspiration and wisdom increases.

One such moment came when Mom confided that she wanted to make a difference in her final years. We were sitting on the couch, her fragile body leaning into mine when she told me: "I want to give more, to make a difference in this troubled world - for my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. There are so many people who desperately need our help to maintain dignity and a secure life."

She paused for a moment and then added: "It's part of being human, you know



Amy Hirshberg Lederman

- to want to give from the heart. And it's important to figure out what means the most to you and why."

I was stunned. Mom's wisdom perfectly articulated the foundation of philanthropic giving: it's all about identifying your values and priorities and wanting to make the world a better place.

In my previous work as a Legacy Consultant for the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona, I saw first-hand the impact of thoughtful philanthropic giving. I watched our community benefit from the endowments and gifts of people who cared about issues ranging from Jewish education and Israel to social justice, climate change and the arts.

Giving requires some soul searching: How much should we give? How do we prioritize our donations? Should we support Jewish organizations over secular ones? Should we give now or wait until we die?

The Jewish tradition doesn't speak in terms of charity. Rather, we take our

marching orders from the mitzvah of Tzedakah, or righteousness in Hebrew. Tzedakah is the hand-maiden to Tik-kun Olam, the Jewish obligation to repair the world. Together, they form a call to action, to consciously distribute a part of what we have to care for others. We don't give because it feels good (although it does feel good.) We give because we're Jews.

We give in concentric circles: starting with our own family and community and then expanding out into the larger world, which includes Jews and non-Jews alike. The Talmud specifically recognizes that any needy person who lives peacefully with us is worthy of charity.

During our lives we will undoubtedly have times when our ability to give may be restricted. And yet it is times like now - when COVID-19 has ravaged our economy and caused a global health crisis unparalleled to anything we have ever known, that Jewish tradition requires us to step up and make a difference.

No matter how much or how little we have, the beauty of tzedakah is that it is an 'equal opportunity mitzvah.' As our sages taught: "To the one who is eager to give, God provides the means."

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

April 23	7:25 pm
April 30	7:32 pm
May 7	7:40 pm
May 14	7:47 pm
May 21	7:53 pm
May 28	7:59 pm
June 4	8:05 pm
June 11	8:09 pm
June 18	8:11 pm
June 25	8:13 pm



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JCC Gala Celebrates Reopening and Honors Anne Liss Johnson

(Courtesy of JCC) At its spring gala, Coming Home, scheduled on Wednesday, June 9, The Stamford Jewish Community Center will celebrate its grand reopening to the community, welcoming The JCC Sara Walker Nursery School to its Newfield campus and awarding The Arlene & Irwin Ettinger Legacy Award to Anne Liss Johnson.

The gala will be a celebration of the full reopening of the Newfield Avenue campus and its programs after a year of interruptions because of the pandemic. At the gala, guests will have the opportunity to tour the JCC's brand new multipurpose classroom wing, which will allow for expanded community programs and The JCC Sara Walker Nursery School to be brought to The Stamford JCC. The new wing will also be home to a new infant childcare room and will serve the KidsPlace, Inclusion, Day Camps @The J, and general membership communities throughout the year.

Anne Liss Johnson, Associate Executive Director, will be presented with The Arlene & Irwin Ettinger Legacy Award for her service to The JCC and the broader community. Anne first came to The JCC in 1997 as



Anne Liss Johnson, recipient of The Arlene & Irwin Ettinger Legacy Award.

the SummerPlace Director and the Traditions on Wheels Director. Anne was instrumental in starting the "What A Production" summer theater program and the CIT program, and developed new camp electives.

Anne then transitioned to the role of Managing Director of Early Childhood, overseeing all birth to 5 year old programs. At that time, Anne was a key person in bringing the JumpStart program to

The JCC. Soon after, she spearheaded the build of The JCC's boundless playground. In 2008, Anne became the Director of The JCC Sara Walker Nursery School. During her time at the school, many new programs have been implemented including the Jewish values curriculum, expanded parent and family programs, the creation of a full day Pre-K program, and much more. In 2019, Anne was named Associate Executive Director of The JCC, overseeing The Center for Early Learning. Anne was the catalyst for the establishment of The Stamford JCC Preschool at Greenwich Reform Synagogue, now in its second year. Most recently, Anne served on the committee to bring The JCC Sara Walker Nursery School to the JCC campus, integral to making sure that The JCC continues to meet every child and family where they are while having a successful experience.

In addition to her work at The JCC, Anne is an active volunteer in the Stamford community. She has held leadership roles at several schools, served on the board and various committees at Temple Sinai, and she currently serves on the Bennett Cancer Center's Paint the Town Pink Committee.

The gala will be held outdoors at The Stamford JCC at 6:30 p.m. and will feature cocktails and dinner. Dietary laws will be observed.

Jenny Fishman and Jeannie Kriftcher will serve as event chairpersons.

Visit www.stamfordjcc.org for ticket and journal reservations. For more information, contact Shannon Jacobs at 203.487.0965 or sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

The deadlines for the next issues of

The New Jewish Voice are:

Summer Edition: May 3rd

Rosh Hashana: July 30th

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.

Cantor's Concert at TBE to Feature Nefesh Mountain

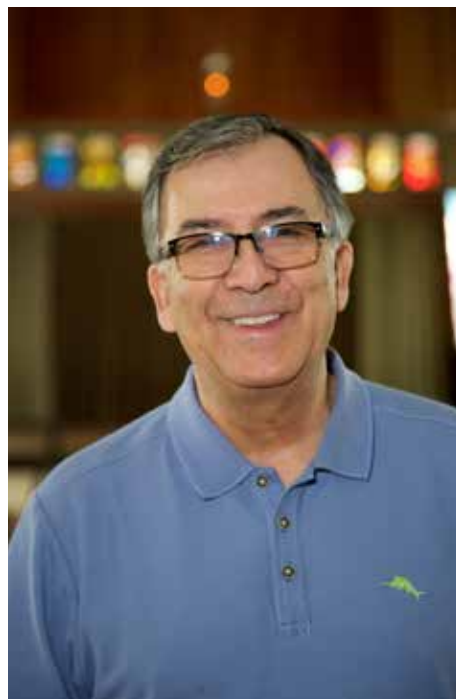
(Courtesy of TBE) Temple Beth El's 2021 Norma and Milton Mann Memorial Cantor's Concert will be held on Sunday, May 2 at 7:00pm. This year's concert, on Zoom, entitled "Telling Our Stories through Song" will feature Nefesh Mountain and TBE Cantorial Soloist Katie Kaplan. Temple Beth El is also pleased to honor Alberto Eyzaguirre, maintenance supervisor at TBE, for his 47 years of service.

Nefesh Mountain is the place where Bluegrass, Old-Time, and American Roots music meet with Jewish heritage and tradition. Creators, band leaders and husband and wife team Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg are the heart of this eclectic offering, pioneering a new world of American culture which seamlessly blends their deep love for American and Western musical forms with their own cultural backgrounds as Jewish Americans.

Nefesh Mountain has been featured in Rolling Stone, BBC World News, Billboard, The Bluegrass Situation, No Depression, Bluegrass Today, Bluegrass Unlimited, The Times of Israel, Jerusalem Post, and Tablet Magazine among others.

Honoree Alberto Eyzaguirre was born in Chile on December 19, 1949. Because his siblings were part of the Student Exchange Program, he heard wonderful things about the United States. He decided to find out about it for himself and came to this country on November 22, 1970. He never looked back.

Alberto came to Beth El because he heard there was a need for someone to help at the new building on Roxbury Road. Al Golin, z'l, Herb Kahan, z'l, David Lapine,



Alberto Eyzaguirre (CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER)

z'l, Frank Rosner, z'l Rabbi Alex Goldman z'l and Hazzan Sidney Rabinowitz interviewed him. He was asked to try the job for two weeks and he has stayed on for 47 years.

Alberto and his wife Patty have been married since 1978. Their son Daniel is 27 years old. They celebrated Daniel's birth at TBE.

The concert is sponsored by the Mann Family in loving memory of Norma and Milton Mann, z'l.

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Honest Tea Founder to Speak at UJF's Rothschild Event

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

On Wednesday evening, May 5th, Barry Nalebuff will speak at United Jewish Federation's Rothschild virtual program entitled "Split the Pie: A Radical New Way To Negotiate (Based On The Talmud)." Nalebuff is the Milton Steinbach Professor at the Yale School of Management, author, and co-founder of Honest Tea, Kombrewcha, and Maker Oats. Dr. Ilan Fogel will moderate the program. Nalebuff will talk about the art of negotiating fairly and effectively in business and in everyday life.

"Split the pie" is a principled approach to negotiation and will change the way one understands power and fairness in negotiation. This theory will help professionals (as well as the general public) become more principled

and effective negotiators in business and everyday life. Professor Nalebuff will also touch on his experiences starting the Honest Tea Company and other product ventures.

Professor Nalebuff is an expert on game theory and has written extensively on its application to business strategy. He is the author/co-author of seven books: Thinking Strategically and The Art of Strategy are two popular books on game theory with over 400,000 copies in print. Co-opetition looks beyond zero-sum games to



Barry Nalebuff, a Yale business professor and founder of Honest Tea.

emphasize the potential for cooperating as well as competing. Why Not? provides a framework for problem solving and ingenuity. Lifecycle Investing introduces a new strategy for retirement investing. Mission in a Bottle provides lessons for entrepreneurs and tells the story of Honest Tea in graphic format. "Split the Pie" is his forthcoming book on negotiation, and the subject of the Rothschild program.

Program committee member Lisa Linzer, of L & S Reality, gave her thoughts

on the upcoming Rothschild program: "We are fortunate to host such an accomplished teacher and businessman. As a professional who uses negotiation skills every day, I look forward to hearing new ideas and strategies, especially those that touch on Jewish ideas." Other committee members include Andrew Bein, Judith Bernstein, Shira Gilboa, Caryn Halbrecht, Liat Kochavi, Claudia Kraut, Gail Sheffler, Simeon Wolberg, and Ari Yasgar.

The Rothschild Society is a UJF business affinity group focused on educational, leadership, and networking opportunities with the objective of benefiting both the local and global Jewish communities. The program is open to all in the community, and attendance is free. Register by going to www.ujf.org/pie or contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org/203-321-1373 ext. 109.

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Spring Youth Programs at Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford is excited to offer the community several exciting youth opportunities for the spring semester.

For kids age birth to three, "Tiny Treasures Mommy and Me" classes are back each Thursday morning at 9:30am at Chabad of Stamford on 770 High Ridge Road. All classes are held outdoors with social distancing, with music, singing, snacks, story and challah baking.

Thanks to a generous grant from the United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, Chabad of Stamford is thrilled to offer children from pre-K through 7th grade an opportunity to experience a fun after-school program free of charge for the rest of the school year. Chabad Kid's Club (CKC) will start on

April 21st from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and run each Wednesday for six weeks. The CKC Open House and end-of-year event will be on Wednesday, May 26th.

Lastly, Chabad's Bat Mitzvah Club will meet twice this spring on Sunday, April 25th at 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, May 23rd at 5:00 p.m. Chabad's Bat Mitzvah Club is designed to teach girls about many relevant

issues facing young Jewish women today in a fun, informative and interactive way. The girls have an opportunity to meet other Jewish girls the same age and through art, community outreach and thought-provoking discussions, they can learn, discuss and debate, all while having loads of fun!

To sign up for any of these programs please email programs@stamfordchabad.org

Grow You! Financial Education from Schoke JFS

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Save the date for a Grow You! Financial Education Workshop from Schoke Jewish Family Service. Susan Greenwald, a current board member of Schoke JFS and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker/Nursing Home Administrator, will discuss information on enrolling in the Medicaid program. The presentation will take place on Thursday, April 29th at 12 p.m. on Zoom. This program is funded in part by a Southwest CT Agency on Aging (SWCAA) grant.

Please bring all your questions to the session. To register to attend, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky, Schoke JFS Case Management Director, at 203-921-4161 or email at rkanevsky@ctjfs.org

Achieve Happiness With JFS Lecture Series

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Join Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:30 pm to complete the series of talks in the Saul Cohen-Schoke JFS Lecture Series. Recognizing the challenges of the difficult times experienced by all due to the pandemic, the 9th Annual Saul Cohen-Schoke Jewish Family Service Lecture is a series of three online presentations by prominent authors focusing on how to "recover, recharge and rejoice" while adapting to the new normal created by COVID-19.

As the keynote speaker in the three-part series, Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar, co-founder of the Happiness Studies Academy, speaks about Happiness: How to live an inspired life. After graduating from Harvard with a BA in Philosophy and Psychology and a PhD in Organizational Behavior, Ben Shahar taught two of the most popular courses in Harvard's history: Positive Psychology and The Psychology of Leadership and taught Happiness Studies at Columbia University. He is an international, best-selling author whose books have been translated into more than 25 languages.

The lecture is a gift, offered at no cost to the community, through the generosity of Mimi Cohen and Saul Cohen, of blessed memory. The series this year is co-sponsored by UJA/JCC Greenwich, Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield



Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar

County and the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and in partnership with the Jewish Book Council. The committee to organize the Saul Cohen-Schoke JFS Lecture is chaired by Michael and Betsy Stone.

Dr. Ben-Shahar talks about how to live an inspired life and achieve happiness and rejoice in life when the circumstances are challenging. His presentation will leave viewers with a positive attitude.

For details about this program, please contact Leah Schechter at 203-921-4161 or email at lschechter@ctjfs.org. Please visit www.ctjfs.org/saul-cohen-jfs-lecture for more details about this year's unique lecture series format.

Celebrating Lag B'Omer with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad is excited to welcome the Stamford community to three special events to celebrate the holiday of Lag B'Omer.

On Thursday April 29th at 4:30pm the annual Family BBQ and Trike-a-thon will be held. Please join Chabad for this special pre-Lag B'Omer event which promises fun, music, games and food. Enjoy a great time for the entire family with hot dogs, hamburgers plus marshmallows roasted in the bonfire. Kids under 5 are encouraged to bring their trikes for a Trike-a-thon in the back parking lot at Chabad of Stamford on 770 High Ridge Road. This event is free with sponsorship opportunities.

On the evening of Lag B'Omer there will be a special women's celebration hosted by Chabad's Jewish Women Connected. JWC will host a "by the fire" Lag B'Omer celebration where they will enjoy a bonfire, drum circle and roasted and toasted snacks. The event is on Thursday, April 29th at 7:45PM at a private home in Stamford.

The celebrations continue on Friday, April 30th at 5:30pm outdoors at 770 High Ridge Road where Chabad again invites the community to join them for a pre-Shabbat celebration.

For more information on all these events please email programs@stamfordchabad.org or call (203) 324-2223 x 103

Schoke JFS Begins Citizenship Course in May

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke JFS will be offering a four-week course, beginning in May 2021, to non-citizens to help to prepare them for the United States Citizenship examination. Some of the topics will include but not be limited to United States history, civics, United States government systems and Constitutional information.

This program is funded by a grant from a Citizenship contract from the Department of Social Security, in partnership with the

Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT). JFACT is funded by and serves as a legislative representative for the seven Connecticut Jewish Federations, including United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

If you have any questions or know someone who might be interested in attending the course, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky, Schoke JFS Case Management Director, at 203-921-4161 or email at rkanevsky@ctjfs.org.

Agudath Sholom Dinner Honors COVID First Responders

Congregation Agudath Sholom's annual festive dinner will honor seven congregants who are COVID first responders, including five frontline physicians and two firefighters. The event will be held on Sunday, May 23rd, at 5:00pm, both in-person under the synagogue's outdoor tent and also virtually for those at home.

The honorees are emergency medicine

physicians Dr. Jason Fischel and Dr. Sam Maryles, anesthesiologist Dr. Eric Jankelovits, pediatric hospitalist Dr. Rachel (Biller) Redlich, pulmonologist Dr. Steven Thau, and volunteer firefighters Michal Cohen and Max Maron.

For further information, please see www.cas-stamford.org, or call the Congregation Agudath Sholom office, 203-358-2200.



Top (l-r) Dr. Sam Maryles, Dr. Jason Fischel, Max Maron, Dr. Steven Thau
Bottom (l-r) Michal Cohen, Dr. Rachel (Biller) Redlich, Dr. Eric Jankelovits

Stamford JCC's JTalks with Fran Pastore



Fran Pastore
(CREDIT: WWW.CTWBDC.ORG)



Myrna Sessa
(CREDIT: WWW.HRINNOVATIONS.COM)

(Courtesy of JCC) The JCC invites the community to the upcoming JCC JTalk featuring Fran Pastore, Founder and CEO of the Women's Business Development Council. Myrna Sessa will facilitate the conversation on Tuesday, May 4, at 7:30 pm on Zoom.

Fran Pastore is a pioneer in the women's entrepreneurial ecosystem. As the Founder and CEO of the Women's Business Development Council, the leading organization championing female entrepreneurship, Fran is a globally recognized expert on the issue of women's economic equality.

Domestically, Fran has been instrumental in the passage of legislation benefiting women entrepreneurs, providing numerous testimonies before the U.S. Congress. She has served on the National Women's Business

Council, as an independent source of counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration. Most recently, Fran was appointed as Vice Chair of the State of Connecticut Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority Board of Directors.

Globally, in partnership with the US Department of State, The Business Council for Peace and the University of Connecticut, Fran's influence has been exemplified through her direct work with women entrepreneurs in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Costa Rica and Turkey.

Myrna Sessa is the Founder and Principal of HR Innovations based in Stamford.

For more information or to register, visit stamfordjcc.org or contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Honor Our Veterans for Memorial Day

BY MARCIE SCHOENFELD

May brings spring flowers, Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Please join the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County virtually on Sunday, May 2nd at 10 a.m. to honor our Jewish Veterans.

The program will feature a virtual tour of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, DC, which commemorates and preserves the services and sacrifices of Jewish Americans in the Armed Forces. The tour will be introduced by Lt Col (Retired) Sheldon A. Goldberg, Ph.D. Dr. Goldberg is the Commander of the Greenberg-Lerner Post 692 (Jewish War Veterans) in Silver Spring, MD. He is a docent at the National

Museum. A question and answer session will follow the virtual tour.

According to LTC (Retired) David Kaplan, "The legacies of the men and women who served in the American Military Services are an important chapter in American Jewish History from the time of America's founding to the present. Their stories deserve to be told and heard."

The program is co-sponsored by Fred Robbins Post 142 (JWV, Stamford), Steve Fischer, Commander.

This program is free and open to the public. Veterans and their families will especially enjoy this presentation. Look for the Zoom link on the JHSFC website (<http://jhsfc-ct.org>). For more information, call (203) 359-2196.

Jewish Community Relations Council Update

BY SHARON LEWIS,
JCRC DIRECTOR

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is the public affairs arm of the United Jewish Federation. Its mission is to represent the interests of the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish communities to public officials and agencies, the media and the larger community. We convene and mobilize the Jewish community, build relationships with and beyond the Jewish community, and engage in non-partisan work focusing on education, advocacy, social justice, communal security, support for Israel and combating antisemitism.

Joshua Esses has become the new chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Committee. Josh, a Stamford native, is an attorney at Proskauer Rose and recently ran for Connecticut State Senate, losing a close race to Patricia Billie Miller. Josh succeeds long-time JCRC chair Peter Lilienthal who has recently become the President of the Jewish Historical Society of



Sharon Lewis

Fairfield County. Josh and Peter are working towards a smooth transition so that the JCRC can continue its mission as the public affairs arm of United Jewish Federation and to build bridges within and between communities. Welcome

Josh and we look forward to your leadership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In furtherance of the JCRC goals this year, the committee will work with the Interfaith Council of South Western CT (IFC) and Mayor's Multicultural Committee (MMC) to celebrate the diversity of our city during a Walk for Unity in our Community on August 29th. The walk, chaired by Linda Spilka, is an opportunity for everyone in our community to join in a non-political, non-denominational event to promote unity, friendship and peace. Participants are invited to walk together (location to be determined) and then to gather for a music and food festival near the walk. Please watch your

email for further details on this exciting event and contact Sharon Lewis (slewis@ujf.org) if you want to be involved.

JCRC will also work with the Interfaith Council and Mayor's Multicultural Committee to establish a community reading program called Building Bridges with Books. In partnership with the Ferguson Library, a committee will identify a book for everyone in the city to read. We will then join for an event in January to discuss the book. If successful, we hope this can become an annual event.

Another area of JCRC work is educating our community on diverse matters and this spring we will host two panel discussions to increase our social media savvy and security. During the pandemic, social media platforms were even more integral as a means of staying connected to others. However, there is also a dark side to social media in that these platforms can be breeding grounds for identity theft, scams and hate speech. Watch your emails for information about the two virtual panel discussions that JCRC will host on May 3rd and 11th (see ad on page 7). Learn how to protect



United Jewish Federation and UJA-JCC joined together for a communal Yom HaShoah program with guest speaker Peter Somogyi, who was interviewed by journalist Shushannah Walshe.

ourselves, our children and our parents on social media and how to deal with hate speech.

YOM HASHOAH

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan & Darien, JCRC and UJA/JCC Greenwich worked together on a community virtual Yom HaShoah Commemoration on April 8th. The evening featured a moving and poignant

interview of survivor Peter Somogyi by Shushannah Walshe. Although participants were remote, the intensity of the strength in our community was palpable. Thank you to all who worked to make the evening so meaningful.

The JCRC Committee meets every other month and welcomes your involvement. If you would like to learn more, please contact Sharon Lewis (slewis@ujf.org).

Finding Ways to Engage Congregants Despite Social Distancing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Pilates Circle, said "This has been an incredible opportunity for me to not only share my expertise but to foster an environment where our Circle can really get to know each other intimately. We all look forward to sharing that sacred time together, especially during the pandemic, and I have seen the Circle participants grow together in very personal ways." The diversity of the Circles is designed to mirror the varied interests of the congregation and they are all designed to cultivate meaningful connections. If a congregant does not find a fit, they have the option of creating their own Circle. Temple Sinai will be launching a whole new set of Circles later this year.

TBE has had a successful launch of Clubs including a hiking and walking club, a group for musicians, a club for theatre and film lovers, and a support group for those dealing with grief or loss. TBE STEMers, run by Fran Ginsburg, meets monthly on Zoom. As a retired obstetrician-gynecologist, Fran wanted to create a club for TBE members interested in the field of science. The club discusses topics of interest, and members present on

individual areas in which they specialize. The Club also plans to organize lectures and speakers for the congregation. The first meeting was held in January and the featured topic was infertility in the Bible. When asked about how she came up with this idea, Ginsburg said, "I had met so many great congregants and was astounded how little I knew about their lives outside TBE... the response has been enthusiastic, and we are very excited about our potential."

Sinai Circles and TBE Clubs have provided a safe space to nurture authentic connections and build community during a particularly challenging time. These groups not only deepen relationships within their small cohorts but will also allow those who participate to feel a greater sense of belonging and to find their place in the greater congregation.

If you are interested in learning more about the Circles and Clubs you can reach out to Larry Stoogenke, Director of Congregational Engagement at Temple Sinai at Larry@templesinaistamford.org or Jami Fener, Engagement Coordinator at Temple Beth El at Engagement@tbe.org.

Embrace Spring and Community at UJF Women's Dinner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Prager), will perform live during the dinner portion of the event.

The evening is chaired by Robin Fischel, Jill Kaplan and Nancy Schulman, and the fundraising auction is chaired by Allison Greenbaum and Toby Lazarus of Stamford, and Pam Horne of New Canaan. For those interested, Zoom participation is welcome.

Jean Chatzky is the CEO of HerMoney.com and host of the podcast HerMoney With Jean Chatzky. The financial editor of NBC Today for 25 years and the Financial Ambassador for AARP, she appears frequently on CNN, MSNBC and was a recurring guest on The Oprah Winfrey Show. She is a New York Times and Wall Street Journal best-selling author. Her latest book is Women with Money: The Judgment-Free Guide to Creating the Joyful, Less Stressed, Purposeful (and Yes, Rich) Life You Deserve. An in-demand motivational speaker and fierce advocate for financial literacy, in 2015, she partnered with the PwC Charitable Foundation and Time for Kids to launch Your \$, an in-school magazine that reaches 2 million school children each month. More at JeanChatzky.com and @JeanChatzky.

Guests will enjoy pre-packaged dinners along with live music, wine tasting, crafts and the Tricky Tray and Silent Auctions. The program featuring Jean Chatzky will follow at 7:30 pm.

"I am so excited to be co-chairing the Women's Spring Dinner with Nancy Schulman and Jill Kaplan," says Robin Fischel, event co-chair. "After this past year, I'm thrilled to be a part of this OUTDOOR and in-person evening that is sure to be social, yet socially distant, and inspiring. The location is SUPERB. Some wine tasting, inspirational speaker, and good friends, finally seen not through a computer screen. What can be better?"

Co-chair Jill Kaplan agrees, "This year's Women's Philanthropy Spring Dinner is not to be missed. This is a great way to kick off Spring and a return to a somewhat "normal" existence. I know I speak for many of us when I say that I am really looking forward to being out, socializing in person and learning something new from Jean Chatzky."

Attendees are required to wear masks and follow social distancing protocols, and are asked to self-monitor their health. The Stamford Nature Center is located at 151 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford. Tickets are \$95 through May 21st, \$125 after, and \$360 for Event Sponsor. "Tricky Tray" raffle/auction tickets are available now at \$72 for 100 tickets, \$54 for 65 tickets and \$36 for 36 tickets. All ticket packages will be \$10 more at the event. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.ujf.org/Spring21 or contact Diane Sloyer @dianesloyer@ujf.org/ (203) 321-1373. Ext. 105.

Social Media Savvy and Safety

Monday, May 3rd, 7pm

Social Media plays an ever-increasing role in our lives, keeping people connected and informed. But, social media also has a dark and dangerous side where scams are perpetrated, identities stolen and nefarious influences insinuate themselves into our lives and homes. Learn the tools to protect yourselves, your children and your parents. **Register: ujf.org/socialmedia**



Marc Berkman
CEO, Organization for
Social Media Safety

Brad Orsini
Senior National Security
Advisor, Secure
Communities Network (SCN)

Chris Dunning
VP IT, Chief Security
Officer for cxLoyalty

Hate Speech In a Free Speech Society

Tuesday, May 11th, 7pm

Hate speech on social media platforms has increased and has a pernicious effect on our society. It sows dissension and mistrust and begins to wear away the social fabric. Posts promoting antisemitism, holocaust denial and white supremacy have increased markedly in recent years in overt and covert ways. Hate speech is often hidden in seemingly innocuous rhetoric and code words. Learn what can be done and how to respond while balancing the Constitutional right to free speech.

Register: ujf.org/hatespeech



Aryeh Tuchman
Anti-Defamation League,
Senior Associate Director,
Center on Extremism

Amy Feinman
Northeast Area
Civil Rights Counsel,
Anti-Defamation League

Zoe Katz
Israel Action Network, Fellow,
The Jewish Federations of
North America

Paul Berger Elected President of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

BY JUDIE JACOBSON

Dr. Paul Berger of Stamford has been elected president of the Board of Directors of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut, announced outgoing BCHA Board President David Pitkoff.

In addition to Berger, other new members of the BCHA Board include vice presidents Dan Haron, Greg Teitel and Linda Russ, Board treasurer David Zizmor and Board secretary Meredith Cohen.

"Dr. Berger is one of the true gadols [greats] of our school having previously served as president of the Board," said Mr. Pitkoff in a letter to the BCHA community. "His leadership and commitment to the mission of our school is unparalleled."

"BCHA is very fortunate to have a long history of brilliant, caring and dedicated Board presidents who have contributed great amounts of time and all of their talents to ensure that BCHA accomplishes its mission to provide an excellent Judaic and general studies education to the children of our community and the greater Fairfield County and Westchester County region" said Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, who currently serves as dean of BCHA and will take over as interim head of school in June, when Jackie Herman retires.

"Dr. Berger has already distinguished himself as such an individual when he first served as president from 2006-2010, [when] I was privileged to serve under him as a member of the Board of Directors. I am excited that I will once again have the opportunity to benefit from his very capable leadership," Rabbi Bernstein continued.

A native of Providence, R.I., Paul Berger and his wife, Dina, moved to Westport from New York in 1979. The couple moved to

Stamford following his retirement in 2010 from Bridgeport Hospital, where he served for 30 years as chief of oncology. The Bergers' daughter and two sons are BCHA alumni, now married and with families of their own.

Dr. Berger has remained an active member of the Board. So when the school asked him to again serve as president, he didn't hesitate.

"It's an interesting time. ... A difficult time for day schools, specifically in terms of cost and trying to make day school education available to as many people as possible without sacrificing the quality of the education," he said.

Still, he pointed out, "A lot of people from New York are moving to Stamford [in search of] a better quality of life. So, it's an opportunity to make things grow."

He looks forward to working with Rabbi Bernstein, as well as Rachel Haron, currently principal of the BCHA Lower School, who will take on the role of interim associate head of school.

"We were looking for the right person and we had a very talented person in Tzvi Bernstein," says Dr. Berger. "He's exceptionally smart. He gave up a successful law career to dedicate his time to Jewish education. We're lucky to have him —and Rachel [Haron] as well. She's a wonderful person and so very talented."

Dr. Berger calls his predecessor, David Pitkoff, "The best president Bi-Cultural has ever had" and "a special, special man."

Likewise, Mr. Pitkoff feels confident the school remains in good hands.

Says Mr. Pitkoff: "We are thrilled to have such an amazing and talented group of leaders as we move towards an even brighter future."



Mayor David Martin (left) with Matt Greenberg, CEO of Schoke JFS, at Schoke JFS during Passover bag distribution.

Mayor Martin Visits Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) A special thank you to Stamford Mayor David Martin for stopping by the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry to help out during the Annual Passover Food Drive!

Schoke Jewish Family Service volunteers and staff, along with a large group

of community organizations, assisted in collecting, organizing and delivering Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service Passover Food bags filled with traditional Passover foods, to over 250 households in the Fairfield County area.



Children Enjoy Outdoor Model Seders

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan Yeladim held its model seders outdoors this year with each class

enjoying the Passover dishes and experiencing the customs and traditions of the holiday.



BCHA Upper School students spoke on Zoom with Hussein Aboubakr.

Bi-Cultural Teens Meet with Political Asylum Seeker

(Courtesy of BCHA) The Israel Advocacy Club of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School (BCHA) recently partnered with StandWithUs to share with students the story of Hussein Aboubakr, who was raised in a traditional Arab Muslim home in Egypt and was on a path to becoming a jihadist until his study of Jewish culture drastically changed his views. After being imprisoned by the

Egyptian military for his writings and activities to combat antisemitism, he participated in the Egyptian revolution and, in 2012, was forced to seek political asylum in the U.S. Today, he speaks on behalf of StandWithUs and writes about antisemitism and Israel. After watching the documentary "Minority of One," which tells Aboubakr's story, students chatted with him on Zoom.

Bi-Cultural 7th Graders Take Home Science Fair Awards

BY JUDIE JACOBSON

Even the pandemic couldn't keep Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy 7th-graders from participating in — and bringing home a treasure trove of top awards and honors from — the 73rd Annual Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair.

Held virtually, the 2021 fair showcased hundreds of research projects produced by middle and high school students representing more than 100 schools from all across the state.

It wasn't the first time Bi-Cultural students had an impressive showing at the prestigious fair, but it was the first time students presented their findings via Zoom to a panel of judges.

To create their projects, students engaged in serious science exploration under the tutelage of Bi-Cultural's science teacher Christopher Graseck. Bi-Cultural Head of School Jackie Herman lauded students and their science teacher, who guided students through the arduous scientific process that taught them how to conduct an experiment, write up a report and present their findings.

"We are so proud of our students who put so much time and energy into this experience. Chris Graseck did a superb job of guiding them every step of the way and ensuring that the students took away important lessons in the art of science," said Mrs. Herman.

Five Bi-Cultural students were among the finalists taking home awards.

In addition to winning first place in the PepsiCo/Pfizer Life Sciences Awards and the Alexion Biotechnology Award, David Isaacs, Gabriel Haron and Liam Haron took second place in the Future Sustainability Awards and a certificate in the NASA Earth System Science Award, for their project "Studying Four Climate Change Factors that Impact Plant Growth. They also earned an invitation to compete in Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology and Engineering Rising Stars), the nation's premier science and engineering competition for middle school students.

Other BCHA award winners included: Asher Marcus and Eddie Janush, who earned a second place Alexion Biotechnology Award for their project "The Effect of Pollutants on Brine Shrimp [Artemia Salina] Hatching;" and Hannah Cohen and Rebecca Forti, who took home a Middle School finalist medallion in the Future Sustainability Awards for their project "Droughts Effect on Plants."

While the Fair presents an opportunity to showcase Connecticut's youth and their talents for research and innovation, it also nurtures within them a curiosity about the world they live in, says Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Middle School Principal David Giver.



Taking home awards and accolades from the 2021 CT Science and Engineering Science Fair were Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy 7th-graders (front row, l-r) Hannah Cohen, Rebecca Forti, Eddie Janush, Liam Haron, (back row, l-r) Gabriel Haron, Asher Marcus, and David Isaacs.

"Seeing an interest in science turn into a desire to explore deeper the questions of how our world works is an amazing transformation that this event brought to our students," said Mr. Giver.

The Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair is an affiliate fair of the International Science & Engineering Fair a Program of the Society for Science and is supported by the state's academic and industrial organizations.

Friendship Circle Teen Volunteers Learn about Rabbi's Life Journey



Teen volunteers participate on Zoom with Rabbi Motti Flikshtein.

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) During an evening in March, in a combined program with the Friendship Circle of Fairfield County and the Five Towns Chapter, 60 Friendship Circle teen volunteers met on Zoom with Rabbi Motti Flikshtein, a rabbi who turned his life around after having been a drug dealer. While he left most of his old life behind, he continued with his music and is still a rapper. The Rabbi spoke for two hours and shared his rap lyrics, as well

as actually rapping with the teens.

The evening was interactive and focused on engaging the teens. One of the things teen Rachael Roizer enjoyed was "how Rabbi Flikshtein used music in his storytelling of his life and it was so inspiring." The participants were able to ask questions and respond to the Rabbi's story. A parent of a teen volunteer, and a volunteer himself, Brian Roitman said "Rabbi Flikshtein shared some real crystal clear moments of clarity, truth and



Photo of young and old "Rapping Rabbi" Motti Flikshtein.

resonance about what's most important to each of us."

Besides offering volunteer opportunities for the teens to interact with children and adults with special needs, the Friendship Circle program also includes educational and social opportunities for the volunteers themselves.

This program was one in a series of teen talks, where different speakers present topics that are relevant and interesting to the teens.

For more information about becoming involved with the Friendship Circle, please contact Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com

In the News

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Morah Leah Shemtov appeared with Tina Redwine on News 12 Connecticut to demonstrate some delicious dishes for Pesach and year-round. Find them on the News 12 Website under Chef's Quick Tips, Chabad of Stamford.



Mayor Martin Proclaims Education and Sharing Day

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) To emphasize the vital role of education in society, the United States annually marks "Education and Sharing Day U.S.A." on the anniversary of the birth of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, of righteous memory, who dedicated his life to the cause of education. Established in 1978 by a joint Congressional resolution, Education and Sharing Day U.S.A. focuses on the very foundation of meaningful education: instructing our youth in the ways of morality and ethics, and teaching them an appreciation for divine inviolable values.

This year the Rebbe's birthday fell on March 24th (Nissan 11 in the Jewish calendar) and to mark this, the City of Stamford and Mayor David Martin presented Rabbi Moshe Shemtov from Chabad of Stamford with a proclamation declaring March 24th to be "Education and Sharing Day" in Stamford. Mayor Martin has been a long-time friend of Chabad of Stamford and has regularly attended their annual Gala dinners and community Giant Menorah Lightings at Latham Park each year.

The proclamation acknowledged the importance of education to developing



Stamford Mayor David Martin (left) presents Rabbi Moshe Shemtov with a Proclamation of "Education and Sharing Day" in Stamford, CT.

"our intellectual and moral compass" and also proclaimed that "the character of young people is anchored to a community by courage and compassion to prevent drifting with current times; and to craft a more optimistic future by encouraging a spirit of hope and service in our children."

The words honored the Rebbe's mission as a tireless advocate for youth across the globe, teaching that education should not be limited to acquiring knowledge in preparation for a career, but extend to universal moral and ethical values that are the basis of any peaceful, civilized society.

United Jewish Federation's Rothschild Society Presents:

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Milton Steinbach Professor, Yale School of Management

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Wednesday, May 5, 2021 • 7:00pm

Sign up at www.ujf.org/pie (zoom link provided with registration)

Barry Nalebuff is the Milton Steinbach Professor at the Yale School of Management, author, and co-founder of Honest Tea, Kombrewcha, and maker Oats. Split the pie is a principled approach to negotiation and will change the way you understand power and fairness in negotiation. It will help you become a more principled and effective negotiator.

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For more information, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

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June 23rd 7:00pm (Rain date June 24th)
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Guest Speaker:

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**"My Grandmother's Candlesticks:
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United Jewish Federation

Stamford JCC's JTalks Series with Brian Kriftcher

(Courtesy of JCC) Stamford JCC's JTalks series is designed to showcase highly accomplished individuals, within the Stamford Jewish community and the community at large, who have contributed to the growth and richness of our daily lives for being champions of unique innovations, community initiatives or other groundbreaking ventures from business to science to philanthropy to public service.

In March, the JCC was honored to feature Brian Kriftcher, Coach K, as this year's first JTalks speaker. Brian's story is an inspiring narrative of one man's quest to follow his dreams. A former president and long-time board member of the JCC, he and his family have been among the community's major philanthropists, including, among other things, having named the Stamford JCC's "Legacy Gymnasium" in memory of his father, Noel, a long-time educator.

Brian credits his pathway to achieving highly acclaimed success to his father's, mother's and step-mother's focus and

modeling of four foundational pillars – family, faith, education and athletics. Shared family memories, strong Jewish identity and the ethic that we are here for making the world a better place informs every aspect of his life.

A successful Wall Street executive, in 2006 at the age of 40, Brian made an idealistic career change that brought together his twin passions for education and basketball. Brian's coaching basketball for the JCC's 2006 Maccabi Games was the pivotal point when he rediscovered the joy he found in sharing his love of the game and teaching life lessons. He wanted to help disadvantaged children dream.

Brian's inner-city teaching experience strengthened his understanding of the deep opportunity gap in underserved communities. Brian's founding of Stamford Peace Youth Foundation is the fulfillment of his mission to use the game as a tool of positive change both on and off the court. Starting with just one team of 9 and 10 year olds,

Stamford Peace now helps more than 1000 local area youth to play basketball and learn critical life lessons.

Seeing academics as the lifeline to move beyond systemic inequities Brian started Beyond Limits which provides peer to peer counseling in math and science for 200 kids twice a week.

Currently the boys' Varsity basketball head coach at Notre Dame-Fairfield High School, Brian is a long-time Board member and former Global Chairman of Peace-Players International which, through basketball, bridges divides and develops leaders among children and communities in conflict globally.

Brian's humble demeanor and compelling narrative about his visionary work was optimistic, uplifting and energizing, all essential qualities to make his dream of "closing the opportunity gap" a reality.

The video of Brian's JTalk is available to view in the Arts & Culture section of the Stamford JCC website, www.stamfordjcc.org.



Brian Kriftcher, "Coach K"
(CREDIT: WWW.PEACEYOUTHCT.ORG)



Tamir Shashoua rides a "bear" at the zoo.

Friendship Circle Goes to the Zoo

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) On a clear Sunday morning in March, close to 70 Friendship Circle participants met up at the Beardsley Zoo. Volunteers and their special friends enjoyed the morning together. While everyone was waiting for their wristbands, they joined together for songs and prayer.

Afterwards, the 20-plus Friendship Circle families and their friends spread out throughout the zoo to see the animals and exhibitions. Friends took photos together, talked to the animals and enjoyed the sunny day. Friendship Circle Volunteer Adin Fogel said, 'My Friendship Circle friend and I had a great time! It was so nice to have a fun place to go and enjoy our time

together. It was a fun and special morning for both of us!'

For more information about becoming

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



(l-r) Bonita Rappaport, Ellie Rappaport, Tracey Davidson, Sarah Davidson, Alana Leventhal, Debbie Leventhal at the Beardsley Zoo.

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United Jewish Federation Grants Making

For nearly 50 years, United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien has been at the forefront of change, adapting to meet the ever-evolving needs of a dynamic community. In these uncertain times, our purpose has never been clearer.

Schoke Jewish Family Service Offers Hebrew Free Loan Program

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) During this difficult time of economic recovery from the loss of employment or income because of the pandemic, Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County continues to offer help through the Hebrew Free Loan program. Created in 2020 with a grant from the annual campaign of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, the program is designed to offer local community members the opportunity to receive interest-free loans to support financial needs that do not qualify for funding through their

emergency assistance program. Community members can receive funding to support immediate, concrete needs including: emergency home or car repairs, medical expenses, funeral costs, camp tuition, participation in a gap-year or short-term Jewish or Israel education program, or attending a vocational or technical program to advance their career.

As a Jewish social service agency all Schoke JFS programs are inspired by Jewish texts and traditions. As Exodus 22:24 teaches – “If you lend money to my people, even to the poor among you, do not act toward them

as a creditor; you shall not charge them interest.” Hebrew Free Loan programs have existed in the United States for over a century to expand opportunity to those who cannot secure commercial credit.

To participate in the program, applicants will need to provide financial information, secure a guarantor, submit a statement of need, and commit to a repayment schedule. The length of repayment will be determined by the loan amount, with the assumption that most loans will be repaid within 36 months.

In the local Stamford, New Canaan and Darien communities, this initiative continues to be funded by United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. The Upper Fairfield catchment area receives funds from the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County to service that community.

For more information about the Hebrew Free Loan program, contact Leah Schechter at 203-921-4161 or by e-mail at lschechter@ctjfs.org. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Reflected in the Light:

The Diversity of Afula/Gilboa Shines Bright

(Story shared by Emek Medical Center in Afula, a recipient of United Jewish Federation)

A male nurse. Judaism and Islam. Respect and empathy. Life and death. Corona – Emek Medical Center in Afula-and a moment in time.

Maher Ibrahim is a Muslim male nurse who heads the nursing staff of Internal Medicine, which was and is the designated Corona ward where the severely ill and ventilated patients have been hospitalized. Maher was there when a critically ill, aging, deeply religious Jewish man was nearing his end. His family would not make

it in time for the inevitable farewell. Maher, trained in Jewish studies, applied his knowledge and deeply empathic spirit at that critical moment. In a phone call with the man's family, Maher the Muslim nurse, recited aloud in Hebrew the "Shema Yisrael" prayer ... Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. His act of loving empathy, kindness and understanding went far beyond the norms of nursing and in that brilliant timeless moment, he personified the spirit of Emek and Israel.

The honor that Maher bestowed upon the dying man and his family has been noticed by Israel as deeply

symbolic and worthy of national recognition. In this year's 73rd Independence Day celebrations in Jerusalem, Maher has been chosen to light one of twelve flames ... an honor bestowed upon those who represent the best within our society.

Reflected in that light is love and hope for us all.

Emek and Israel salute Maher Ibrahim.

Afula/Gilboa is UJF's partnership region in Israel. Along with 10 other Federations, UJF is part of SNEC, the Southern New England Consortium. Donors like you enable us to impact this region each and every day.



An Extraordinary Full-Circle Shlichut in Ethiopia

As an Ethiopian who made Aliyah 30 years ago, Shira's recent experience as an emissary in Ethiopia was truly empowering

(Courtesy of the Jewish Agency for Israel) Shira Safrash Aman was born in Ethiopia and made Aliyah when she was six years old through Operation Solomon. Her older sister was left behind with her husband but was able to reunite with her family in Israel after only a year. This period, though relatively short in comparison to many other Ethiopian Jews' stories of families being separated, seemed like an eternity for Shira's family.

Her connection to *olim* (immigrants) from Ethiopia drove Shira to work at The Jewish Agency's Absorption Center in Bet Alfa (near Afula). And in 2020, 30 years after she made Aliyah, she had an opportunity to come full circle and get real closure.

Operation Zur Israel was facilitating the Aliyah of 2,000 Ethiopian Jews who had been waiting in Gondar to reunite with

family members in Israel after over a decade of separation. Shira chose to help with the Operation by going on Shlichut (emissary service) for three weeks to Ethiopia to help with the logistics of such a big and important undertaking.

She left three children behind at home; her older daughter, Liel, is a *ShinShin* (service year Israeli emissary) in Seattle. However, when Israel closed Ben Gurion Airport in early 2021 due to the increased risk of coronavirus variants, her three-week Shlichut extended to two months in Ethiopia. Throughout her stay in the country, she appreciated the chance to help other Ethiopian families make Aliyah, just as hers did 30 years ago.

The Jewish Agency is supported by grants from United Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign.



Shira Safrash Aman (CREDIT: THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL)

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We're leaning into innovative, new approaches to solve the biggest problems of our day: To care for people in need. Respond to crises close to home and far away. And shape our Jewish future. We're bringing people together to think big. To be bold. To act like the future of our community depends on it. Because it does.

Because of YOU, UJF's generous donors, these programs exist and help so many!

Friendship Circle Celebrates Passover on Zoom

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) Spring has arrived and over fifteen Friendship Circle families gathered online to celebrate the holiday of Passover, thanks to a grant funded by United Jewish Federation as part of their annual support of Friendship Circle.

Participants joined together on Zoom on Sunday March 21. It was an opportunity to socialize and to learn about all the different parts of the seder. Chani Cunin, Teen Volunteer Coordinator and Chaya Hanoka, Adult Program Coordinator, led the families in an hour of singing and going through the steps of the seder. Each participant received a package beforehand to use during the event. The boxes, which were packed by volunteers, contained a seder placemat, a Passover guide, some seder games, and seder food and drink items (maror, matzah, salt, lettuce, and grape juice). Participants were able to play the games and munch on the treats as they followed along in real time.

"We had so much fun," Chaya said. "Playing the games really helped us connect over Zoom!" Chani added, "It was wonderful to be able to sing Passover songs together, and feel that spring is coming and hopefully we will all be able to spend more time together in person soon!"



Friendship Circle model-seder-to-go.

"We are grateful to United Jewish Federation for providing this impact grant and enabling Friendship Circle to bring this program to families," shared Fred Springer, Friendship Circle chair.

For more information about becoming involved with the Friendship Circle, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com

PJ Library Hosts Movie Watch Party

The Warmflash and Sperber children enjoyed popcorn and a movie during UJF's PJ Library movie watch party on Sunday, April 18th. Families were treated to complimentary

movie snack bags, and enjoyed a pre-movie Zoom schmooze time allowing them to see friends and take part in fun ice breakers.



United Jewish Federation, Schoke JFS and KAVOD SHEF Partner to Help Survivors

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Meet Ilya. He is a Holocaust Survivor from the Former Soviet Union. With a grant from KAVOD SHEF, which is matched by United Jewish Federation, Schoke Jewish Family Service is able to provide direct expense reimbursement to survivors like Ilya.

Ilya desperately wanted to gracefully age in place in the home which he shared for all the 60+ years of his loving marriage. A stair-lift enabled him to safely access all 3 floors of his home. He is now happily able to get up to his bedroom at night and down to his basement during the day. Ilya is grateful that the kindness of others have enabled him to live a life of dignity.

KAVOD SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST EMERGENCY FUND (KAVOD SHEF) estimates that 80,000 Holocaust Survivors are living today in the United States—and more than 30,000 are living at or near poverty. The support these Survivors receive does not allow them to afford what is needed to live a dignified life. Many are choosing between heat or food, medicine or rent. Others have dire living conditions because they cannot invest what is needed to repair their homes.

Recognizing the importance of reaching any Survivor regardless of where he or she lives, Seed the Dream Foundation partnered with KAVOD to establish the KAVOD Survivors of the Holocaust Emergency Fund (SHEF) in 2019. KAVOD SHEF exponentially multiplies the dollars and vital services directly reaching Survivors as well as increases awareness to this crisis. Leveraging the funds raised through a special philanthropic national matching initiative, KAVOD SHEF works with designated communities across the United States to bring millions of additional dollars to the Survivor community.

100% of KAVOD SHEF matching funds raised are directed toward Emergency



Ilya

Services for Survivors and allocated through KAVOD. They partner with local Federations like UJF and local service agencies like SJFS, use the grants to provide critical emergency services like:

- Dental
- Vision
- Medical
- Food
- Emergency Home Care
- Emergency Transportation
- Emergency Home Services (Emergency Utilities, Home Repair, and Rent Support)
- And more.

"Schoke Jewish Family Service is grateful to be able to help survivors like Ilya. Thanks to the generosity of United Jewish Federation and Kavod Shef, we can provide needed services for these survivors to live their lives with dignity" shared Rebekah Kanefsky, Case Manager at Schoke JFS.

United Jewish Federations Shalom/Welcome Program Helps Connect Newcomers

Kathy Sosnovich recently moved to Stamford to be near her adult children in town. She received a Shalom Stamford Welcome visit from Sharon Franklin, Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement.



Kathy Sosnovich

Bits & Pieces



Sandy Golove

BY SANDY GOLOVE

To submit information, please call (203) 912-9945 or email sandy@ujf.org

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Dorothy Abrams & Adam Levinson on the birth of a daughter, Miller "Millie" Louise Levinson; and to grandparents, **Margie & Bob Abrams and Sally Wasserman & Henry Hecht**; and to great grandmother, **Rita Edelson**.

Suellyn Bache on the birth of her great granddaughter, Logan Reese Schulman.

Elana & Chaim Barer on the birth of a daughter.

Kristin & Alex Bass on the birth of a son, Jacob Robert Bass; and to grandparents, **Andrea & Eric Bass**.

Lee Fanwick on the birth of a great granddaughter.

Samantha & Graig Fischgrund on the birth of a son, Maxwell Gesse Fischgrund; and to great grandmother, **Binnie Ditesheim**.

Adrienne & Scott Karpen on the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Bayla Karpen; and to grandparents, **Marcie & Ray Blum and Sharon & Sandy Karpen**.

Jackie & Marshall Kurland on the birth of a daughter, Maddie Layla Kurland.

Liza Kuritsky & Michael Mimoun on the birthday of a son, Noam Benson Mimoun; and to grandparents, **Nancy & Gadi Mimoun**.

Nicole & Jonathan Makovsky on the birth of a daughter.

Danielle Morgulis & Shawn Rasmussen on the birth of a son, Ephraim Morgulis-Rasmussen; and to grandparents **Julie & Richard Morgulis**.

Marisa Levi & Andrew Staines on the birth of a daughter, Natalie Emma Staines and a son, Evan David Staines; and to grandparents, **Marcia & Mark Staines**.

Melissa & Daryl Litwak on the birth of a son, Eli Beckett Litwak.

Alana & Elliot Meiteles on the birth of a daughter, Lila Becca Meiteles; and to grandparents, **Meryl & Larry Meiteles**.

Karen & Gary Neems on the birth of their grandchildren, Simone Layla Neems and Will Davis Neems.

Rose & Bruce Newman on the birth of a granddaughter.

Alana & Jed Selkowitz on the adoption of a daughter, Marlow Ivy Selkowitz; and to grandparents, **Betsey & Arty Selkowitz**.

Navah & Rabbi Naftali Wolfe on the birth of a daughter.

MAZEL TOV ON ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES:

David Bessaleli on the marriage of his grandson, **Ezra Jasper to Or-ya Buskila**.

Amy & Henry Bubel on the engagement of their daughter, **Alissa Jane Bubel to Jared Neil Bush**.

Maxine & Jay Freilich on the engagement of their son, **Gary Freilich to Danielle Hauser**, daughter of **Karen & Mark Hauser**.

Roni & Jan Kaplowitz on the engagement of their daughter, **Lauren Kaplowitz**.

Bonnie & Zev Polansky on the engagement of their son, **Tani Polansky to Alyssa Nagar**, daughter of **Linda Kogen and Avner Nagar**.

Harriet & Victor Liss on the marriage of their granddaughter, **Samantha Liss to Paul Lozbin**.

Marian Freed & Robert Martino on the engagement of their son, **Joshua Martino to Ariella Saperstein**.

MAZEL

TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Jordan Alexander, son of **Natalie and Jeffrey Alexander**.

Sasha Handel, daughter of **Marni and Michael Handel**.

Alanna Harper, daughter of **Glenn Harper & Amy Lilien-Harper**.

Eric Kwalwasser, son of **Dani & Avi Kwalwasser**.

Wesley Levine, son of **Hayley and Josh Levine**.

Brooke & Mia Neigler, daughter of **Helene & David Neigler**.

Aryeh Pollack, son of **Maureen & Jonathan Pollack**.

Harrison Tronick, son of **Jane Levine and Adam Tronick**.

Lucas Vellozzi, son of **Debby & Chris Vellozzi**.

Brooke Wolly, daughter of **Dana Horowitz & Peter Wolly**.

Jordan Wolly, son of **Dana Horowitz and Peter Wolly**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Louis Abbey: father of **Debbie Morgenthaler**.

Avidan Michael Gantshar: son of **Miri & David Gantshar**.

Anne C. Grisanti: mother of **Mary Lee Grisanti**.

Howard Gunty: father of **Robin Evans**.

Carol Hoffman: mother of **Augusta Hoffman, David Hoffman and James Hoffman**.

Paul Josephson: husband of **Susan Josephson**; and father of **Jennifer Josephson, Linda Josephson, and Michael Josephson**.

Herb Kahan: father of **Cynthia Kahan and Susan Sieber**; and partner to **Margery Wiesenthal**.

Daniel Kaplan: father of **Bradley Kaplan**.

Sandor Klein: father of **George Klein and Susan Klein**.

Valerie Perlis: mother of **Rebecca Griffith**.

Rabbi Solomon Schiff: father of **Steven Schiff**.

Michael Walshe: husband of **Estelle Walshe**; and father of **Shushannah Walshe Yagur and Dalia Goby**.

Genevieve Weingrad: wife of **Murph Weingrad**; and mother of **Deborah Weingrad and Jan Weingrad Smith**.

Sybil Zeidman: mother of **Elizabeth Krowitz and Sara Zeidman**.

William Zietz: father of **Claire Foster**.

Triumphing Over Tough Times

An Interview with BCHA's Upper School Principal

BY JUDIE JACOBSON

In July 2019, Rabbi Shimmy Trencher arrived in Stamford, Conn. to take up his new post as principal of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School (BCHA).

Little did he know that less than a year later — in March 2020 — he would undergo a 'trial by fire' of sorts, as the Covid-19 pandemic shuttered Connecticut schools and took learning online...putting his extensive experience, and his skills and talents as an educator and administrator, to an unprecedented test.

Now, a year and half since he took over as head of BCHA Upper School, Rabbi Trencher looks back at the success with which the school has weathered the storm, and looks ahead to a future that is increasingly bright.

A native of West Hartford, Rabbi Trencher is a graduate of the Bess and Paul Sigel Hebrew Academy in Bloomfield (now the New England Jewish Academy). A graduate of Yeshiva University, he holds a masters in social work from the University

of Connecticut.

Rabbi Trencher talked about how the BCHA Upper School fared during the pandemic.

Q: It's been a year marked by challenges you could not have possibly anticipated. How are things going?

Shimmy Trencher: School is going very well. I'm really proud of how the teachers and the students have really come together, making this year work in ensuring that learning is robust and the community continues to grow and develop.

In the spring, when we transitioned to distance learning, not one day of instruction was lost. We had a plan in place, so when school closed, by 8:45 the next morning, students were in class. Students were receiving the same amount of instruction each day that they would have received in school. Teachers were able to transition their classes to online learning extremely effectively. And because our class sizes are a little smaller than what you would find in many other schools, we were really



Rabbi Shimmy Trencher

able to engage students and maintain their attention and their interest, even though they were home. The feedback we received from both parents and students was 100% positive.

Now, when our students apply to college and the college asks about what happened last year in your school in terms of

COVID, we're able to say that we ran exactly the same program. We even were able to provide summative assessments; we invested in a secure online platform for exams, and we were able to offer tests, quizzes, and final exams. So we were able to make sure they had an equivalent experience to what they would have had in school in terms of their learning.

Is there anything new to report?

Our staff has really been committed throughout the pandemic to finding ways to enhance and grow our program. Which is why this year, in the midst of the chaos of the pandemic, we've added additional AP course offerings as well as nine mini-electives. We added studio art, a theater program, and a political discussion group. We added photography and web design and mobile app development and film.

Is there a positive take-away from the past year?

Over the course of the last year and a half, we've really gotten clear on what makes us special as a school, the values and beliefs we hold, and what we believe education is all about. And we've sought to infuse those values into everything we do and to communicate them to parents, students, and prospective parents and students.



Shavuot Night Learning at Agudath Sholom

Join Congregation Agudath Sholom on Sunday, May 16th from 11:00 PM - 2:00 AM for late-night Shavuot in-person learning with the theme "Controversies Throughout The Ages". Learn and debate with your fellow Stamford Jewish community members! Sessions will incorporate both traditional lectures and interactive debates. Each of the three learning sessions will explore a unique Jewish

controversy at different junctures of history. The first session will be taught by Rabbi Daniel Cohen and the final one by Rabbi Moshe Kurtz. Also, make sure to join for the middle session where YOU get to take a role in the debate itself! Please reach out to either Rabbi Daniel Cohen (rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org) or Rabbi Moshe Kurtz (rabbikurtz@cas-stamford.org) with inquiries.

Cheesecake: The Ultimate Shavuot Dessert

There are two traditions that I love about Shavuot. First is that on this holiday, which begins at sunset on May 16th, we read the Book of Ruth. It tells the moving story of the young Moabite widow who gave up the comforts of royalty to live among the Israelites. She follows her mother-in-law Naomi who tries to urge her to return to her people. Ruth's loving response has endured through the ages:

"Entreat me not to leave thee,
And to return home from following after thee;
For whither thou goest, I will go;
And where thou lodgest, I will lodge;
Thy people are my people, and thy G d, my G d.
Where thou diest, will I die, and there be buried;
May G d do so to me, and more also,
If aught but death part thee and me."

The second fabulous Shavuot tradition is eating dairy foods – our family is big on dairy meals. The holiday classic is cheesecake of course, the ultimate dairy dessert. That's a good thing, especially for people like me, who work in the food world, because the recipe is one that can be changed in a multitude of ways, some simple, some elaborate, that encourage my creative urges.

Years ago I developed a basic cheesecake batter that suits our family. It's rich, cream-cheese loaded and dense. If I want a cake that's fluffier, I substitute a cup of ricotta in place of 8 ounces of cream cheese. I also add some sour cream (or plain Greek yogurt) to give the cake an extra tangy flavor. And I make all sorts of other changes depending on what we want after a particular meal.

Here's the basic cake recipe plus a few variations I've created over the years.

Basic Cheesecake

- 1-1/2 teaspoons butter or margarine
- 1/3 cup graham cracker crumbs (approximately)
- 1-1/2 pounds cream cheese (3-8 ounce packages)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup dairy sour cream or unflavored yogurt
- 1/3 cup cream (whipping cream or half and half)
- 4 large eggs

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Spread the butter on the bottom and sides of a 9-inch springform pan. Sprinkle the inside of the pan with the graham cracker crumbs. Shake the pan to coat the bottom and sides of the pan completely. Beat the cream cheese in the bowl of an electric mixer set at medium speed for 1-2 minutes or until the cheese has softened and is smooth. Gradually add the sugar and beat for 2-3 minutes or until the mixture is smooth, scraping down the sides of the bowl occasionally with a rubber spatula. Add the vanilla extract, sour cream and whipping cream and beat for one minute or until the batter is smooth. Add the eggs one at a time, beating after each addition to incorporate them. Pour the



CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

24 Hours of Shavuot Learning with Temple Beth El

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) The Rabbinical Assembly, the membership organization for Conservative rabbis, is excited to present the Conservative/Masorti Tikkun Leil Shavuot, 24 hours of learning from May 16th at 12:00 noon to May 17th at 12:00 noon EDT, in partnership with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), the Cantors Assembly (CA), the Federation of Jewish Men's

Clubs (FJMC), and Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano.

Access to the experience is FREE for all, regardless of synagogue affiliation or organizational participation. <https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/story/conservativemasorti-tikkun-leil-shavuot-5781>

A YouTube link will be made available via social media and all synagogue/organizational email lists.

Shavuos with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Celebrate the festival of Shavuos with Chabad of Stamford in meaningful and fun ways this year. Join the community at Chabad of Stamford, 770 High Ridge Road, on Monday, May 17th at 10:00am for the reading of the Ten Commandments followed by an ice cream party and dairy buffet. The event includes a special ice cream party for children at 11am. All COVID safety protocols will be maintained.

To prepare for the festival, Chabad's

Jewish Women Connected (JWC) will hold its final cooking club event of the year on Thursday, May 13th at 8:00pm. The JWC cooking club meets before every major holiday to prepare special dishes to enjoy with family and friends. Participants can either pick up a box of pre-measured ingredients to prepare together at home or just join in for a Zoom demonstration of varied and delicious Shavuos dishes. For more information and to sign up, please email programs@stamfordchabad.org

Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt To Teach Pre-Shavuot Class

(Courtesy of UJF) On Sunday, May 16th, at 10:00am, United Jewish Federation's Education Committee is excited to host Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt for a pre-Shavuot class entitled "Journalism, Jewish Ethics, and Moral Responsibility." The session is free and will be hosted on Zoom.

Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt is a writer living in New York City. Previously, she was the Life/Features editor at the Forward, and a reporter for Haaretz. Her essays have appeared in the New York Times, Vox, and Salon, among others, and Avital has taught journalism at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women. She does pastoral work alongside her husband Rabbi Benjamin Goldschmidt in Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Avital, 28, is no stranger to standing out. As a religious schoolgirl, it was not common or accepted to write so freely. She competed in national writing competitions amidst mostly secular students. "It was kind of weird," she says. "I was showing up in a long, pleated skirt alongside a bunch of hippy writers."

Avital is on the JTA 50 Twitter List. Through writing on topics like abortion, the sexuality of the mikveh



Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt

or modest wedding gowns, Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt has emerged as a leading Orthodox feminist voice. Her Twitter feed amplifies that voice and gives her a space to apply her lens to everyday news stories, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

To register, visit www.ujf.org/Avital

Cheesecake: The Ultimate Shavuot Dessert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

batter into the prepared pan. Place the springform pan inside a larger pan. Fill the larger pan with enough hot water to come at least 1-inch up the sides of the baking dish. Bake the cake for 65-75 minutes or until the top of the cake is tanning lightly. Remove the springform pan from the water and let the cake cool in the pan. When the cake has reached room temperature, refrigerate it at least 4 hours or until it is thoroughly chilled. Remove the sides of the pan to serve.

Chocolate Cheesecake: add 10 ounces melted, cooled semisweet chocolate to the batter.

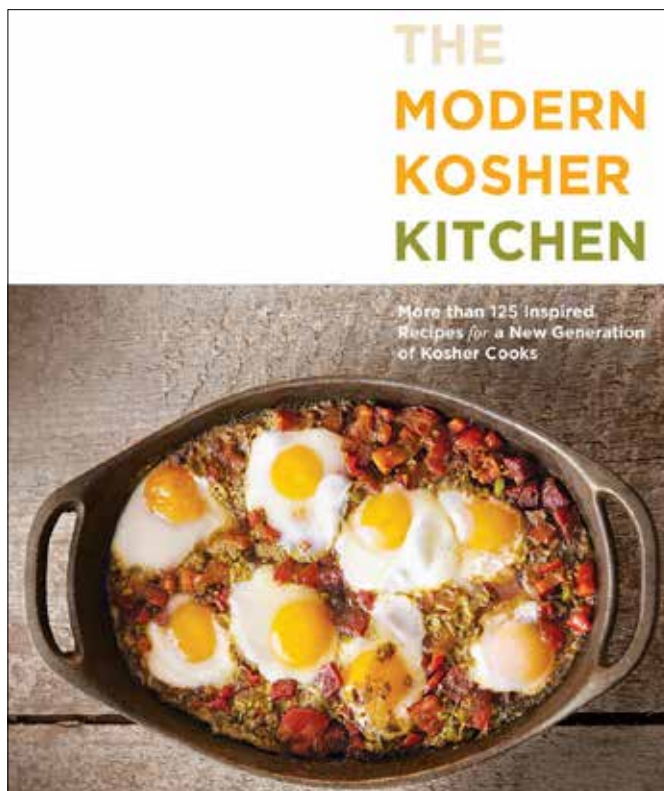
Half-and-Half Cheesecake: add 5 ounces melted chocolate to half the batter, spoon the chocolate batter into the pan, then carefully spoon the vanilla batter on top.

Pumpkin Cheesecake: replace white sugar with brown sugar; delete the sour cream and replace with 3/4 cup mashed pumpkin (canned is fine); stir in 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon, 1 teaspoon grated nutmeg, one teaspoon ground ginger and one teaspoon grated orange peel to the batter.

Berry topped cheesecake: place whole berries on top of cooled cake, brush with melted apricot preserves or currant jam.

"Turtle" cheesecake: delete the graham cracker coating for the pan. Instead, make a bottom crust by combining 1 cup crushed graham crackers with 1/4 cup brown sugar, then work in 4 tablespoons butter until crumbly. Press into the pan and bake (no need for the second pan yet) for 10-12 minutes. Spoon in the basic batter and bake as in the basic recipe. Let the cake cool. For the top: heat 1/4 cup cream until hot, add 3 ounces chopped chocolate and stir until melted. Let cool slightly and spread over cool cake. Scatter 2 tablespoons chopped nuts on top. Optional: pour caramel sauce on top of cut slices of cake.

Ronnie Fein is a cookbook author, food writer and cooking teacher in Stamford. She is the author of *The Modern Kosher*



Book Cover

Kitchen and Hip Kosher. Visit her food blog, Kitchen Vignettes, at www.ronniefein.com, friend on Facebook at [RonnieVailFein](https://www.facebook.com/RonnieVailFein), Twitter at [@RonnieVFein](https://twitter.com/RonnieVFein), Instagram at [@RonnieVFein](https://www.instagram.com/RonnieVFein).

Cantor's Concert at TBE to Feature Nefesh Mountain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Open to the public, tickets for the concert are priced at \$36, \$10 for students.

To purchase tickets or place a tribute ad online go to www.tiyurl.com/tbecc2021. For further information, call the TBE office 203-322-6901, ext. 301 or office@tbe.org



Eric Lindberg and Doni Zasloff

ujf.org/orchid or call Sharon at (203) 321-1373, ext. 109'."/>

This Mother's Day
Show a Mom Some Love
With a beautiful orchid

\$20 each

All proceeds to benefit Dignity Grows, a project of Federation providing personal care products to women in our community.

All orders must be received by April 30.
Orchid can be picked up between 2-5pm on Friday May 7th.

 **United Jewish Federation**

Place your order at ujf.org/orchid
or call Sharon at (203) 321-1373, ext. 109

United Jewish Federation Grandparent Group Presents:

"The Importance and Impact of Passing on Family Stories."

Featuring Professor **Marshall P. Duke**,
of Emory University

Tuesday, June 29th at 7pm
To register go to www.ujf.org/story

Free program, **Zoom** link will be provided with registration

The entire community is welcome. This program will provide helpful insights for parents with children both young and old, including grandparents.

Duke is a beloved and renowned professor at Emory University who is interested in personality theory, family relationships and storytelling. During the program, he will talk about the importance of passing on family stories to kids and grandkids, touching on his research through Emory University on the Holocaust and 911. Duke has found that how you tell family stories and the mix of stories you tell can create an emotional reserve for younger generations as they face their own challenges, while also helping to pass on a legacy and unite a family.

For more information, contact Sharon Franklin
at sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373 ext. 109

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 and Legacy Program. Through our communal efforts the following individuals have made a commitment to one or more Jewish communal institutions to secure our future.

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

Anonymous (13)
Adrienne and Michael Alexander
Jeri Appel
Mark Appel
Erica Snow Arbron
Suellyn Bache
Monica Becker and Edieal Pinker
Rachel Tyd and Robert Beldock
Gayle and Mitchell Bell
Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz and Parry Berkowitz
Darona and Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
Claude Bernstein
Melody Bernstein
Bruce Blasnik
Judith B. Block
Marcia Braunstein
Amy and Henry Bubel
Alan Cohen
Andrea and David M. Cohen
Diane and Rabbi Daniel Cohen
Malerie Yolen-Cohen and Jeff Cohen
Judy and David S.* Cohen
Mimi Cohen
Rachel and Ephraim Cohen
Roberta Cohen
Saul Cohen*
Arthur Cramer*
Janice Steinberg and Stephen Davidson
Helen and Marty Donner
Fran and Bob Dorf
Shoshana Dweck
Debra and Daniel Faizakoff
Michelle Fanwick
Esta and Jay Feinsod
Peggy and Jerry Fensterstock
Stephanie and Howard Fogel

Lenore and Dr. Ilan Fogel
Miriam Lavinsky and Morton Folb*
Sharon Franklin
Connie and Alan Freeman
Rachel and Keith Friedman
Marc Friedman
Donna and Edward Fuhrman
Nancy and Mark Funt
Lesley and Dennis Gehr
Carole Gladstone
Herbert Gladstone*
Sylvia and Herb Gladstone*
Leslie Glenn
Robin Frederick and Michael Gold
Cyndy and Eric Goldberg
Caryl Goldstein*
Meryl and David Gordon
Nan and Paul Gordon
Linda B. Gornitsky
Sharon and Larry Greenberg
Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg
Grecia and Ron* Gross
Scott Handelman
Jacqueline Herman
Dr. Shara and Rabbi David Israel
Sari and Alan Jaffe
Meryl and Ron Japha
Judith and Grant Kallen
Helene and Harvey Kaminski
Chanie Kamman
Jason Kaplowitz
Joy Katz
Judith and Sheldon Katz
Larry Katz
Betsy and Peter Kempner
Liz and Marc Kitay

Elissa and Philip Klapper
Harris Kligman
Susan Kostin
Arthur Kramer*
Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher
Elizabeth and Scott Krowitz
Jackie and Marshall Kurland
Lorraine and David Kweskin
Helen and Ed Kweskin
Lieba and Steve Lander
Shelley Leibowitz
Lois D. Stark and Gary P. Lessen
Elizabeth Libner
R. and J. Licht
Vered and Mark Links
Eleanor and Mort Lowenthal
Stu Madison
Lisa and Jeff Manheim
Norma and Milton Mann*
Susan and Len Mark
Chris Maroc
Melanie Massell
Michal and Rabbi Levi Mendelow
Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun
Jessica and Eliaz Niedober
Marsha and Louis Panzer
Leah and Doni Perl
Dr. Robin Evans and Dr. Jeffrey Perry
Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser
Enid Randall*
Bonita and Stephen Rappoport
Judith and Robert Raymond
Lisa and Harry Rich
Judy and Adam Rin
Betty and Dan* Roberts
Sonia and Brian Roitman
Arlene and Carl Rosen
Arlene Rosen
Irma Ross
Sandra Ross
Sally and Jim Rothkopf
Ruth Rothseid
Bonnie Russo
Edith Samers
Sharyn and Richard Sarner
Hilde Scheraga*

Jayne and Bud Schiff
Carol Ruth and Herman Shepherd*
Nancy Schiffman
Monica Smyth and Michael Schlessinger
Elayne and James Schoke*
Chaya and Levi Segal
Myrna and George Sessa
Jessica and Laurence Sheinman
Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
Stephanie and Bob Sherman
Malya Shmotkin
Ronnie Ness Sichel
Dr. Steven Sichel
Paula Simon
Diane Sloyer
Diane and Elliot Sloyer
Ed Smith
Greta Solomon
Miriam and Steve Sosnick
Sandy and Moshe Speter
Ed Spilka
Eileen and Fred Springer
Beverly and David Stein
Betsy and Michael Stone
Gladys and Greg Teitel
Dr. Julie and Rabbi Jay TelRav
The Estate of Sheila Carmine*
The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin*
The Estate of Ronald Gross*
Ellen and Richard Weber
Linda B. Gornitsky and Harvey Weber
Dana and Carl Weinberg
Leon Weisburgh
Janet Welkovich
Robyn and Mark Winarksy
Neda Khaghan and Robert Yaghoubian
Sheryl and Dan Young
Joan Zinbarg*
Renee Zinn

**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.

UJF LIFE & LEGACY Testimonials

In early 2020, United Jewish Federation was selected to join the Life & Legacy Program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Ten additional Jewish communal organizations have joined UJF in securing the future of our Jewish Community.

Each edition of The New Jewish Voice will feature the testimonials of community members just like you who have declared their intent to leave a legacy gift to an organization in the Stamford Jewish community.

SHARON FRANKLIN TESTIMONIAL

I have lived in Stamford for over 25 years and have loved our vibrant and close-knit Jewish community. It is truly a unique place. It was a wonderful place to raise my two daughters, one now in college and the other in the workforce. I can see how they have matured and grown, and I know it is partly because of me, but also because of the community they live in. They went to Jewish nursery school and day school, and were surrounded by wonderful friends, mentors and teachers.



Sharon Franklin

I grew up in a much different environment- in a small city in West Virginia with a small but close Jewish community (yes there are Jews in West Virginia!). I saw how my parents gave back to our shul. To keep the Jewish community alive, everyone had to roll up their sleeves and be an active member. My belief is that no matter what the size of your community, small like where I grew up, or in Stamford with a multitude of Jews, it is important for everyone to give back by action or support, to keep it alive and thriving.

While working at Federation for the last seven plus years, I have had the honor of learning more about our community,

the people who live here, and the diversity that makes our town so special. I have also learned that while large gifts are needed to keep our agencies and institutions afloat, it is also the smaller gifts that are the backbone of our community's philanthropy. Every person counts.

When asked if I would take part in the Life and Legacy initiative, I said yes right away. It was a very easy process, which will benefit the institutions I chose, and will have an impact for years to come.

ELISSA AND PHILIP KLAPPER TESTIMONIAL

To us, the beauty of the Stamford Jewish community is the seemingly organic interaction of Jews from all streams of Judaism. Central to creating and maintaining this unique warmth are our communal institutions, chief among them the United Jewish Federation. UJF's Board of Directors represents a wide range of political and religious outlooks. These volunteers do their

sacred work while engaging with and learning from each other. The standard of mutual respect and inclusive programming filters into everyday life in Stamford, uniting the community rather than reinforcing boundaries between synagogues or schools or agencies.

Our hope in leaving one of our Life & Legacy gifts to UJF is that this remarkable community will continue to reflect these values we hold dear, and that the next generation of Jews raised in Stamford will be as committed to Jewish religious observance and Jewish communal responsibility as those who paved the way for us.



Elissa and Philip Klapper

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford,
New Canaan and Darien
Invites You To Join The Community On The...

BETTER TOGETHER COMMUNITY MISSION TO ISRAEL



United Jewish Federation is planning
a trip to Israel in late November 2021.
Optional extension to the UAE.

The trip is being developed around
the interests of participants.

Please join us for an informational zoom
meeting Sunday morning, June 6th at 10am.

For more information and for the zoom link,
contact **Diane Sloyer**
dianesloyer@ujf.org | (203) 321-1373, ext 105



Russian Silver Marks: c.1700-1918

Archives at Home

BY PETER LILIENTHAL WITH
JEFF BENDREMER

Guess what? Every document, book and historical item the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County preserves once resided in somebody's attic, garage or closet. You could have an heirloom in your home...the beginning of your own archive. It can begin with just one piece. And JHSFC can help you identify your family treasure. As an example, Elissa Kaplan's family inherited two silver Kiddish cups. Not knowing what the enigmatic markings on their bases meant, she asked Jeff Bendremer, an archaeologist and historian on the JHSFC board.

According to Bendremer, "The few items our ancestors brought with them from 'the old country' tells us a lot about their values and priorities. Important in Shabbat and Passover observance, diminutive kiddush cups might be the only object of value portable enough to make the journey. But what information can we obtain from the tiny, enigmatic hall marks on the bottom? Turns out, a lot!"

The first cup is marked with the standard Russian assay system established by Tsar Peter the Great in 1700: a maker's mark, assayer's mark, silver standard mark and town mark. It was made by the famous silversmith,

Ivan Zakharov (ИЗ), who was active in Moscow from 1856-1896. The cup was made in 1876 in Moscow according to the assay mark depicting St. George. Its silver purity is 84 Kolotniki (a unique Russian measure), or 87.5%, a bit less than sterling silver. The assayer was Viktor Savinkov (ВК).

The second cup is marked with Kokoshnick hallmarks (named for the traditional headpiece depicted in the assay mark), established by Tsar Nicholas II and used from 1896-1918. It was made by another famous silversmith named Israel Eseevich Zakhoder (ИЕЗ). He was originally active in Moscow but moved to Kiev, Ukraine, in 1892 which is where this cup was made. Because this type of mark was instituted in 1896 and Zakhoder ended his production in 1907, we can be certain it was made between those years. Its silver content is also 84 Kolotniki or 87.5% pure silver.

Your family heirlooms will often come with stories about their history and meaning. But sometimes, the items themselves can tell a compelling story about the past.

If you have items that you need help identifying, please contact The Jewish Historical Society at (203) 359-2196. Help is just a phone call away! This could be the beginning of your archive at home.

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE



Israel Tops World in Kidney Donations to Strangers

Israel has the world's highest rate of people donating kidneys to strangers.

On April 4, the number hit 1,000 ... and climbed to 1,003.

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN/
ISRAEL21C

As of April 4, the nonprofit organization Matnat Chaim (Gift of Life) has facilitated 1,003 live kidney transplants since 2009 from altruistic donors – people who are not related to their recipients.

"We believe Israel has the fourth highest rate of live kidney donations in the world and the highest [per-capita] rate of altruistic kidney donations," says Judy Singer, assistant director of Matnat Chaim (and an altruistic kidney donor herself).

"That figure is somewhat anecdotal because in many countries altruistic kidney donation doesn't exist and in some it's only beginning to be documented," Singer tells ISRAEL21C.

"Israeli transplant surgeons go to international conferences and tell us their colleagues from other countries say their numbers don't come close."

China, for example, has about six times as many live kidney transplants as Israel but way more than six times the population – 1.4 billion compared to 9.2 million.

The UK, with a population of 60 million, recorded 130 altruistic transplants during an eight-year period when Israel's number topped 500.

On April 4, four altruistic kidney transplants were performed in Israeli hospitals through the efforts of Matnat Chaim, pushing the number above 1,000 in 11 years.

And that does not include voluntary altruistic kidney donations arranged through



Altruistic kidney donors and family members participating in the Jerusalem Marathon, 2017.
(CREDIT: MATNAT CHAIM)

private channels.

Matnat Chaim was founded by Rabbi Yeshayahu Heber. When he was a dialysis patient before receiving a kidney donation, he befriended a young man who died while waiting for a matching donor.

Determined that such a tragedy would not happen again, Heber began recruiting voluntary kidney donors from his own ultra-Orthodox (haredi) circles to match with potential recipients, subject to strict medical protocols.

Partly because of this focus, about 90 percent of the altruistic kidney donors in Israel are Orthodox or ultra-Orthodox.

Singer says that in the past three years,

Matnat Chaim has started using digital media to reach the secular population. Though the number is still small, the rate of non-religious donors has more than doubled in that time.

"We are finding that the more we raise awareness in secular communities the more people are becoming interested."

"Since Matnat Chaim started operating in 2009, there's been an almost 400% increase in living kidney transplants in Israel," Singer relates.

"Interestingly, about 40% of our kidney donors are educators," says Singer. "More people from small communities than from big cities donate but Jerusalem has the largest number



Rabbi Yeshayahu Heber and his wife, Rachel. She has carried on the work of Matnat Chaim since her husband's passing in April 2020.

(CREDIT: MATNAT CHAIM)

of donors than any other municipality."

More than 95% of live transplants are successful. Some 80% of recipients survive for five years and approximately half survive for more than 25 years.

About two-thirds of altruistic donors in Israel are male; Singer says that's because Israeli doctors discourage women from donating until they are finished bearing children.

"We believe the distribution will even out in about a decade because there's half a generation of women between 25 and 40 interested in donating once they pass their childbearing years."

During 2020, despite the pandemic, Matnat Chaim saw a 30% increase in altruistic donations over 2019. Singer says that many people decided to give the gift of life in memory of Rabbi Heber, who died of Covid-19 last April at age 55.

Thirty Second Baggage Disinfection Coming to Airports

A new luggage disinfection machine may become part of the biosecurity routine as global travel resumes.

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN/
ISRAEL21C

Alongside the x-ray machines that scrutinize our luggage at every airport in the world, we may soon see machines that provide 99.99% disinfection from germs on carry-on and checked bags.

Israeli biohazard disinfection startup WarpUV plans to start delivering AirFort machines this year to help airports contain the spread of bacteria, spores and the viruses that cause the common cold, seasonal influenza, Covid-19 and viruses yet to come.

"Biosecurity has become an urgent and critical staple of airport security since the Covid-19 containment shut down the vast majority of air traffic," says WarpUV CEO and co-founder Amir Fischer, a serial entrepreneur who spent four years in airline and airport security at London Heathrow airport.

"Along with vaccinations and Covid-19 testing, disinfection of passenger luggage can ensure a safer air travel experience and help

prevent future local outbreaks before they become global pandemics," he says.

WarpUV's AirFort technology was created in-house and tested in Tel Aviv University's microbial pathogenesis laboratory headed by Prof. Anat Herskovits. She also serves as WarpUV's head of microbiology.

It takes less than 30 seconds for AirFort's proprietary 3D array of ultraviolet lights to disinfect surface contamination from carry-on and checked bags, personal items and oversized bags and parcels before they enter an airport concourse or the plane's cargo hold.

Speed will become essential when the volume of traffic returns to pre-pandemic levels, Fischer says, noting that other luggage disinfecting technologies in the pipeline take up to 30 minutes as opposed to 30 seconds.

"And it's this speed that makes AirFort practical for handling the massive passenger volumes at major airports," he says.

In 2019, 17,500 commercial airports served more than 925 million passengers on

nearly 39 million flights.

"With each passenger carrying one or two pieces of luggage onto planes annually, air travel remains one of the most vulnerable means for spreading airborne infectious diseases," Fischer says.

"If you think about the multiple people who may touch the same pieces of luggage at an airport, just one infected worker or passenger who handled that bag could spread a virus far and wide," Fischer tells ISRAEL21C.

The US Departments of Homeland Security, Transportation, and Health and Human Services issued joint guidelines that categorize carry-on items, baggage, and luggage as a biohazard threat.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have also classified these items as a risk of contamination, and not only related to Covid-19.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the general risk to

baggage handlers is low, but "potential sources of exposure could include surfaces touched or handled by a person with Covid-19 or by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes."

Fischer notes that baggage handlers at several airports became infected with Covid-19, in some cases forcing shutdowns.

"When looking at published data, only about 80% of infections are from known exposure to Covid-19 patients. If 20% of infections can be prevented using Warp AirFort technology, it's a major step toward eradicating virus spread."

"Our plan is to begin deployment in five airports in 2021 and expand to more airports as quickly as we can build the machines," says Fischer.

AirFort units will be installed in conjunction with existing luggage x-ray machines and on the incoming luggage conveyor and inbound checkpoints.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

PJ Library Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

New and exciting things are happening at PJ Library & PJ Our Way in your community, providing more ways for your family to share Jewish stories and experiences!

• UJF's PJ Library and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy invite you to a "Pre-Shavuot Bash" on Sunday, May 2nd at 10:00am, with crafts, ice cream truck, and a bubble show. Socially distanced, masked, and outdoors. Two shifts to pick from, with limited capacity. Sign up at www.ujf.org/pjbash. Free program for ages five and under, siblings welcome.



Sharon Franklin

• UJF's PJ Library & PJ Our Way invite you to decorate a "Star of Hope" virtually, which will be added to a banner that will be hung to add encouragement and cheer to others. To take part in this project contact Sharon@ujf.org/203-321-1373 ext.109. (See article on page 21 for more details.)

• PJ Library "Together Experiences". Select from one of five virtual experiences, and host two to four families, and you can be reimbursed \$50. To apply go to <https://pjlibrary.org/together>.

• Families are eligible to receive "One Book Per Child" Sign up at www.pjlibrary.org and fill out the online form and books will arrive within several months. For kids ages 6 months to 8 years old.

• PJ Our Way offers kids 8 1/2-11 a free chapter book each month. Tweens can choose from a selection of four high-quality titles that have been reviewed by a panel of PJ educators, kids, and parents. To sign up go to www.pjourway.org.

• Grandparents in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien can now receive a free subscription of PJ's PROOF Magazine and 2 free books each year. Sign up at: www.pjlibrary.org/grandparent-enrollment.

• UJF's Grandparents Group presents "The Importance and Impact of Passing on Family Stories," June 29th at 7pm, featuring Marshall Duke of Emory University. The program is open to the entire community and will provide helpful insights for parents with children both young and old, including grandparents. Sign up at www.ujf.org/story.

• Shavuot is the Hebrew word for "weeks" and refers to the Jewish festival marking the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, which occurs seven weeks after Passover. Originally a

harvest holiday, today people celebrate the day by studying the Torah (even staying up all night!), having a festive meal, hearing the story of Ruth, and eating dairy. Try this easy dairy truffle recipe from The Spruce Eats website www.spruceeats.com.

CHOCOLATE DIPPED OREO TRUFFLES (DAIRY)

Ingredients:

- 1 (18-ounce) package Oreos or other creme-filled sandwich cookies (30 cookies)
- 8 ounces cream cheese (softened)
- 2 cups white chocolate (or dark chocolate or chocolate chips; chopped)
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- Optional: sanding sugar or sprinkles

Instructions:

Place the cookies in a gallon zip-top bag and seal, squeezing out any air. Use a rolling pin to crush the cookies into crumb-sized pieces. Place in a large bowl.

With clean hands, a fork, or an electric mixer, mix the crushed cookies and cream cheese until the mixture is well blended. Cover the bowl and place in the freezer for 1 hour.

Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper, then melt the chocolate and butter in a microwave, checking often to make sure it is not overheated; stir regularly.

Remove the cookie mixture from the freezer. With clean, dry hands, break off small pieces of the mixture and roll into 1-inch balls.

Drop a cookie ball into the melted chocolate and use a spoon to roll it until coated. Transfer to the prepared baking sheet to harden and repeat with the remaining cookie balls. You can decorate with sanding sugar, sprinkles, or a contrasting flavor of melted chocolate before the chocolate coating hardens.

After the chocolate hardens, store the truffles in an airtight container in the refrigerator for 4 to 5 days or in the freezer for up to 2 months.



PJ Ambassadors Host Bagel Brunches

United Jewish Federation's PJ Library Parent Ambassadors Liatte Lasher, Erica Safer and Mel Vorm invited families outdoors for an early spring bagel brunch and schmooze.



The Reicht/Weinstock and the Lamm families have a chance to meet and enjoy the outdoors at Chestnut Hill Park.



Families gathered in a park in Harbor Point to enjoy some mingling and bagels.



Kids connected and enjoyed a bagel at the PJ Library outing in North Stamford.

Create Joy With Stars of HOPE Mitzvah Project

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

United Jewish Federation's PJ Library and PJ Our Way invite area children of all ages to participate in a group mitzvah project to create a banner of hope. The project is in partnership with Stars of HOPE, a non-profit which empowers people of all ages to transform individuals and communities in need of hope through the power of art and messages of healing. Once completed, the star-studded banner will be donated to a local fire station.

The idea for the banner came about when local Bar Mitzvah boy Adam Daniel and his mother Julie spoke to UJF Director of Campaign and Community Engagement, Sharon Franklin, about a second Bar Mitzvah project to benefit PJ Library. For this project, Adam will collect and organize stars that children have decorated in the comfort of their own

home. The stars will also include messages of good cheer and hope. Star templates will be emailed to local PJ Library families, which can then be printed out or designed digitally. Once a star is completed, it can be returned by email, U.S. mail or it can be dropped off in-person (details will be included in the instructions).

Be on the lookout in your inboxes for the star template and instructions. Completed stars will be due by May 17th. The banner, which is sponsored by the Daniel family in honor of Adam's Bar Mitzvah, will be made by the Stars of HOPE staff, and then donated to the Belltown Fire Station by UJF and the Daniel family. Adam chose to support UJF's PJ Library as his mitzvah project for his upcoming Bar Mitzvah in June. In addition to hosting a PJ Our Way author zoom event last

October, he is helping to organize the production of the banner. When asked why he decided to help with this project, Adam said: "PJ Library has given me lots of fun books to enjoy over the years and I wanted to give back. I like the idea of collaborating with my peers and friends to create a Stars of Hope banner. The banner will be housed at a local fire station in appreciation for what they give to our community."

Any child, tween or teen can participate in this mitzvah project whether you subscribe to PJ or not. The Stars of HOPE banner project allows a participant to share kindness, creativity, community, thanks, and healing.

For more information or to participate in this uplifting art project, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373 ext. 109.



Adam Daniel

PJ Library Gets Baking At Chabad's Matzah Bakery



Rachel Redlich and her son sample homemade matzah they made at the matzah bakery.



Children roll out dough to make matzah.

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's PJ Library partnered with Chabad of Stamford for their annual Passover matzah bakery on Sunday, March 14th, which was held outdoors at 770 High Ridge Road. Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov taught the

children how to make matzah within the 18 minutes required for Passover and told the story of the holiday. The children also enjoyed music and snacks. The event ended with a PJ Library story read by UJF's PJ Library Director Sharon Franklin.

United Jewish Federation's PJ Library & PJ Our Way

STARS of HOPE Community Mitzvah Project

Create a banner that will be donated to a local shelter



- Decorate a star and add your own words of hope.
- Stars will be collected and added to a community banner - deadline is May 17th.
- Participation open to all Teens and Tweens
- Share kindness, creativity, community, and healing.

Contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or go to www.ujf.org/pjhope

Thank you to Adam Daniel and his family for sponsoring this project as part of his Bar Mitzvah project.



"Pharaoh" shares Passover stories with participants.

Passover Comes to PJ Library

United Jewish Federation's PJ Library program distributed over 100 complimentary Passover bags to area children. The bags

included a matzah mask, a Passover snack, a toy, crafts, and an activity and blessing packet.



Joanna Lowin Frank and her son receive a UJF PJ Library Passover gift bag.



Amy Sroka's son crafts his Elijah cup he received in his Passover bag from UJF's PJ Library.



Rabbi Oren and Chani Zweiter and their family participate in the PJ Library Passover gift bag event.

PJ Library Feature Family: The Azari Family

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

Ayala and Shaun Azari moved to Stamford two years ago from Falls Village, Connecticut, a small-town bordering New York and Massachusetts. Both are originally from California but met in New York City nearly a decade ago. Ayala and Shaun enjoy living in the suburbs and look forward to nicer weather to spend time outdoors with their baby daughter Eden, and with friends and family.

What is your favorite PJ Library book?

Our favorite read is Joseph Had a Little Overcoat by Simms Taback. We love how the book is interactive with cutouts for the changing coat. Our daughter is attracted to the colorful images and we never get tired of reading her this fun story.

Do you have a favorite PJ Library program you have attended?

We look forward to participating in PJ Library programs now that the weather is improving. We can't wait to meet all of the new families that have recently moved to Stamford.

Why is PJ Library important in your home?

Reading together is a daily activity so it is amazing to have Jewish-themed stories to share.

What is your bedtime routine like in your home? Is a story included?

Our daughter is 8 months old, and we are creating a routine for her that includes reading



Ayala and Shaun Azari with their daughter Eden.

before each nap and bedtime. We get to snuggle together in our bedroom and share a book (or two) as she winds down. These are the moments we will cherish, and they are made even more meaningful because we are incorporating Jewish stories into her life.

PJ Library Families Give Back

United Jewish Federation's PJ Library families donate food for the Schoke Jewish Family Service Passover food drive.



Liz Kitay, a Schoke JFS volunteer, picks up shelf stable kosher Passover food from UJF's Sharon Franklin.



The Lasher girls drop off food in the UJF PJ Library Passover boxes to benefit the Schoke JFS Passover food drive.

Thirty Second Baggage Disinfection Coming to Airports

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

"The AirFort devices are designed to meet airports' passenger flow – inbound and outbound– so we expect there will be a need for at least double the number of x-ray machines in airports," Fischer says.

"WarpUV understands the current challenging financial climate in the air travel industry, and so we created a business model that offers two alternatives for the deployment of the devices," he adds.

Airports may buy the devices outright via a purchase and service level agreement

(SLA) or opt for a Machine as a Service (MaaS) model in which the airport is charged a small fee per passenger that could be covered by a ticket surcharge.

Fischer reports "a great deal of interest" in the AirFort devices.

"With access to nearly 100 airports via

two leading industry distributors, WarpUV already has deals underway representing more than \$100 million in revenue," he says.

The company was formed in 2020 by Fischer along with Eitan Haimovich and Gil Luxembourg.

TEEN VOICES

How A Leadership Program Changed My View On Mental Health

BY NAAMA TEITEL

Just like everyone else on the planet, the Coronavirus pandemic changed my life in substantial ways last year. While my loved ones and I were so lucky to be healthy, the pandemic kept me from returning to the classroom and seeing my friends. As the summer approached, I had to think out of the box to find something meaningful to do. An administrator at my school suggested that I apply to participate in a summer leadership program for teens run by an organization called Project Proactive (PP). She knew I was the incoming co-president of the Mental Health Club at SAR High School (which I attended from freshman to sophomore year) and thought it would be an excellent way to get more involved in the mental health world. PP is a Jewish-led program confronting the stigmas surrounding mental health struggles, especially in the Jewish community.

Of course, I jumped at the opportunity and applied immediately because I knew that this was the perfect way to hone my leadership skills while focusing on something I was so passionate about. During this virtual program, I met other like-minded teenagers who were equally enthusiastic about breaking the mental health stigma! I also learned about mental health first aid and heard from numerous guest speakers about their experience in the mental health world. After the two-week program ended, I had learned so much about the importance of being more empathetic to the people around us, especially within our own communities.



Naama Teitel

Often, people don't come forward about their mental health struggles because of their fears of being judged or becoming outsiders. I strongly encourage each of you to reach out to people in your community who may be struggling and offer a helping hand. You never know how much of a difference it may make in their mental strength and willingness to get help. Once the conversation begins, filled with empathy, compassion, and kindness, the shame around mental health struggles can start to dissipate. Our communities will become stronger when we embrace each other and build each other up, despite our differences.

Naama Teitel is a junior at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford. She enjoys music, fashion, social activism, art, and spending time with her friends.

The Importance of Family Stories

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pass on a legacy and unite a family. During the question-and-answer portion of



the program, guests will have the opportunity to talk about their own family stories.

The program is brought to the community by UJF's Grandparents Group, whose committee members include Caryn Halbrecht, Meryl Japha, Lorraine Kveskin, Lynn Lowin, Kathy Sosnovich, and Linda Spilka.

Caryn Halbrecht, a local parent and grandparent, agrees with "the importance of passing on values, traditions and Jewish identity through the telling of stories. This program will guide us in effective storytelling and demonstrate the impact these stories can have on subsequent generations."

To sign up for this free event go to www.ujf.org/story. If you would like more information about the event, or if you would like to get involved with UJF's Grandparents Group, please contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org/203-321-1373 ext. 109.

WHY I CARE...

Focus on: Terry Bernard and Nancy Fahey



Terry Bernard



Nancy Fahey

"Dignity is the ability to stand strong and tall in the face of adversity, while being able to bow to the elderly and crawl with the children. Dignity is taking a stand for your beliefs without losing your mind to another's opinion. Dignity is being an example by your deeds and through your words, avoiding gossip, anger and lies. Dignity will manifest itself in the warmth of your smile, the depth of your love, and the kindness you show to others."

-- Mychal Wynn

EDITED BY JANE LEVENE

Terry and Nancy are friends that met during their college years, and since then their friendship has not only remained but grown stronger. Together, with the support of United Jewish Federation, they launched Stamford's chapter of Dignity Grows™. Both women give credit to another close college friend, Jessica Zachs, for inspiring them to get involved with this initiative. Zachs is the creator of Dignity Grows™, which was founded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford's Women's Philanthropy.

UJF launched Dignity Grows™ in early 2021. Volunteers meet once a month to pack tote bags with monthly personal and hygiene products for women, girls and individuals assigned female at birth, who cannot afford them. Totes are delivered to area shelters and social service agencies, including Schoke JFS and Inspirica. (To find out more information about the program or to donate, contact Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org).

Both Terry and Nancy have been active in the Jewish community as well as their greater local community for many years and believe it is important to give back and do what they can to help strengthen the organizations they believe in. Terry has lived in Westport for 25 years with her husband Russ and their three children, ages 28, 26 and 24. Nancy has lived in Stamford for 30 years with her husband Kevin and their 3 daughters, ages 26, 23 and 20.

Here's why they care:

Describe your involvement with United Jewish Federation and how long you have been associated with the organization?

Other than giving over the years, neither of us has been very involved with UJF in the past. Dignity Grows™ has given us the opportunity to learn more about this important organization and work with them to build a program which will have a positive impact on our community.

Dignity Grows™ demonstrates one of the many ways Federation supports the community, without regard for ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. It is a hands-on project that embodies the Jewish values of Tikkun Olam and Tzedakah.

Have you been involved with other Jewish organizations?

Terry: I have been active with many other Jewish organizations in various capacities on an ongoing basis. ADL, AIPAC, Shoah Foundation and United Hatzalah have been among my favorite organizations. I am also involved with Beit Chaverim and Chabad of Westport.

Nancy: I am a past member of Temple Sinai's sisterhood. Much of my volunteer work has centered around the Stamford public schools and Laurel House (a wonderful organization that provides mental health resources to individuals and their families).

Why is it important for you to give back in this way?

Between us we have five daughters, so the idea of supporting women and girls in need is something we are both passionate about. Also, during this time of political divisiveness,

Dignity Grows™ provides a vehicle for bringing the greater community together. We are looking forward to engaging with volunteers during our "packing parties" (when it is safe to do so) and creating a path for volunteers, young and old, to work together to make our local community even stronger!

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 **United Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy**

Spring Dinner

with Guest Speaker **Jean Chatzky**
Live Music by **Arielle Eden**

Wednesday, June 2nd* Stamford Museum and Nature Center
151 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford
*(rain date June 3rd)

Reconnect with old friends and connect with new ones!
Masks required and all safety precautions and social distancing protocols observed. Zoom participation welcome!

6:30pm - Pre-Packaged Dinner, Wine Tasting, Crafts, Tricky Tray and Silent Auction and more...
7:30pm - Program

\$95 through May 21st, \$125 after, \$360 Event Sponsor

Tricky Tray raffle/auction tickets- Purchase now and save!
\$72 = 100 tickets • \$54 = 65 tickets • \$36 = 36 tickets



Chatzky is the CEO of *HerMoney.com* and host of the podcast *HerMoney With Jean Chatzky*. The financial editor of NBC Today for 25 years and the Financial Ambassador for AARP, she appears frequently on CNN, MSNBC and was a recurring guest on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. She is a *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* best-selling author. Her latest book is *Women with Money: The Judgment-Free Guide to Creating the Joyful, Less Stressed, Purposeful (and Yes, Rich) Life You Deserve*. More at JeanChatzky.com and @JeanChatzky

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Register online at www.ujf.org/Spring21 or call Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373, ext. 105