



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

A Weekend of Song

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) Temple Sinai is thrilled to welcome Musician-in-Residence, Rabbi Noam Katz, to spend a weekend with the congregation on May 12-14. His robust bio highlights Rabbi Katz as a unique voice in the contemporary Jewish music world and notes that he shares his soulful melodies with Jewish and interfaith communities across North America, Africa and Israel.

In 2003, Rabbi Katz volunteered with the Abayudaya Jews of Uganda. Since



Rabbi Noam Katz

then, he has shared their stories and music with audiences young and old, incorporating the message of Jewish unity and *tikkun olam* (healing the world) wherever he goes. A seasoned song leader/educator at URJ Eisner, George and Kutz Camps, Rabbi Katz has performed for Jewish organizations nation-wide, and he currently serves as the Rabbi/Dean of Jewish Living at The Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto, Ontario.

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Bringing Prayer to Life

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Temple Beth El (TBE) is pleased to welcome Ben Pagliaro as Artist in Residence the weekend of May 5-7. Pagliaro is a Jewish singer-songwriter known for "worship rap and sacred space" who brings prayer to life. He loves singing and leading music by Jewish artists.



Ben Pagliaro

On Friday evening there will be a Shabbat dinner followed by a musical Kabbalat service led by Pagliaro, along with Cantor Katie Kaplan and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman. Pagliaro will also co-lead a musical Shabbat service on

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Celebrate Spring at Annual Women's Dinner

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's (UJF) Women's Philanthropy welcomes community women to its annual spring dinner event being held on Wednesday, May 31 at 6:30 pm at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road in Stamford. The event will feature dinner, signature drinks, an auction, and an opportunity to hear from the guest speaker, author Lisa Barr.

Barr has captivated readers with her compelling stories. She is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Woman on Fire*, *The Unbreakables*, and the historical thriller *Fugitive Colors*, a suspenseful tale of stolen art, love, lust, deception, and revenge on the eve of WWII. The novel won the (Independent Publisher Book Awards) gold medal for "Best Literary Fiction 2014" and first prize at The Hollywood Film Festival (Opus Magnum Discovery Award). Lisa has served as an editor for *The Jerusalem Post*, managing editor of *Today's Chicago Woman*, managing editor of *Moment Magazine*, and as an editor/reporter for *The Chicago Sun-Times*. She will share

her insights and experiences, offering a unique perspective on life, literature, and philanthropy.

"Once again we are excited to welcome Arielle Eden who will provide musical entertainment. Arielle grew up in Stamford and graduated from Bi-Cultural. Arielle is joining us for the third year at the Spring Dinner," shared Diane Sloyer, CEO of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. "This communal event is always a highlight on the community calendar," continued Sloyer.



Lisa Barr

Join with friends, old and new, for an evening of inspiration, education, and celebration. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow philanthropic-minded women in the community and support the important work of UJF.

Tickets are \$110 until May 19 and \$136 beginning May 20. Sponsorships are available at \$360 and include a pre-reception at 5:45 pm and a signed copy of Barr's book. Registration is available at www.ujf.org/SpringDinner23. For more information, contact Dianesloyer@ujf.org.

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Survivors and children of survivors light Yahrzeit candles in memory of the victims of the Shoah at the community commemoration of *Yom Ha'Shoah Ve-Hagevurah*, "The Day of (Remembrance of) the Holocaust and the Heroism" at Temple Beth El, sponsored by United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County. (PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY) (See article and more photos on page 6.)





From UJF's Chief Executive Officer

Shaping the Future of Jewish Leadership

BY DIANE SLOYER

The Jewish community has a rich history of leadership, with visionary individuals who have played pivotal roles in shaping its culture, values, and progress. Our local Jewish community of today, in particular our Federation which is celebrating its 50th year, was built and shaped by these visionaries. The role of Gen Z, the generation born between the mid-1990s and early 2010s, will be critical in leading the Jewish community as we move forward.

Gen Z is marked by its diversity, resilience, and social consciousness. Growing up in a rapidly ever-changing world, Gen Z has been shaped by a variety of experiences, from the digital revolution to global challenges including climate change and social justice movements.

Gen Z can have a significant impact in revitalizing Jewish engagement. Many Jewish organizations, including Federation, are grappling with issues of declining membership and waning interest among younger generations. However, Gen Z has shown a strong desire for meaningful connections and



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

a sense of purpose. Our Federation and those throughout North America are poised to meet this challenge.

Gen Z is highly diverse, including different cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. This diversity brings a fresh perspective to Jewish leadership, challenging traditional norms and encouraging inclusivity. Gen Z's willingness to embrace diversity can help create a more inclusive and welcoming Jewish community. Jewish Federations of North America's JEDI (Jewish Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) initiative was launched several years ago and continues to grow showing Federation's commitment to the diversity of the greater Jewish community.

During COVID and continuing today, Jewish Federations of North America launched *Change Makers Fellowship*, a program for 20-25-year-olds. Today over 2,000 participants have graduated from this leadership development experience designed to expand career options, network, and, most importantly, propel the desire and ability to effect positive change in one's community and the world at large.

Here in our community, Federation, in partnership with the JCC, is running a 6-session teen immersive leadership program this summer called *Noded* (wanderer). This program will be led by UJF's Shaliach (Israeli

emissary) Yoav Yaron. To obtain more information, go to www.ujf.org/noded.

Many members of Gen Z have grown up in a time when the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been a prominent issue in the media and public discourse. Engaging Gen Z in thoughtful and respectful conversations about Israel and its place in Jewish identity can foster meaningful dialogue and help shape a more nuanced understanding of this complex issue within the Jewish community. As the Jewish community looks to invest in our future, The Jewish Education Project, a non-profit organization in New York City, established RootOne (rootone.org). RootOne LLC helps thousands of Jewish teens travel to Israel each summer for a once-in-a-lifetime experience and provides \$3,000 vouchers toward the summer teen tours. In

addition, Yoav Yaron joined the Bi-Cultural senior trip to Israel as the lead educator and will spend more time in the BCHA high school next year.

This generation has grown up in a more multicultural society, with exposure to different religions, cultures, and traditions. Many Gen Z Jews have interfaith backgrounds, and they bring a unique perspective on Jewish identity and engagement. Gen Z's intercultural experiences can foster greater inclusivity, empathy, and understanding in Jewish leadership, enabling Jews to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and build meaningful relationships across religious and cultural lines. We look forward to the future and the great impact that this group will have on our Jewish community.

UJF President's Message

Generation to Generation

BY MICHAEL SCHLESSINGER

Passover inspires me in its effort to transfer deeply ingrained customs from generation to generation. Through the four questions and the afikomen (among other aspects), the Seder focuses on its youngest participants. The dietary restrictions help us strive to experience the Exodus as though we were there. I learned recently that there is evidence that the first Passover was commemorated in the desert one year later, as it has been each year since, for a miraculous 3000 years (or so).

In my extended family (my parents had 5 children, 16 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren), I'm heartened that the younger generations have embraced the songs of their great grandparents (complete with Ashkenazi pronunciation + idiosyncratic flourishes they never experienced firsthand) and embellished the tradition by adding their own anthems loosely associated with social justice (or Jewish summer camp).

The holiday focus on generations of Judaism naturally leads those within the Federation community to reflect on UJF's communal LIFE & LEGACY program. LIFE & LEGACY was cleverly designed to minimize, at least at first, the extent to which one must contemplate one's own mortality. The initial letter of intent is non-binding, the paper/legal work comes later and need not be complicated, and euphemisms like "legacy" indulge any neuroses we may have about the "d" word.

With all due respect to the Grinspoon Foundation however, my own decision to participate in LIFE & LEGACY was influenced by death -- specifically, my experience as the executor of my father's estate in 2017. My

father was not wealthy, nor would one have leapt to describe him as a philanthropist. But he saw his annual charitable gifts as sacrosanct. I became acutely aware of just how important it was to him to keep his charitable commitments later in his life, as I gradually assumed more and more responsibility for his finances. (Those 3-hour pre-Zoom calls to painstakingly review his literally hundreds of \$36 donations took on deeper meaning after he was gone.)

My brothers and I respected our father deeply, and we were commonly resolved to administer his estate harmoniously, prioritizing in each decision what he would have wanted. But his will did not include any legacy gifts, nor did it spontaneously occur to us to make one on his behalf. One of his larger gifts was to Jewish United Fund (JUF), Chicago's local Federation. He supported JUF with his annual gift for I suspect 65 years running and had he the benefit of the LIFE & LEGACY program as a prompt, I am quite sure he would have wanted that support to continue posthumously.

In this sense, our own legacy gifts, rather than depriving our children of some portion of their inheritance, are a further gift to them. Even if they do not appreciate the celebration of Jewish values and community, they can at least know their parents have been appropriately memorialized, in accordance with their own wishes. We hope and pray that our children will be our true legacy gift and that they will continue to find their own ways to help sustain the Jewish people. Singing the traditional Passover songs exactly as their ancestors did in the Polish shtetl is certainly a good start. Please consider participating in LIFE & LEGACY and supporting our communal Jewish future.



Michael Schlessinger, UJF President



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

Celebrating

50

YEARS

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 7TH

Federation is Celebrating its 50th Anniversary!

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

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

MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

"Feeding the Community"

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service invites you to "An Evening with Schoke JFS" on Sunday, May 21 at 5:30 pm at the Italian Center of Stamford, 1620 Newfield Avenue, in an outdoor tented pavilion. The theme, "Feeding the Community," highlights the agency's services that nourish the community throughout Fairfield County. Schoke JFS is forecasting a fun-filled evening, hosted by David Price, weather anchor for NBC 4 New York. Co-Chairs Connie Freeman and Jillian Klaff are joined by Auction Chair Jeri Appel and Advisors Meryl Japha, Liz Kitay, and Ronnie Sichel.



Mimi Cohen



Rhoda and Avram Freedberg

Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry at the Schoke JFS office in Stamford.

This year's Community Service Award recipients are two local Federations that support Schoke JFS.

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien has been building and safeguarding the Jewish community since 1973. Since 2017, Diane Sloyer, CEO, has led a mission-driven team to strengthen connections to Israel and global Jewry by convening and mobilizing the community to invest in Jewish life for today and future generations.

Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County

brings diverse Jewish voices together around a common purpose, funding dozens of agencies that work to respond to ongoing challenges and emerging issues. They have reimagined Jewish life in innovative ways, both online and on the ground, offering meaningful programs, including serving as a lead sponsor of the Kosher Mobile Food Pantry.

The Volunteers of the Year Award recipients are the Mitzvah Match families.

The Schoke JFS Mitzvah Match Program pairs volunteer families with Schoke JFS clients to provide grocery deliveries from the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry. These committed volunteer families visit the pantry and "shop" on behalf of their matches and deliver groceries each month. We are grateful to the Mitzvah Match families for bringing food, warmth, companionship and connection to Schoke JFS clients.

Mitzvah Match Families include Jessica, Jonathan, Samantha, and Grant Bradley; Robin, Jason, Shane, and Hadassah Fischel; Alexandra, Jonathan, Yuval, Eli, Lev, and Ezra Gradman; Jessie, Ilan, Eliana, Bara, Kaia, and Ziv Katz; Miriam, Josh, David, Elle, and Aria Sperber; Audrey, Joseph, Ari,



The Bradley Family



The Fischel Family



The Gradman Family



The Katz Family



The Sperber Family



The Speter Family



The Tobin Family



The Yasgur Family



The Zizmor Family

Mitzvah Match Families

Amira, and Moriah Speter; Laura, Seth, Elissa, Hannah, Julia and Jacob Tobin; Shushannah, Ari, Bess, Naomi, and Gabriel Yasgur; and Navah, David, Noa, and Gabriel Zizmor.

Visit www.ctjfs.org/gala to read

honoree bios, purchase tickets, and browse online auction items!

Couvert of \$250 includes dinner and dessert. Contact Lisa Rich at 203-921-4161 or lrch@ctjfs.org to place a journal ad.

Annual Friendship Day and Walk

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) Please join the Friendship Circle on Sunday, May 21, 12:30 to 2:30 pm, for its Annual "Friendship Day and Walk" and show your support for individuals with special needs and their families. The walk will take place

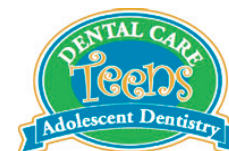
at Westhill High School on the back field and will feature food and entertainment. All ages are welcome to join. For more information, please email Malya Shmotkin, Director of the Friendship Circle at malya@friendshipct.com.

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

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Temple Beth El to Dedicate New Walkway

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) On Sunday, May 7, Temple Beth El (TBE) will dedicate its new Commemorative Paver Walkway in front of its recently renovated main entrance. This project, started in 2020 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of TBE, was completed this year after a delay caused by COVID-19.

Each paver contains a dedication or personal message honoring or memorializing a person(s) or special event. The permanent, high-resolution, laser-engraved black letters on the paver stones will be visible for generations to come. The pavers, which vary in size, were purchased by members and friends of Temple Beth El.

The dedication at 9:30 am will be followed by breakfast and a free concert by singer and songwriter Ben Pagliaro. Mr. Pagliaro will be at TBE for a weekend of activities as the

synagogue's Artist-in-Residence.

The funds raised from the project have been earmarked for a patio and wood pergola, which will be constructed on the lawn outside the main sanctuary next to the Matthew Klein Memorial Garden. The 20' x 40' pergola will be erected on a 30' x 40' stone patio with permanent lighting and electrical outlets. For Sukkot, the pergola will be converted to a Sukkah. This area will supplement the newly updated social hall, lobby, and restrooms that can be rented for simchas and community events.

Co-chairs of the Commemorative Brick Campaign and breakfast are Sue Frieden and Marsha Matthews. Pavers will continue to be available for sale for installation this summer. For more information, contact Steven Lander, TBE's executive director, at execdir@tbe.org or 203-322-6901, ext. 304.



Newly installed pavers honor 100 years of TBE.
(PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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

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

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Shavuot with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford invites the community to celebrate Shavuot, the day G-d gave the Torah to the Jewish people, in several ways. As Shavuot approaches, Chabad will offer each child the opportunity to order a letter in a *Sefer Torah* - a special Torah scroll being written in Jerusalem - exclusively for Jewish children around the world. This mitzvah can be fulfilled for only \$1 per child (with sponsorship opportunities),

and Chabad encourages the community to order a letter for friends and relatives under bar and bat mitzvah age.

On the eve of Shavuot, Thursday, May 25, Chabad will hold an all-night learning opportunity affectionately nicknamed "Ted Talks" after one of their members. Community members can submit a discussion topic to Rabbi Moshe Shemtov by Monday, May 22. These can be any discussion topics related to Judaism.

On Friday, May 26, at 11:00 am, Chabad will celebrate Shavuot with a reading of the ten commandments and a children's program, followed by a lavish dairy buffet and ice cream party.

Chabad will once again be selling their delicious cheesecakes, to help enhance Shavuot celebrations at home.

For more information or to sign up, please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org or visit them at stamfordchabad.org

CKC Hebrew School Open House

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford invites all parents and children to come try out their Chabad Kids Club (CKC) Hebrew school program at their open house on Tuesday, May 16 at 4:00 pm.

For kids in kindergarten to 7th grade, Chabad offers a unique, fun and educational after-school program including Hebrew school, Judaic homework help, fun lessons and awesome games and prizes. CKC also includes its P.O.G.S. (Parsha and Other Great Stuff) class. P.O.G.S. is a weekly science and cooking class for kids in pre-K through 2nd grades. Once a month Chabad's Chai Five Mitzvah club (for grades 3-7) meets to find exciting ways to help people in the community. To find out more about their offerings or to RSVP for the open house, please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org.

Mother's Day Senior Luncheon

(Courtesy of JCC) All senior adults in the community are invited to join a luncheon to celebrate and honor all mothers on Friday, May 12 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Avenue, Stamford. Guests will be treated to live entertainment. The luncheon is sponsored by Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser in memory of their mothers, Beverly Ferber and Jacqueline Bitterman. Free and open to all seniors, \$6 suggested donation welcome, reservations required by Friday, May 5.

Make reservations by calling Shari Ziegelman at 203-487-0979.

A Weekend of Song

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Rabbi Katz has released four albums: his first, *Rakia*, includes 12 original Hebrew and English melodies for Shabbat and Havdalah. His second album, *Mirembe, Salaam v'Shalom*, features musicians from Africa and the Middle East, and includes his Ugandan-inspired "Am Yisrael Chai." Katz's third release, *A Drum in Hand*, blends Jewish prayers with the energy of a drum circle. His newest album, *After the Flood*, includes 14 new songs that focus on resilience and

remembrance. To learn more about Rabbi Katz and his music, visit noamkatz.com.

All are welcome to attend the weekend's programs:

On Friday evening, May 12, 7:30 pm, in addition to celebrating Temple Sinai's confirmands, the Temple's musical ensemble, Ruach, will lead services with Rabbi Katz, as together they share melodies from his eclectic repertoire.

On Saturday morning, May 13, 10:30 am, Shabbat morning services, led by the

fourth-grade students, will be enhanced by Rabbi Katz with his joyful music. Kiddush luncheon to follow.

On Saturday evening, May 13, 7:00 pm, say goodbye to Shabbat with Havdalah and an intimate concert with Rabbi Katz. He will share reflections about his various musical experiences and the inspiration behind his beautiful music.

This weekend of events is made possible by a generous gift of the Gary and Ronnie Lilien Fund.

Agudath Sholom to Host Scholar for Shavuot

(Courtesy of Congregation Agudath Sholom) Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Zuckier, a Judaic studies scholar, will be spending Shavuot in Stamford at Congregation Agudath Sholom, and delivering five Torah classes over the holiday.

Dr. Zuckier will give his first two classes on the first night of Shavuot, Thursday evening, May 25, as part of the all-night learning program at the synagogue beginning at 12 midnight. His first class will be titled, "When Was the Torah Given and When Should We Celebrate Shavuot?" and his second class will follow, "Do Mitzvot Require Preparation?" Refreshments will be served.

Dr. Zuckier will be delivering the sermon at the main sanctuary on the first day of Shavuot, Friday, May 26, at approximately 11:00 am. The title of the sermon will be, "Why the Torah Was Given to Mere Mortals."

On Friday, May 26, Dr. Zuckier will give a text-based class between *mincha* and *maariv* services at 8:00 pm, on "The Book of Naomi: A New Perspective on the Story of Ruth."

Finally, on Saturday, May 27, Dr. Zuckier will deliver his final class, "What Does the Divine Image Look Like?" between *mincha* and *maariv* at 8:00 pm.

"We are delighted to host Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Zuckier for a series of high-level Torah classes during the Shavuot

holiday," said Michael Feldstein, a member of the adult education committee at the synagogue. "Dr. Zuckier endeared himself to our community while he and his family lived in Stamford briefly, and we are very happy that we are able to bring him back to teach Torah to us."



Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Zuckier

Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Zuckier did a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Jewish

Studies at McGill University. He recently completed a PhD in Religious Studies at Yale University as well as studies in Yeshiva University's Kollel Elyon. Dr. Zuckier is a founder of *The Lehrhaus* and was formerly Director of the Orthodox Union's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus at Yale University.

An alumnus of Yeshivat Har Etzion and Yeshiva University (BA, MA), Dr. Zuckier also received his ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University. He has lectured widely across North America, and is always excited to share Torah and Jewish scholarship on a broad range of issues. He has taught at Yale Divinity School, Yeshiva University, the Drisha Institute, and Tikvah programs, and has held the Wexner and Tikvah Fellowships. Dr. Zuckier serves on the editorial committee of *Tradition*, is co-editor of *Torah and Western Thought: Intellectual Portraits of Orthodoxy and Modernity*, and edited *Contemporary Uses and Forms of Hasidut*.

Bringing Prayer to Life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Saturday morning. On Sunday morning, he will do a concert at 11:15 am and will be joined by the students of Keshet Beth El. The entire weekend of events is open to all, but reservations are required for the Shabbat dinner on Friday night.

Cantor Katie Kaplan stated, "I'm so excited to have Ben join us at TBE. His energy, passion, and creativity are inspiring, and he exudes joy and warmth. He will connect with people of all ages, and his original music is sure to have us all singing, clapping, and dancing along. Ben is also an author, and his new children's book, *I Have a Choice*, delivers an empowering message."

Pagliari grew up in Plainview, Long Island. He spent ten summers at URJ Eisner Camp in the Berkshires where he learned to be a song leader. He continued leading worship with Hillel at the University of Delaware while he was completing his Bachelor of Music in Music Theory with a concentration in Voice and a minor in Violin. After school he spent one year as the Music and *T'filah* (prayer) Coordinator at Larchmont Temple in Westchester and then three years at Isaac M. Wise Temple in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has also worked at Temple Beth Ami in Rockville, Maryland. Presently he is a musician and *T'filah* Director at Adas Israel in Washington, DC.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

May 5.....	7:37 pm
May 12.....	7:44 pm
May 19.....	7:51 pm
May 26.....	7:57 pm

JCC Annual Golf and Tennis Outing

(Courtesy of JCC) More than 100 golfers and tennis players are expected to participate in the Stamford Jewish Community Center's 28th annual Golf and Tennis Outing on Monday, June 5 at Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich.

Dubbed, "Fore the Kids," the outing is held each year in support of early childhood education for children with special needs, inclusion programming, summer experiences and youth sports. These funds allow the JCC to meet the

community where they are by making programs accessible to all. The event includes a buffet luncheon, shotgun start for golf and tennis at 12:45 pm, cocktail hour and an awards dinner to end the day.

Craig L. Price is serving as event chair. Phil Dinan is once again serving as Golf Chair and Eric Roth is this year's Tennis Chair.

For reservations or information, contact Shannon Jacobs at 203-487-0965 or sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org.

Women's Spa for the Soul

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) For the past 25 years Chabad's Jewish Women Connected (JWC) has hosted a women's event in honor of Lag B'Omer. The event features women from across the Stamford Jewish community coming together in unity and celebration. This year the event will take place on Monday, May 8 at 6:30 pm at Chabad of Stamford on High Ridge Road. The theme for this year is "A Women's Spa for the Soul - Connect to Your Inner

Self." The event will be a fun and hands-on evening. For Leah Shemtov, the evening is a chance "for women to come together, to create, meditate, rejuvenate and celebrate together with meaningful, engaging experiences and (of course) delicious food."

This event is open to all women in the community. Please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org for more details or visit www.stamfordchabad.org.

MOZAIC Concierge Living
Life with Community



A new Life Plan Community by Mozaic Senior Life
(formerly Jewish Senior Services)

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

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

Learn more at our informational luncheons in the coming months. To reserve your seat or to become a Priority Reservation Member today, please contact us at

203-396-1140 or info@mozaiccl.org.

mozaicconciergeliving.org



Day of Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism

(Courtesy of UJF) On Sunday, April 16 United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (UJF) and The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County sponsored the community commemoration of *Yom Ha'Shoah Ve-Hagevurah*, "The Day of (Remembrance of) the Holocaust and the Heroism" at Temple Beth El. The name of the day is meant to remember both the atrocities committed against the Jews and also the passive and active resistance of the Jews against the Nazis. *Yom Ha'Shoah Ve-Hagevurah* was established by the Israeli Knesset in 1951 and was purposefully placed one week after Passover and one week before Israeli Independence Day, Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

This year, the community commemoration featured Julie Kohner, daughter of two survivors of the Holocaust. Julie has been presenting her parents' story of survival for thirty years, since the death of her mother, and has founded a non-profit organization called Voices of the Generations to teach future generations about the Holocaust and the personal stories of people who survived. Julie's presentation included showing a film of the vintage television show, *This Is Your Life*, which featured her mother, Hanna Kohner. This show, shown in 1953,

was the first to begin a public conversation about what happened during the war. Until that time, most of the American public was not aware of the death camps and other atrocities, and *This Is Your Life* provided this groundbreaking moment.

About 120 people gathered at Temple Beth El to listen to Julie's presentation of her parent's love story and how they managed to survive the war and come to the United States. In addition to Julie's presentation, the program included welcoming remarks from Diane Sloyer, CEO of UJF, and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman of Temple Beth El; poetry written by Holocaust survivor Alexander Kimel and read by Peter Lilienthal, President of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, and Nan Gordon, VP of Torah at Temple Sinai; and poetry of Holocaust victim Pavel Friedman, read by Lisa Silver, VP Tikkun Olam, Temple Sinai. *Yahrzeit* candles were lit by children of survivors, Rabbi Daniel Cohen of Congregation Agudath Sholom chanted the memorial prayer for the departed in memory of the victims of the *Shoah*, and Rabbi Eli Kohl of Young Israel of Stamford, recited *Kaddish*. Sharon Lewis, UJF's JCRC Director, gave closing remarks, and the program ended with singing of Israel's national anthem, *HaTikvah*, led by the Rabbis.



The crowd rises to sing *HaTikvah*, the Israeli National Anthem, led by Rabbis Hammerman, Cohen and Kohl.



(l-r) Terry Newman, Sam Judd, Renee Migdal Judd, and Linda Spilka.



(l-r) Cheryl Bader Goldblum, Allison Greenbaum, and Amy and Ken Temple.



(l-r) UJF President Michael Schlessinger, Ed Smith, UJF CEO Diane Sloyer, and Charlotte Birnbaum.



(l-r) Past President Temple Beth El Eileen Rosner with Susan & Art Greenwald.



Julie Kohner displays the book presented to her mother during the historic television show.



Muriel Ashley and her daughter, Sharon Lewis.



(l-r) Former UJF Executive Director Edith Samers, UJF Past President Bob Breakstone, Ed Smith, and Shirley Sklar. (ALL PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

Students Advance to Bible Contest Nationals

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) Mazal tov to the four Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) students who have officially made the Chidon HaTanach (Bible Contest) Nationals. Eliora Wolfe, Yoni Weissner, Ilan Rosenfeld, and Boaz Moreen placed among the top students nationally from a pool of over 600 students in the Middle School Division across three preliminary test rounds covering over 45 chapters of Tanach (Hebrew Bible). We are so proud of this tremendous accomplishment and wish them best of luck as they travel to Yeshiva University for the next round.



(l-r) Eliora Wolfe, Yoni Weissner, Ilan Rosenfeld, and Boaz Moreen advanced to the Chidon HaTanach Nationals. (PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL SILVERFARB)

Creating Links of Love

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) The Friendship Circle is delighted to announce the sponsorship of a new program called "Links of Love." Board member Howie Schwartz and his family are honoring Howie's mother Diane, who passed away earlier this year. Diane Schwartz was known as a devoted friend to all, and the Friendship Circle was her favorite charity.

Howie said, "My mom had a heart of gold, and so many friends of all ages and



Gayle Judson completes a puzzle with Jacob.

types. Friendship Circle was her favorite cause, and I believe she would be delighted to see the development of the relationships between seniors and adults with special needs. I am so happy that we are able to honor her in this way, with the many donations

contributed by friends and family in her memory."

"Links of Love" is a program designed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Collaboration At Its Best



Many Stamford participants join for a group photo.

For over 30 years women from the Stamford, New Canaan, Darien, and Greenwich communities have joined together for Education Day. Close to 75 participants enjoyed a choice of sessions and keynote presentations and equally enjoyed catching up with friends.



(l-r) Monica Smyth, Beverly Stein, Tara Shapiro, and Nan Gordon

City Proclamation Marks Education and Sharing Day



Mayor Caroline Simmons (3rd from left) hand delivers the city's proclamation for Education and Sharing Day Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov and family at Chabad of Stamford.

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford was honored to have Mayor Caroline Simmons stop by on the eve of the first night of Passover, to hand deliver the city's education proclamation in honor of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's birthday, proclaiming "Education and Sharing Day" in Stamford. To emphasize the vital role of education in society, the United States annually marks Education and Sharing Day USA, which was established in 1978 by a joint Congressional resolution.

United States presidents, in conjunction with the Washington, D.C.

based American Friends of Lubavitch, annually designate Education and Sharing Day USA on the anniversary of the birth of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, of righteous memory. Rabbi Schneerson dedicated his life to the cause of education. Education Day USA focuses on the very foundation of meaningful education: instructing America's youth in the ways of morality and ethics, and teaching them an appreciation for divine inviolable values.

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



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

UJF encourages all community organizations to utilize the community calendar!

UJF Community Calendar Listings for May

MAY 2 TUESDAY

7:00PM Congregation Agudath Sholom Executive Meeting
8:00PM Congregation Agudath Sholom Board Meeting

MAY 3 WEDNESDAY

4:30PM Temple Sinai Hebrew Learning Program
7:30PM Temple Beth El Board of Trustees Meeting

MAY 4 THURSDAY

6:30PM Israeli Dance Class
Temple Beth El - 350 Roxbury Road
7:00PM Virtual Security Training with Michael Shanbrom

MAY 5 FRIDAY

5:45PM Temple Sinai First Fridays Family Shabbat Service Rabbi Jay & Cantor Micah
7:30PM Temple Sinai Shabbat Ruach Service

MAY 7 SUNDAY

5:30PM TS Inspire - Temple Sinai's Formal Teen Education Program
9:30AM Dedication of Paver Walkway & Breakfast at Temple Beth El Temple Beth El - 350 Roxbury Road
11:00AM UJF JCRC and Schoke JFS Effectivate Webinar on Brain Health

MAY 8 MONDAY

5:30PM TS Inspire - Temple Sinai's Formal Teen Education Program
6:30PM Chabad of Stamford JWC Lag B'Omer Women's Unity Event

7:00PM YIS Youth Teen Lag Ba'Omer

7:00PM Schoke JFS Board Meeting

MAY 9 TUESDAY

5:30PM TS Inspire - Temple Sinai's Formal Teen Education Program
4:30PM Chabad Lag B'Omer Family Celebration and Gan Trike-A-Thon
5:00PM Chabad Chai Five Mitzvah Club
6:30PM BCHA Lag B'Omer Kumsitz and Bonfire Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy - 2186 High Ridge Road

MAY 10 WEDNESDAY

9:00AM UJF JCRC and JFACT Advocacy Day in Hartford
5:30PM TS Inspire - Temple Sinai's Formal Teen Education Program
4:30PM Temple Sinai Hebrew Learning Program
6:30PM UJF Behrend Leadership meeting
7:00PM JCC Book & Author Conversations with Shannon Sarna

MAY 11 THURSDAY

5:30PM TS Inspire - Temple Sinai's Formal Teen Education Program
6:30PM Israeli Dance Class Temple Beth El - 350 Roxbury Road

MAY 12 FRIDAY

7:30PM Temple Sinai Shabbat Ruach Service

MAY 13 SATURDAY

Temple Sinai -Noam Katz Musical Weekend

7:00PM JCC Community Comedy Event Stamford

MAY 14 SUNDAY

Temple Sinai -Noam Katz Musical Weekend

MAY 15 MONDAY

7:30PM Temple Sinai Board Meeting

MAY 16 TUESDAY

4:00PM Chabad CKC Hebrew School Open House
7:30PM UJF Israel Committee Meeting

MAY 17 WEDNESDAY

7:30PM UJF Board Meeting

MAY 18 THURSDAY

6:30PM Israeli Dance Class-TBE
7:00PM JCRC antisemitism panel with New Haven on Zoom

MAY 19 FRIDAY

5:00PM Temple Sinai Third Fridays A Shabbat Program Families with Young Children

MAY 20 SATURDAY

8:00PM Stamford JCC SpringFest

MAY 21 SUNDAY

12:30PM Friendship Day-Friendship Circle of Fairfield County
3:30PM YIS Youth Shavuot Showcase
5:30PM Schoke JFS Evening 2023
5:30PM Chabad Bat Mitzvah Club

MAY 23 TUESDAY

7:00PM Charcuterie Lesson in support of Women's Cancer Research in Israel, Temple Sinai

MAY 24 WEDNESDAY

7:30PM Temple Beth El Annual Membership Meeting
8:00PM NextGen Weekday Wine Down: What's up with Israel Today?

MAY 26 THURSDAY

1:00PM Chabad Shavuot Ice cream party

MAY 31 WEDNESDAY

6:30PM UJF Women's Philanthropy Spring Dinner

BCHA Dominates Stamford Literary Competition

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) had another strong showing during the 38th annual Stamford Literary Competition.

The contest had Stamford public and private school students from grades 3-12 competing in three divisions:

fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. BCHA had students up and down the winner's list. In addition to sweeping three divisions, sixth-grader Victoria Angel took home the gold in two categories. She finished first in poetry with her poem called "Autumn the

Thief." She backed that performance up with a top finish in the nonfiction category with her story titled "Loneliness."

Other winners in the competition were third-grader Elan Nayini in the nonfiction category with his story

called "Aquarium Encounters," fellow third-grader Idan Kochavi in the poetry division with a piece called "Falcons," fourth-grader Natan Warmflash with his poem called "The Basketball," and fifth-grader Yael Rosenfeld with her fiction work titled "Chilly Frights."

Below is the complete list of BCHA winners. Mazal tov to everyone!!

Grade 3 Nonfiction

1st Prize:

Elan Nayini
("Aquarium Encounters")

2nd Prize:

Maytal Moreen ("Moon")

Honorable Mention:

Julia Teitelbaum ("How to Take Care of Your New Dog")

Grade 3 Poetry

1st Prize:

Idan Kochavi ("Falcons")

2nd Prize:

Rebecca Ostroff ("Purple")

3rd Prize:

Gabriel Zizmor
("Dangerous Fire")

Honorable Mention:

Joseph Gilboa ("Winter")
Grace Angel ("Leaf")

Grade 4 Poetry

1st Prize:

Natan Warmflash
("The Basketball")

2nd Prize:

Eli Weisser
("The Beach")

3rd Prize:

Alex Folkinshteyn
("A Night")

Grade 5 Fiction

1st Prize:

Yael Rosenfeld
("Chilly Frights")

3rd Prize:

Sophie Brand
("Oh No! Our Snowman!")

Grade 6 Nonfiction

1st Prize:

Victoria Angel ("Loneliness")

Grade 6 Poetry

1st Prize:

Victoria Angel
("Autumn the Thief")

2nd Prize:

Maggie Mosenkis
("Ode to Paris")

3rd Prize:

Elana Kohl ("Ode to Math")

Honorable Mention:

Avigayil Chavkin
("Ode to Winter")

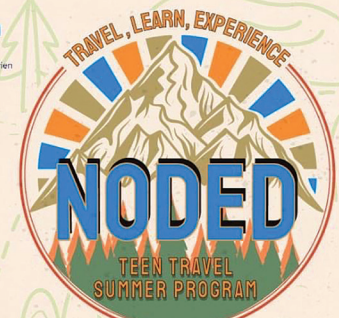
Grade 11-12 Poetry

3rd Prize:

Harry Cohen
("The Profound Poem")



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



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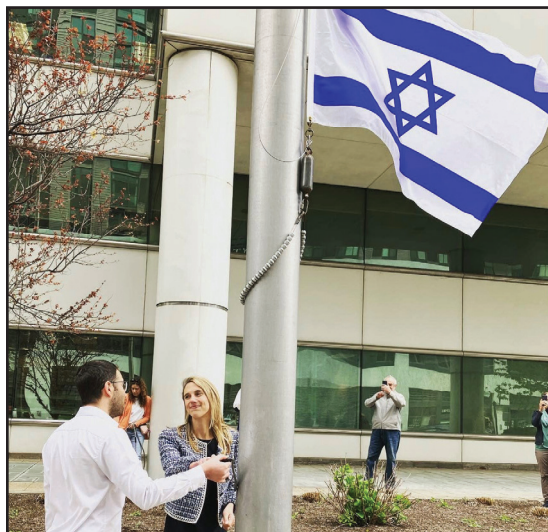
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ISRAEL @ 75

Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons Raising the Flag of Israel

Community members joined Mayor Simmons and UJF CEO Diane Sloyer at the Government Center in Israel's 75th Birthday. The Mayor presented Federation with a proclamation in honor of Israel's 75th birthday and in honor of UJF's support of Israel.



Yoav Yaron and Mayors Simmons raise the Flag of Israel



Diane Sloyer addressed the crowd.



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO, Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons, Yoav Yaron, UJF Israel Emissary

PJ Library Celebrates Israel



(Courtesy of UJF) PJ Library got into the Israel spirit with a Shabbat Oneg in Emmet's Playground at Temple Beth El as part of United Jewish Federation's week-long celebration of Israel's 75th birthday. In addition to fun on the playground, families joined in having challah and grape juice and made edible blue and white Israeli crafts.



Beyond the Dream

(Courtesy of UJF) "Beyond the Dream: Finding a Place within the Israeli Mosaic," a week-long exhibit of Israeli art hosted by United Jewish Federation and installed at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, was the lead event as part of UJF's celebration of Israel@75. The B.L. Manger Foundation were sponsors of the exhibit and the reception.

Chaired by Adriana Campos and Eve J. Wiener, the exhibit brought together artwork by Israeli artists who explore the various landscapes, cities, people, cultures, and symbols within the country, from Jerusalem to the Tel Aviv beach, from IDF soldiers to immigrants, and more.

The wine and cheese reception served as an opportunity for the Stamford JCC to

dedicate the Gallery @ The J to Faye and Ben Manger, of blessed memory. Renee Manger, their daughter and Vice President and Foundation Director of the B.L. Manger Foundation, represented the family at the dedication and shared how important community and the JCC were to her parents.

"Beyond the Dream" beautifully highlights the diversity of Israeli society, as

we mark the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel's independence.

A special thanks to the Consulate General of Israel to New England, Returning the Sparks, Clark University Hillel, Northeastern University Hillel, and UMass Amherst Hillel for lending artwork for this exhibit from the Israeli Art Lending Library.



Event co-chair Adriana Campos (second from left) with her mother Isolina Barrerra (left) and husband Andrew Banoff (center) and Stephne & Kerrin Behrend.



(l-r) UJF Past President David Gordon, Jeff Cohen, Susan Kostin and her son Andrew Kostin.



(l-r) Alix Field Eben and her father Joe Field with Sharon Franklin



Participants enjoy the exhibit.



(l-r) Jessica Brand, Greg Waldstreicher, Fran Ginsburg, Diane Sloyer, Kerrin Behrend, UJF President Michael Schlessinger, and former Executive Director of UJF Edith Samers.



(l-r) UJF CEO Diane Sloyer, B.L. Manger Foundation Vice President and Renee Manger, and JCC CEO Marshall Kurland.



Over 100 guests gather for UJF's Israel at 75 art gallery opening.



(l-r) Efrat Cohen, Alex Ollsen, UJF Community Shaliach Yoav Yaron, and Brett Ollsen.



(l-r) Cathy Satz, Ron Zussman, and Joy Katz.
(ALL PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)



(l-r) Jason & Robin Fischel, and Stacey & Eliot Essensfeld.



Event co-chair Eve J. Wiener.

A Taste of Israel

(Courtesy of UJF) Celebrations usually involve food and United Jewish Federations celebration of Israel at 75 was no different. Chaya Rappoport, @retroillies, joined the UJF community

and led a group of over 50 participants in rugelach baking, just like marzipan from Jerusalem. Chabad of Stamford, one of the many sponsors, hosted this fun and delicious event.





Israel @75: A Community-Wide Celebration

(Courtesy of UJF) Israel's 75th Independence Day was celebrated across the Jewish community from April 19 through April 26. The week began with an Israeli art show at the JCC and continued each day at a different venue with dance, film, cooking, lectures, memorial programs and more and ended with the raising of the Israeli flag by Mayor Simmons and a blowout Festival on April 26, Israel Independence Day or *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*.

The festival featured a camel ride for kids, music, dancing, food, bounce houses, photo ops, games, and an adult sing-along later in the evening.

"What a great way to show our love for Israel and to celebrate as a community," said Dinah Miller Marlowe, chair of United Jewish Federation's Israel and Overseas committee.

The week's events were co-sponsored by the B.L. Manger Foundation, Claude and Melody Bernstein, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Chabad of Stamford, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, Young Israel of Stamford, The Stamford Jewish Community Center, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, American Friends of Jordan River Village, Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service, Hadassah, AJC/Westchester-Fairfield, Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish National Fund, Friends of the IDF, Israel Cancer Research Fund, the Israeli Consulate of New England, and the iCenter.

"The amazing breadth and depth of our co-sponsors makes this a truly wonderful community celebration, and we are so glad that Federation could convene this group to celebrate Israel this year," commented Diane Sloyer, CEO of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

The event was managed by Sharon Lewis, Director of the JCRC and Yoav Yaron, Community *Shaliach*, with ideas for the festivities generated by the wonderful committee made up of representatives from the sponsors and UJF's Israel and Overseas committee. The goal for the week of celebration was to have something for everyone. Smiles were abundant, and the community spirit and support of Israel were pervasive.

If you would like to be involved in either the Jewish Community Relations Council or our Israel and Overseas Committee, please reach out to Sharon Lewis, slewis@ujf.org or Yoav Yaron, yoav@ujf.org.





Collaboration Brings Teens Together

(Courtesy of UJF) What a fun event on Thursday night, April 20 at Temple Sinai, where 50 teens from across Fairfield County came together for pita making, small group discussions, Israeli Dancing, and the creation of a brownie map of Israel, to celebrate Israel at 75.

Co-sponsors included United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, Temple Sinai, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Temple Beth El, Young Israel of Stamford, and Jewish Student Union who joined in to make this teen event possible.



Participants enjoy a session on Israeli humor.



Teens created an edible map of Israel.



A delightful dessert map of Israel was enjoyed by all.



Getting in the spirit with Israeli dancing.



Pita baking was a big hit.

A Night in Tel Aviv

(Courtesy of UJF) In honor of Israel's 75th birthday, United Jewish Federation's NextGen celebrated in style with close to 100 participants at the home of Tova Weinstock and Micky Reich. Israeli bites, drinks, bonfire, music, and more added to the evening's success.

Federation's NextGen is dedicated to building a better Jewish community here in Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, in Israel, and throughout the world. Whether Jewish, "just Jewish" or Jew-ish - UJF

wants to connect like-minded community members in finding meaning, relationships, and resources that enrich every part of your life.

NextGen is a community gateway dedicated to empowering Jewish identity and building the Jewish community through social events, fun and meaningful volunteer programs, educational activities, and philanthropy. For more information on future programs, contact Melanie Vorm at melanie@ujf.org.



Bits & Pieces



BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

Sandy Golove

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILY:

Tova & Cameron Berns on the birth of a daughter, Zoe Florence Berns.

Michelle Bloom & Ron Kutas on the birth of a son.

Betsy Blumberg & Doug Watson on the birth of a grandson, Hayden James McLinn.

Nicki Kornbluth & Benjy Ratzersdorfer on the birth of a daughter.

Cecile Minkoff on the birth of a grandson.

Karen & Gary Neems on the birth of a grandson, Levi Arthur Coquelin-Neems.

Dani Roche & Michael Levine on the birth of a son.

Fraida & Binyomin Warmflash on the

birth of a daughter, Chaya Mushka, and to grandparents **Doris & Ron Warmflash** and to great-grandmother **Camille Warmflash**.

Devora Weinstock & Scott Kove on the birth of a son.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING:

Aliza Hersch and Noah Kalandar on their engagement.

Debbie & Walter Morgenthaler on the engagement of their daughter, **Sarah Morgenthaler to Matt Duffy**.

Michele & Scott Piskin on the engagement of their son, **Todd Piskin to Camille Coonrod**.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Sam Grossblatt: son of **Elise & Steven Grossblatt**; and grandson of **Sandra & Michael Kamen**.

Elana Kohl: daughter of **Naomi & Rabbi Eli Kohl**.

Harrison Stoogenke: son of **Susie & Larry Stoogenke**.

Blake Ansel: son of **Cortney & Matthew Ansel**.

Gideon Danzer: son of **Zimra Gordon & Steven Danzer**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Samuel J. Bernstein: father of **Cathy Bernstein Freund and Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein**.

Dr. Frank Kase: brother of **Claire Shiffman**.

Helen Benson: grandmother of **Risa Raich**.
Lawrence Berger: husband of **Paget Berger**; father of **Rebecca Berger, Aaron Berger and Josh Berger**; and brother of **Vivian Goodstein and Shari Goodstein**.

Sharon Dickstein: wife of **Allen Dickstein** and mother of **Debra Faizakoff, Aaron Dickstein, Josh Dickstein and Michael Dickstein**.

Lana Fink: grandmother of **Sadie Fink**

and **Max Fink**.

Diana Greenburg: mother of **Richard Greenburg**.

Barbara Baker Haberman: mother of **Stacy Ochoa**.

Atara Scharf Kirsh: sister-in-law of **Deb DeNardo**.

Bernard Krieger: husband of **Susan Krieger**; father of **Matthew Krieger**; and stepfather of **Ilan Cohen, Leora Cohen Friedman and Mali Cohen Krebsner**.

Marian Newman: cousin of **Diane Klein**.

Estelle Sheiman: mother of **Ellen Naidorf**.

Sharon Sherman: mother of **Amanda Sherman**.

Bruce Spaulding: father of **Brad Spaulding**.

Susan Woodman: sister of **Diane Brown**.

Suzanne Wanda Zeleznik: sister of **Polly Geller**.

Tribute gifts to Federation

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

Visit: WWW.UJF.ORG/TRIBUTE

Debate and Dialogue

BY YOAV YARON

Conversation and disagreement are essential parts of Judaism as I see it. From an early age I studied the Talmud and different interpretations of the Torah that most of the time disagree with each other. It is fascinating to think that the core literature of the Jewish people has disagreement and debate at its center. I was brought up in a home that welcomed debates and disagreement even on core values – all in favor of communicating and growing together. In the last few weeks I have watched, from a distance, as our beloved people in Israel, my family, and friends, drifted apart.

In the year 2005, Israel was split into two camps: the 'Orange' that was against the withdrawal from Gaza, and the 'Blue' that supported the withdrawal. At that time Israel suffered from a deep lack of communication for both sides which not only caused frustration on both sides but a lot of misinformation to be disseminated.

This led to many initiatives to provide a healthy environment to be able to talk, share and disagree with each other – all



Yoav Yaron

in favor of keeping our communication flowing. In the last few weeks, I was upset, hurt, and confused as to how we got back to the same, dark point. That the people of Israel cannot talk any more to someone from the "other" camp, is something that

is not good for the country and personally upsetting to me.

A few weeks ago, I led a program at the Waterstone on High Ridge senior living community, and that was the first time someone asked my opinion about the situation in Israel. I shared how upset I was and how it is essential to keep the communication open no matter what—for without each other we are nothing.

As Rabbi Nachman of Breslov said, "As long as the candle is burning, we can still repair." I implore all of us to remember that we can and should share our thoughts, opinions and values but in a respectful manner so we can allow others who might think completely differently, to share their perspectives. In the end, we are all one big family.

The Hebrew Corner

Robert Abrams, UJF Education Committee Chair

We all know what the word Torah means, right? Well, you may be surprised at how many people do not know what the word itself means. The shoshen/ root of the word Torah are Hay, Raysh, Hay, and it means to teach. Our word Torah means instruction, and our Torah is full



Robert Abrams

of rules and stories. And how did we all learn when we were younger? Through rules and stories. That's how we humans learn. And we use the same root in Hebrew as a title for our teachers - Morah for a female teacher and Moreh for a male teacher.

What about the word Haftarah? Most people I've spoken with think it is related to the word Torah. But notice the English spelling: Torah/Haftarah. We know the root of the Torah. The root of the word Haftarah, though, is very different. The root letters are Pay, Teht, Raysh. And the word PahToohR means exempt or free - as in free from an obligation.

So, why do we use the word Haftarah for the sections from the books of the prophets

that we read on Shabbat and holidays? The explanation I heard and also found is that the Sages instituted a reading from the Prophets that connected to the holiday and Shabbat Torah readings during times of persecution when we were not allowed to read or study Torah

publicly. Assuming this is the case, then the word Haftarah from the word exempt is a perfect description for what we read from the Prophet's. By reading a Haftarah we are publicly announcing that although we may not be allowed to read our Torah publicly, we are hereby exempt from doing so by reading a selection from another part of our TaNaCH/our Bible to jog our memory of what we should be reading.

Now the question you may have should probably be: If we can read and study Torah publicly now, why do we still read a Haftarah? The answer is the Jewish maxim that once we raise the level of sanctity of something we do not decrease that level of sanctity: in our case, the Haftarah.

Creating Links of Love

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to connect adults with special needs with retirees and those in their golden years. The first program took place in March and participants gathered to enjoy refreshments and a social hour. The attendees played board games together and got to know each other. There was also a visit from furry and

not so furry friends.

After the inaugural launch, future sessions will be scheduled on a regular basis several times a year. Activities may include field trips, crafts, games and other events. To learn more about this and other activities of the Friendship Circle, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com.

Nurturing Women's Health

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford)
Chabad of Stamford hosted an evening dedicated to women's health focusing on both its spiritual and physical aspects. In a discussion led by Leah Shemtov, the participants heard about the spiritual dimension of women's health from a Jewish perspective. She spoke about the importance of not only having good doctors in life, but also a good dose of faith and trust in order to nurture and care for a person's soul.

A panel of expert surgeons and oncologists also led an interactive discussion on what women can do to protect and educate themselves about breast cancer. They heard about the importance of screening, signs and symptoms, cutting edge treatments, what it means to be high risk, and some common myths and misconceptions about breast cancer.



(l-r) Julie Daniel, Elian Avraham, Stacy Miller, Adina Fresca and Angela Strassheim at Chabad of Stamford.

"Backpacks to Briefcases"

BY PAUL SILVERFARB

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) Upper School recently announced a new Upper School Internship Program that facilitates students' ability to gain real-life workplace experiences prior to graduation.

This initiative is spearheaded by Kamal Haron, a member of the school's Board of Incorporators, as well as a grandfather of a BCHA Upper School student.

"BCHA is truly blessed with lay leaders who seek to provide the very best resources to ensure the success of our students both during and after their years as students in our school," said Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, head of school at BCHA. "The internship program conceived by Mr. Haron is a perfect example of how our partnership with our stakeholders benefits our students now and in the long term future."

Rabbi Shimmy Trencher, principal of the BCHA Upper School, said that he believes the purpose of education at BCHA is to prepare their students to be confident and competent contributors to the world.

"The internship program supports this objective by helping students make the connection between what they learn in school and what they can contribute

outside of school, and we're extremely grateful to Kamal Haron for helping us to make this program a reality," he said.

The program builds on the existing internship program, during which 12th graders spend May of their senior years in various workplaces. Now students in grades nine through eleven will have the opportunity to be connected with internship opportunities during their summers.

Students have already started participating in shadow days at work sites that match their interests, allowing them to learn about the workplace and prepare themselves for an internship experience.

Additionally, Meghan Fernandez, Director of College Counseling at BCHA, along with Jen Takacs, Human Resources Director for OneWall Communities, recently ran a ZOOM seminar for BCHA students called "Backpacks to Briefcases." They are arranging additional seminars to help students learn more about the workplace. Seminars include how to behave in a workplace, how to apply for a job, how to write a resume, how to interview, and much more.

JHSFC Welcomes Community to Archive Experience

(Courtesy of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County) On March 12, the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) welcomed community leaders for immersive tours of its Stamford Archives, inviting them to become "Archivists for a Day" at what was billed as a kick-off event for the organization's 40th (Ruby) Anniversary.

Two dozen guest "archivists" were invited to examine select artifacts, documents, books, photos and videos from the JHSFC's steadily expanding collection of 10,000+ primary-source materials, under the guidance of Special Projects Coordinator Debra Emery and Leah Tillman, PhD, the volunteer

Sinai, and several members of the JHSFC Board.

The attendees were warmly greeted by Board President Peter Lilienthal, who urged them to "spread the word" about the recurring Archive Experience Tours.

Highlights of the tour:

- One of the visiting "archivists," Chris Maroc of Stamford, was delighted to unearth a photo of his grandfather, the author Rex Stout, creator of the Detective Nero Wolfe mystery novels.
- Stamford resident Jeff Lewis pointed out a picture of his grandfather, Isaac Davidoff, dedicating the old JCC building on Prospect Street.
- Following the tour, Agudath Sholom's



Leah Tillman explains what treasures are in the archives.



Jeff Lewis looks on as Chris Maroc discovers a photo of his grandfather.

archive administrator. Participants included representatives of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Services of Fairfield County, Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County, Stamford Jewish War Veterans, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Temple Beth El, Temple

Rabbi Daniel Cohen returned to review information on Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz, and to deliver materials from the synagogue's own archives to be digitized.

- Sharon Lewis, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the UJE, stopped in to sift through documents and photos related to that organization's upcoming 50th anniversary.
- Vivien Orbach Smith and Cynthia Mindell found a sheet of ration stamps Jews used during WWII among other artifacts in one of the Holocaust boxes.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is located on 990 Hope Street (rear), Stamford, CT. If you would like to attend the next Archive Experience, schedule a tour, or volunteer please email info@jhsfc-ct.org or call the JHSFC at 203-359-2159.

JCC Nursery School Does BIG Things!

(Courtesy of JCC) Children from the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School collected hundreds of egg cartons for SilverSource, a Stamford-based organization that provides support for seniors. SilverSource

purchases eggs in bulk to provide for older adults in need as part of their weekly grocery delivery program. These recycled cartons are used, and often split in half, to store the eggs for delivery to their clients.



(PHOTO CREDIT: ANNE LISS JOHNSON)

NextGen Talks Antisemitism

BY MELANIE VORM

The NextGen community of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, came together for its inaugural “Weekday Wine Down” last month with an intimate gathering held at a private home in Stamford.

The new series, which aims to discuss meaningful topics amongst friends over wine and cheese, launched with the topic of antisemitism and featured Stamford native and NextGen Natalie Shclover as guest speaker, with NextGen Executive Committee member, Rachel Waldstreicher, serving as moderator.

Natalie, who is a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut, told her story of harassment, vilification, and antisemitic slur on campus after standing up for Israel. She explained how she and her boyfriend Zach, who is Muslim, were bothered by a large number of flyers spread around the university

library that stated Israel was an apartheid state, so they took them down. The repercussions of that action soon snowballed dramatically with Natalie falling victim to anti-Zionist threats online, as well as being kicked-out of her a cappella group without due process.

“While it was a terrible experience at the time, I think it’s important to leverage what happened and turn it into a positive to bring about change and make sure it doesn’t happen to anybody else,” Natalie said.

“NextGen’s Weekday Wine Down brought together a group of like-minded community members from various walks of life to unite over one important takeaway of my lived experience; speaking up and speaking out, and teaching the future generations to do the same,” she continued.

“I am thankful to NextGen for reaffirming my gratitude for the Israel education that I received growing up, as well as the Jewish identity that Stamford fostered in me, and the



Rachel Waldstreicher and guest speaker Natalie Shclover



NextGen community discusses antisemitism.

power of those two facets in the fight against antisemitism,” she added.

Waldstreicher also expressed her thoughts on the evening and said that she felt privileged to have had the opportunity to sit down with Natalie and hear her story.

“While Natalie’s experience is a difficult one to discuss, it was clear that her mission is to empower other people to stand up for what is important, rather than focus on the

hatred she experienced. I feel very strongly that having honest and open conversations will make our community closer and stronger, especially in light of recent antisemitism in our neighborhoods,” Rachel commented.

UJF NextGen’s next Weekday Wine Down is planned for Thursday, May 22, and will be on the topic of “Israel – An Informed View.”

For more information, contact melanie@ujf.org.

New Around Town

Brian Ullman, Schoke JFS Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Brian Ullman, an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), joins Schoke Jewish Family Service as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. He is a Board Certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and CT Licensed APRN and holds a master’s degree in Psychiatric Nursing from Fairfield University. Prior to joining Schoke JFS, he worked in multiple psychiatric settings including hospital inpatient, outpatient,

intensive outpatient, substance abuse, and in psychiatric consultation to the primary care physicians affiliated with Griffin Hospital. Ullman will be seeing clients who are referred by their clinicians at Schoke JFS for psychiatric medication management. “I am excited to be joining the clinical team at Schoke JFS and providing a critical role with medication management,” he says.

Susan Loomis, Schoke JFS Geriatric Care Manager

Susan Loomis joins Schoke Jewish Family Service as a Social Worker and Geriatric Care Manager. After having a successful career in dentistry as a Registered Dental Hygienist, Loomis completed her Masters of Social Work from Sacred Heart University in December of 2022. She



Susan Loomis

gained invaluable experience under the supervision of the many talented staff members. Loomis shared, “Life can bring many challenges, and it is a privilege for me to be a part of helping someone in a time of need. One of my favorite quotes is from Maya Angelou,

‘People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.’ This guides my work – to make all people feel valued and respected.”

Dr. David Andersen, Schoke JFS Psychotherapist

Dr. David Andersen joins Schoke Jewish Family Service as a psychotherapist. Dr. Andersen was educated at Georgia State University (B.S.), Harvard University (Ed.M.), and the Derner Institute for Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University (Ph.D.) He is a certified school psychologist and a



Dr. David Andersen

board-certified clinical psychologist. His clinical practice is primarily informed by an emotion-focused perspective, and

he has extensive training in mindfulness meditation. Dr. Andersen is published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* on the integration of mindfulness meditation and psychotherapy. “I’m excited to join the team at Schoke JFS because of my wish

to help the mental health needs of a community that has provided me with a sense of belonging and purpose,” he says.

Elizabeth Hinds, Schoke JFS Volunteer Services Coordinator

Elizabeth Hinds joins Schoke Jewish Family Service as the Volunteer Services & Programs Coordinator, collaborating with Schoke JFS staff and volunteers to implement meaningful, effective, and successful programming initiatives to better serve both Schoke JFS and its clients. She brings with her experience in programming, communications, and administration primarily in higher education. She earned a Bachelor of Arts



Elizabeth Hinds

degree in English Literature from Western Connecticut State University in 2022. “It is not lost on me that Schoke JFS consists of a community serving each other. I have immeasurable respect for the steadfast effort put forward by staff and volunteers alike, and am so thankful to contribute to that effort in every way I can,” Hinds shared.

Success at Literature Contest

BY PAUL SILVERFARB

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) had a plethora of outstanding performances during the 30th annual Letters About Literature Contest.

The competition, which was previously sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is now hosted by individual states, with UConn's Neag School of Education, the Connecticut Writing Project, and the UConn Department of Education sponsoring the contest in the Nutmeg State.

The Letters About Literature contest is held nationwide for students in grades 4-12. Students are asked to read a book, poem, or speech and write a letter to that author about how the text affected them personally.

"We are so pleased, but not at all surprised that our students have once again distinguished themselves in the Letters About Literature Contest," said Rabbi Tzvi Brenstein, head of school at BCHA. "We are very proud of their creativity, originality and skill in expressing their thoughts and feelings in their writing, all of which are nurtured by our outstanding teachers each and every day at BCHA."

Mazel tov to Hannah Haron, who was selected as one of the nine state winners and advanced to the final round of the competition.



Hannah Haron advanced to the final round of the Letters About Literature Contest. (PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL SILVERFARB)

"The true value of reading is that books can influence our views on ourselves and the world around us," said Laura Miller, middle school teacher at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. "When we ask students to analyze how particular authors and books have impacted their lives, we are teaching them to think critically and to engage in conscientious reflection. The writing of letters plays an important role in education today because it is a means

through which students become educated. They learn how to use their minds and their voices to determine what to convey and how to convey it."

In addition to Haron, BCHA had nine other students advance to the semifinal round, with two more netting honorable mentions.

Grant Bradley, Avigayil Chavkin, Emma Goldstein, Hannah Haron, Nate Katchko, Eva Nerenberg, Miles Wilden, Mindy Segal, Sunny Sendersky and Seth Weisel were students named contest semifinalists. Also, congratulations go to Dani Raich and Aaron Palker who picked up honorable mention awards.

"I am so proud of our award-winning students because this honor validates their efforts and teaches them that voicing their personal thoughts and powerful feelings directly impacts their lives," said Miller.

Schoke JFS Opens Fairfield Office

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service is excited to announce the opening of the agency's new office at 2452 Black Rock Turnpike, Suite 2, Fairfield, CT. Schoke JFS has experienced both a significant growth in staff and services and found itself quickly outgrowing the office at 196 Greyrock Place in Stamford, CT. In order to meet the need for increased space, the agency began searching for office space throughout its catchment area.

The new, full-service satellite office will allow Schoke JFS to further expand its reach in the many towns the agency serves throughout

Upper Fairfield County with services such as in-person counseling, case management, and geriatric care management.

Matt Greenberg, Schoke JFS President and CEO, shared, "Schoke JFS is pleased to have been serving clients in Bridgeport, Westport, and throughout Upper Fairfield County for over twenty years. In fact, nearly 30% of Schoke JFS' current clients are located in Upper Fairfield County. This new office in Fairfield offers Schoke JFS a greater capacity to serve clients in-person and right in the communities where they live."

Schoke JFS also plans to use this space for education and community events. Paul Gordon, Board Chair of Schoke JFS, added, "The new office in Fairfield has been a long time coming; having a physical office and expanding the agency's offerings in Upper Fairfield County has been integral to our Strategic Plan. I am excited to see it open officially during my term as Board Chair."

To learn more about the Fairfield office or schedule a tour, email info@ctjfs.org.



Schoke JFS Board Chair-Elect Ken Neuhaus, Schoke JFS Board Chair Paul Gordon, UJF CEO Diane Sloyer, Schoke JFS CEO Matt Greenberg, and UJF President Michael Schlessinger

TeeBeEs Program Buzzes for Young Families

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Temple Beth El (TBE) in Stamford recently hosted a meaningful and fun-filled "Shabbuzz Shalom" Friday night Shabbat service and dinner for young families. The program is a complement to their monthly "ShaBaBimBam" program held one Saturday morning per month. Both programs are designed for the synagogue's TeeBeEs group, a group devoted to families with children aged newborn to five years old, with older siblings always welcome!

Lisa Manheim, Chair of the TBE Young Families Committee, expressed her delight with the positive response to "Shabbuzz Shalom" and the TeeBeEs program overall stating, "It's wonderful to see families come together and explore Jewish traditions and values. It's been a wonderful addition to the community."

"We're so pleased with the response we've seen to our new 'Shabbuzz Shalom' program," added TBE Engagement Coordinator, Dayna Patashnik. "It's terrific to see families come together in community and learn about Jewish traditions and values in a fun and family-friendly way. Our goal is to continue to grow and provide engaging and meaningful ways for families to connect with their faith and each other."

The inspiration for forming TeeBeEs came from the desire to serve the growing Jewish community in Stamford. The program started with the popular "ShaBaBimBam" music and movement program, led by Natasha Fenster and Steve Epstein, on one Saturday morning each month.

Early in March, TeeBeEs had a pre-Megillah crafts, costumes, and dinner program created especially for them. TeeBeE's "Shabbuzz Shalom" later in March was the first of a series, with more to follow in the coming months. There has been an enthusiastic response to the program, with 20 to 25 families joining in for Purim and Shabbat. "Shabbuzz Shalom" started early, at 5:30 pm, to accommodate young families



Families welcomed Shabbat with blessings over the candles, wine, and challah.

and offered a tot-friendly musical Shabbat service led by Cantor Katie Kaplan.

"Music offers an engaging way to connect with our Judaism," said Cantor Katie Kaplan, "and it's amazing to see the way kids light up, joyfully singing and dancing along, as eager participants in the experience."

The children were encouraged to join in with instruments, move their bodies, and sing along, and they enjoyed the highlight of the service, reciting the *hamotzi* blessing over a large ceremonial challah.

"Hearing the children oooh and ahhh over the challah reminds us of the importance of nurturing the next generation and instilling in them the values and traditions that have sustained us for generations," said Scott Krowitz, the President of TBE. "The TeeBeEs' 'Shabbuzz Shalom' and 'ShaBaBimBam' programs are just one way that TBE is working to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for families of all backgrounds. We're excited to see the positive impact this program is already having and look forward to its continued growth and success."

The TeeBeEs' "ShaBaBimBam" and "Shabbuzz Shalom" programs are set to expand. For more information, please visit www.tbe.org or email Dayna Patashnik, Engagement Coordinator, at tbeengagement@gmail.com.

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien and Elayne & James Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County Invite you to a Zoom
Call on Sunday, May 7 10:00 am

Brain Training

Exploring brain plasticity and how to harness it to improve quality of life.

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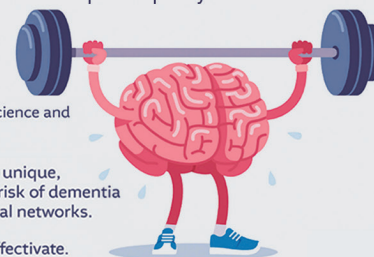


Anna Izoutcheev, Cognitive Psychologist and Director of Science and Product Management at Effectivate.

Effectivate an Israeli start-up company that has developed a unique, customized cognitive training program that helps to reduce the risk of dementia and mental decline by training the brain and strengthening neural networks.

All participants will receive a free one-week subscription to Effectivate.

Register at www.ujf.org/brainhealth or contact JCRC Director, Sharon Lewis (slewis@ujf.org)





Students Prepare for Passover



Morah Mimi talks to the students about the story of Passover. (ALL PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL SILVERFARB)



Second grader Noa Dulitz makes Kiddush while her classmate Adina Furmanky participates.



Students read from the Haggadah during their model seder.



Music teacher Sandy Shmueli led the first and second graders in singing the four questions.

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) First and second-grade students at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) came together for a model seder in preparation for Passover.

The seder was hosted by Morah Mimi and music teacher Sandy Shmueli led the students in the singing of the four questions and other Passover-themed songs.

Gan Yeladim Enjoys "Model Seder"



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) The yeladim (children) at Gan get the full authentic experience. After discovering, learning, tasting, and experiencing the story of Pesach and many of the traditions

and customs, the children got to experience a full hands-on seder, complete with individual seder plates, four cups of grape juice, the story, singing and a rendition of *Mah Nishtanah* (the Four Questions).

Gan Yeladim Prepares for the Holidays

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) At Gan Yeladim, the emphasis is always on experiential learning where possible, so children can "live what they learn." Nowhere is this concept more real than when the children prepare for the Jewish holidays. Before Passover this year, they prepared their own Haggadahs to take home, cleaned their classrooms, and searched for *chametz* (leavened food) with a feather, a candle and a spoon. The children at Gan Yeladim also got to experience an authentic *biur chametz* (burning of leavened food), with Rabbi Moshe Shemtov and learned about the principles of fire safety, too.



Children watch burning of *chametz* before Passover.

Model Matzah Bake



Morah Leah Shemtov demonstrates the art of matzah-making.

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Children of all ages, parents and grandparents joined Chabad of Stamford for their annual "Model Matzah Bakery" enjoying music, story time, baking and snacks together.

The story of Pesach was read and

acted out in full costume for all the children to enjoy. The families each made their own flour from scratch and baked the matzah according to ancient traditions.

Over 120 participants enjoyed this fun-filled morning.

A Very Friendly Seder

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) On the first night of Passover, Friendship Circle families joined together for a sensory seder. Hosted at the home of Malya and Zalman Shmotkin, Friendship Circle participants and their families gathered together to celebrate the first seder. The retelling of the story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt took place in a warm and inclusive environment with interactive activities for all to participate. Everyone enjoyed the four cups, maror, charoset and all the traditional Passover foods.

Along with the traditional reading of the Haggadah, each family received a ten-plagues kit and Haggadah to follow along. The ten-plagues kits were full of

sensory items and fidget toys so that the participants could experience the ten plagues in the way that they learn best. One of the classic favorites of the evening was a puppet show conducted by Chaya Feller, who has been puppeteering the Passover show for the past several years. All of the highlights of the Passover story are shared by the puppets in a fun and engaging manner.

Friendship Circle Director Malya Shmotkin said, "This is the highlight of my Passover holiday. It is so wonderful to join together with these amazing families to celebrate! The warmth and joy of the evening will stay with me for a long time to come. I am already looking forward to next year!"

LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll

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

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

Anonymous (30)
[Adrienne & Michael Alexander](#)
 David Amsellem
 Alice & David Andersen
[Jeri Appel](#)
[Mark Appel](#)
[Ricky Snow Arbron](#)
 Suellen Bache
 Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
[Rachel Tyd & Robert Beldock](#)
[Gayle & Mitchell Bell](#)
 Debra & Michael Berg
[Dina & Paul Berger](#)
[Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz](#)
 Berkun Family
 Daron & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
[Jen & Andy Bernstein](#)
 Melody & Claude Bernstein
 Bruce Blasnik
 Judith Block
 Ilana Springer Borkenstein & Daniel Borkenstein
 Jodi & Richard Boxer
[Amy & Henry Bubel](#)
 Blake & Daniel Bueckman
 Judy & Jeff Cahn
 Kate & Peretz Cik
 Roberta & Alan Cohen
[Andrea & David M. Cohen](#)
 Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen
[Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeff Cohen](#)
 Judy & David S.* Cohen
 Mimi Cohen
 Rachel & Ephraim Cohen
 Saul Cohen*
 Marsha Colten
 Tracy & Nahum Daniels
 Janice Steinberg & Stephen Davidson
 Andrea Dener
 Elayne Dener
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 Robin & Jason Fischel
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 Stephanie & Howard Fogel
 Lenore Fogel
 Ilan Fogel
 Miriam Lavinsky & Morton Folb*
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 Marc Friedman
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Loralee & Philip Granowitz
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 Peggy Kalter
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 Chanie Kamman
 Roni & Jan Kaplowitz
 Jason Kaplowitz
 Lisa & Arnold Karp
 Jeannie Kasindorf
 Jessica & Ilan Katz
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 Nina Kuch
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 Norma & Milton Mann*
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 Dinah Miller Marlowe
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 Malya Shmotkin
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 Navah & David Zizmor
 Shira & Mitchell Zucker

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

LIFE & LEGACY Testimonials

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

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

DANIEL AND DEBRA FAIZAKOFF TESTIMONIAL

On Passover, God emancipated us from slavery and made us a nation for the express purpose of giving us the Torah. God commanded us to always remember the Exodus from Egypt and to pass on the Mesorah (tradition) from generation to generation. We fulfill this mitzvah by performing the seder. Interestingly, we begin the seder, pause in the middle to eat, and then conclude the seder. We even split *Hallel* in half, beginning it before the meal and finishing it after. Why the interruption? Because the seder is divided into past, present and future. We begin by discussing our past and how God redeemed us from slavery. We end the seder by discussing our future redemption.



Debra and Daniel Faizakoff and family

But the middle of the seder, the festive meal, is the present, where we actively play our part in the arc of Jewish history, which cannot continue without us. Performing the seder helps us remember our duty to Jewish continuity, but participating in the LIFE & LEGACY program is a critical means to accomplish the goal.

NASA to Launch Israel's First Space Telescope, ULTRASAT

The 2026 launch of the astrophysics space observatory of the Israel Space Agency and Weizmann Institute is expected to revolutionize research.

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN/
ISRAEL21C

NASA will launch Israel's first space telescope – the Ultraviolet Transient Astronomy Satellite, or ULTRASAT – into high-Earth orbit in early 2026, as part of a newly signed partnership between United States' NASA and Israel's Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology.

The observatory will eventually reside in a Geostationary Orbit.

ULTRASAT, a premier project of the Israel Space Agency in the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology and the Weizmann Institute of Science, is expected to revolutionize scientists' ability to detect and analyze transient events in the universe, such as neutron star mergers and supernova explosions.

According to the agreement, NASA will provide all launch-related responsibilities for ULTRASAT once ISA delivers it to the Kennedy Space Center, and will partner in the ULTRASAT Science program.

ULTRASAT's unprecedented field of

view of 204 square degrees represents a 100-fold leap in the extra-galactic volume accessible to scientists for the discovery of transient sources, compared to observatories on Earth.

Moreover, ULTRASAT will measure ultraviolet light that cannot be measured from Earth, and provide the scientific community with real-time alerts on transient events.

The combination of these unique capabilities will allow scientists to observe the universe as never before, shedding light on basic questions such as the origin of heavy elements in nature and the impact of giant black holes on their environments.

It will enhance research on astronomical subjects including supernovae, variable and flare stars, active galaxies, the source of gravitational waves and accretion of stars by massive black holes.

The Israel Aerospace Industries' MBT Space Division is building the satellite and will oversee the mission in space, as well as the incorporation of the telescope,

built by Elbit Systems Electro-Optics. DESY of Germany is building the telescope's camera, which features specialized detectors developed for the mission by Tower Semiconductor.

"This is a breakthrough project that places Israel at the forefront of global research," said Prof. Eli Waxman, an astrophysicist at the Weizmann Institute of Science and ULTRASAT's head researcher.

"Leading international bodies such as NASA and the DESY research institute have joined this Israeli-led project as partners, having recognized its scientific significance. They are investing considerable resources in the construction and launch of the satellite to become active participants in this mission with access to its scientific products. It's a science-driven partnership."

NASA Headquarters Astrophysics Division Director Mark Clampin added,



Ultraviolet Transient Astronomy Satellite (ULTRASAT). Photo courtesy of Weizmann Institute of Science.

"We are proud to join this partnership, an international effort that will help us better understand the mysteries of the hot, transient universe. ULTRASAT will give the global science community another important capability for making new observations in the nascent field of Time Domain and Multi-Messenger astrophysics programs."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Celebrating Our "Equitable City"

BY EVA WELLER

Only three times in a century are Ramadan, Easter and Passover celebrated in the same week. And so on April 10, Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons invited the community to celebrate our "Equitable City" with a reception for the original traveling exhibit -- "It Happened Here! From Haven to Home to Community" created by the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County. The exhibit explores the theme of belonging and creating community through the lens of individual experiences.

Carmen Hughes, Stamford's first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion officer spoke on the diversity and inclusivity of Stamford and how she hopes the exhibit will inspire other communities to replicate and share their stories.

As Chair of the Mayor's Multicultural Council, and exhibit project manager, Eva Weller shared Irwin Miller's epiphany when he visited the Gettysburg battlefield as a boy and asked the question, "Where is the Jewish story



Peter Lilienthal, Mayor Caroline Simmons and Eva Weller



Eva Weller with Vivian White, who attended the reception and viewed the Community Impact panel where she and her late husband, Arthur, are recognized for their significant contributions.

here?" He went on to become an historian and founder of the Stamford Jewish Historical Society, and its first president, and throughout his life continued to discover and tell the Jewish story.

Peter Lilienthal, President of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, thanked the Stamford Arts and Culture Commission for the grant which enabled the creation of the exhibit "It Happened Here!"

"This exhibit celebrates the vibrant diverse history of the City of Stamford and powerfully highlights the Jewish community leaders

and pioneers who proudly called our city home," said Mayor Simmons. "I am grateful to the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County and the Mayor's Multicultural Council for their leadership in bringing this exhibit to life and their commitment to sharing these important stories."

The exhibit was displayed in the lobby of the Government Center through Friday, April 21.



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



Join UJF Women's Philanthropy for a special
event celebrating women of all ages!

Learn about and pack bags for DIGNITY GROWS*

DATE: May 18, 2023
TIME: 7:00PM

LOCATION: PRIVATE HOME
COST: \$18 PER PERSON (INCLUSIVE OF REFRESHMENTS)
EVENT CHAIR: TARA SHAPIRO

Dignity Grows is an organization that provides personal care bags for women in need throughout our community. All proceeds from the evening cover the costs of these bags.

REGISTER AT WWW.UJF.ORG/DIGNITY

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

Non-profit Organization
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Permit # 19357

"Like branches on a tree
we all grow in different directions,
yet our roots remain as one"
- Unknown

United Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy Presents the
Annual Spring Dinner

Wednesday May 31, 2023 • 6:30 pm
Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford
**Bountiful Buffet Dinner • Auction • Festive Signature Drink •
Community Spirit and More!
Live Music by Arielle Eden**

\$110 per person through May 19, \$136 beginning May 20
Sponsorship \$360 (includes reception & signed book)
Register at UJF.org/SpringDinner23



Featuring Guest Speaker Lisa Barr, Author

Lisa Barr is the NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author of WOMAN ON FIRE, THE UNBREAKABLES, and the historical thriller FUGITIVE COLORS, a suspenseful tale of stolen art, love, lust, deception, and revenge on the "eve" of WWII. The novel won the IPPY gold medal for "Best Literary Fiction 2014" and first prize at The Hollywood Film Festival (Opus Magnum Discovery Award). In addition, Lisa served as an editor for The Jerusalem Post, managing editor of Today's Chicago Woman, managing editor of Moment magazine, and as an editor/reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times. Among the highlights of her career, Lisa covered the famous "handshake" between the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the late PLO leader Yasser Arafat, and President Bill Clinton at the White House.

Committee In Formation

Jessie Brand
Alix Field Eben
Robin Fischel
Judy Goldstein
Cynthia Gordon
Allison Greenbaum
Kayla Hanna
Shara Israel
Meryl Japha

Rachel Klein
Claudia Kraut
Lorraine Kweskin
Lynn Lowin
Lisa Manheim
Stacy Miller
Dinah Miller Marlowe
Allison Ostroff
Molly Schrag Rafalowicz

Arlene Rosen
Cathy Satz
Ivy Schildkraut
Nancy Schulman
Tara Shapiro
Wendy Siegel
Monica Smyth
Sandi Waldstreicher
Ellen Weber
Shushannah Yasger



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