



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Artist-in-Residence to Visit TBE

BY STAN FRIEDMAN

Temple Beth El of Stamford (TBE) is thrilled to welcome Rabbi Josh Warshawsky as artist-in-residence, for the weekend of Friday to Sunday, November 3 to 5.

As part of the weekend, TBE invites the Jewish community to join Rabbi Warshawsky for Havdalah and a special concert on Saturday, November 4, at 7:30 pm. Accompanying the rabbi will be Coleen Dieker, renowned musician and violinist. Dessert will follow the concert.

The community is also invited to join Rabbi Joshua Hammerman and Cantor Katie Kaplan, along with Rabbi Warshawsky, in song and prayer for services on Friday, November 3, at 7 pm, and Shabbat morning on Saturday, November 4, at 10 am.

Rabbi Warshawsky has been described as a "breakthrough talent in the world of Jewish music" and has shared his original melodies with over 100 Jewish communities — from synagogues to summer camps — in the United States, Canada, the UK and Israel. The inspiring singer, song leader, musician and composer has released five



Rabbi Josh Warshawsky

albums of Jewish music, and he has been featured on six Jewish music anthology publications in the last six years. His melodies are written intentionally to express and re-imagine the deep meaning of the words of our tradition.

"My mission is to help people find a spiritual and meaningful home for themselves in order to live lives filled with purpose," explains Rabbi Warshawsky, who is a graduate of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles. "We can find that meaning through Jewish sacred text and ritual, and in the chain of tradition passed down from generation to generation."

Rabbi Warshawsky's visit follows a rousing country-style, sanctuary-packed Kabbalat Shabbat service on August 25, featuring guest musician Joe Buchanan.

Temple Beth El is located at 350 Roxbury Road in Stamford. For questions, please call the synagogue office at (203) 322-6901.

Tapestry 2.0 – Israel at 75!

BY ERIC ROSS,
UJF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

On Saturday evening, November 18, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) will once again host Tapestry, a long-running evening of communal Jewish learning. Although there hasn't been a full-scale Tapestry event since 2018, this year marks the sixteenth time that the community has come together for an evening of adult Jewish education.

Tapestry's theme will be "Israel at 75" with each of this year's presenters focusing on an aspect of Israel, from creation through modern day. The evening will begin at 6:30 pm at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, with a wine and cheese reception, followed by a communal *Havdalah* (Shabbat-closing) ceremony. Attendees will then participate in two learning sessions, with four to five class options available per session. The evening will close with a dessert reception, as participants gather to celebrate the unity of the community.

"We tried a small version of Tapestry last year to gauge interest, and it was clear that we were ready to bring it back

at the same scale it had been before. We couldn't be more excited to be holding this amazing communal evening of learning again... and the lineup of presenters is not to be missed!" said Bob Abrams, UJF education chair. "Watch out for invitations in your mailboxes and email inboxes, flyers and posters all over town, and social media posts too, and please, help us spread the word."

Presenters/Classes Available: (List Still in Formation)

- Michal Abrahamof, Northeast Senior *Shlichah* (emissary): *Evolution of the Reform Movement in Israel*
- Michael Feldstein: *Naftali Herz Imber – The Man Who Wrote HaTikvah*.
- Dr. David Flatto, Hebrew University Professor of Law, Religion, and History.
- Jeremy Newberger, CEO of Ironbound Films: *Capturing Israel's World Baseball Classic Cinderella Story on Film*.
- Dr. Shay Pilnik, Director of the Emil and Jenny A. Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at

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Federation Celebrates 50th Anniversary in Style

On September 7, a sold-out crowd gathered to celebrate two powerhouse women, Sheila L. Romanowitz and Edith Samers, who served United Jewish Federation as Executive Directors, for ten and six years, respectively. A video tracing UJF's history was edited and narrated by Carl E. Rosen who, along with Arlene Rosen, Stephne and Kerrin Behrend and Tara and Richard Shapiro, served as co-chairs of the evening. A NextGen video was produced by Aviva and Michael Maller, highlighting several families who have been in the community for three and four generations. Mayor Caroline Simmons shared a proclamation, naming September 7 as Federation Day. The evening's festive décor and photographs were courtesy of Aviva Maller. See pages 11-14 for more photos.



From UJF's Chief Executive Officer Feeling Optimistic

BY DIANE SLOYER

Recently, we gathered to commemorate a remarkable milestone—the 50th golden anniversary of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien. This historic occasion is not only a testament to our shared heritage but also a moment to honor the exceptional leaders who have guided us and the exemplary individuals who inspire us to shape a dazzling future.



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

At the heart of our celebration were two exceptional women who have not only broken barriers but have become role models for all, especially me. Both Sheila Romanowitz and Edith Samers, Executive Directors Emeriti of United Jewish Federation, have exemplified resilience, compassion, and leadership, inspiring generations to come. Their unwavering dedication to our community is a beacon of hope and a reminder of the remarkable potential within each of us, and even more so, that our work and our responsibility to the Jewish future is never complete!

Each of us is needed...to actively volunteer and yes, to also give philanthropy within our means. Individually, our contributions are important, but as a collective, our impact and ability to make change is that much more powerful.

Sheila and Edith's impact and our shared accomplishments, resonate with the vision that has guided United Jewish Federation for five decades—a vision rooted in the belief that every member of our community plays a vital role in shaping its destiny. It was a tremendous honor to celebrate with many of our founders who recognized that by joining forces and pooling resources, we could

create a safe, welcoming, and diverse place where all Jews can find solace, support, and belonging... and that is UJF!

The sold-out gala took participants back in time to the founding of UJF with a movie written and narrated by Carl E. Rosen

with the support of Wendell Maxey and Sharon Lewis. It was truly a walk down memory lane. Sheila and Edith shared just a few highlights of their tenure, and then, with a nod to the future, NextGen was highlighted as 3rd and 4th generation young families, returning to our community, shared what makes this community so special and why they returned. (Videos can be viewed on UJF's YouTube channel).

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" – Psalm 133:1

As we celebrate United Jewish Federations' 50th golden anniversary, we are not merely a sum of our individual parts but a force for good, forging a brighter path for all Jews to call this community home. The gala presented an opportunity to reflect on our community's past, acknowledge the present and envision a future enriched by unity and diversity. Together, we can ensure that the next 50 years are even more remarkable than the last, forging a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

UJF President's Message Antisemitism Whatever The Source

BY MICHAEL SCHLESSINGER

Antisemitism – nothing animates the world of Jewish philanthropy quite like it. A host of organizations – long established like the ADL or relative newcomers like HonestReporting (Federation speaker Gil Hoffman) or JewBelong (Federation speaker Archie Gottesman) -- focus exclusively on countering antisemitism. Others -- like the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance -- seek to define it, particularly in distinguishing anti-Zionism from legitimate criticism of Israeli policy. But virtually all Jewish organizations, Federation included, unfortunately must confront antisemitism.

We Jews are notoriously fractious -- 2 Jews, 3 opinions, as the old joke goes -- but countering antisemitism ought to be one topic that unites us, particularly as most metrics suggest it is becoming a more serious threat, even in the United States. Some of us may focus on neo-Nazis, familiar villains now amplified on social media and posing the security issues for our synagogues and other gathering places that have been such a large part of Federation's agenda in recent years. Others may be more concerned about the sometimes-hostile environment on college campuses, particularly for visible or politically active Jewish students. Putting aside our own political "priors," we can usually agree that efforts to counter antisemitism in one setting are worthwhile, even if such efforts do not address antisemitism in all settings.

This landscape of rising antisemitism provides an important backdrop to friction within our community. We are blessed to have a vibrant and diverse Jewish community in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, reflecting Jewish identities from secular to religious and at every level of observance. While it's natural (and healthy) for the significant differences among us theologically and culturally to create distance, threats from without make it more critical that we stand together, in defense of anyone who might

be targeted as a Jew. (Antisemites tend to be much less discriminating than we are in defining who is a Jew).

I cringe at "othering" within our community when I encounter it, as I do more frequently than anticipated and from both sides. Whether it's an observant rabbi underestimating the Jewish knowledge of a Reform Jew "converting" to have her marriage recognized, or a secular Jew making light of the kosher food table at a community event, such slights undermine our solidarity. Furthering that solidarity, especially locally, is a central part of Federation's mission. Differences in religious practice are intensely personal and traditionally off limits as polite topics for discussion. I have nonetheless benefited from learning more about them in the conversations that have come my way in this role. These personal conversations may be difficult to scale to the community level, but I am interested in your thoughts and experiences in that regard, since I believe more such conversations would be better for our sense of oneness as a community and as a people.



Michael Schlessinger, UJF President

Tapestry 2.0 – Israel at 75!

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- Yeshiva University: *The Israeli Labor Movement – A Brief History*.
- Neil Rogachevsky and Dov Zigler, authors of the book: *Israel's Declaration of Independence, The History and Political Theory of the Nation's Founding Moment*.
- Rabbi Joshua Rosenfeld, Head of Judaic Studies at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy.
- Eric Ross, UJF Deputy Director, and Rachel Klein, UJF Board member and Executive Director of Hillels of Westchester: *When Anti-Israel Animus Becomes Antisemitism*.
- Community Shaliach Yoav Yaron and Chagit Yaron (his mother!): *Israeli Nature in the Bible*
- Two Israel-themed craft sessions available for children ages 3rd grade and older.

Tapestry would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of UJF's education committee members: Bob Abrams, Chair; Michael Feldstein; Barbara Friedman; Wynd

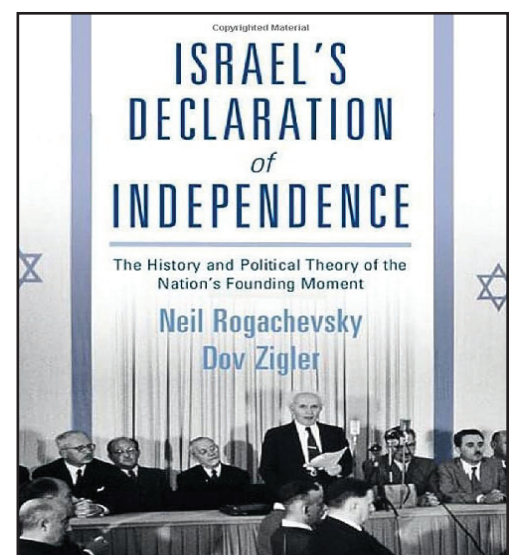
Harris; Elissa Kaplan; Lynn Lowin; Bruce Newman; Arlene Rosen; Ronnie Sichel; and Betsy Stone.

Tickets purchased by November 5 will be \$25 per person, and \$36 per person after the 5th. Children's tickets are \$10 which includes all craft materials, and must be purchased by November 5. Event sponsorship is available for \$180, and includes two tickets and recognition during the event. Please visit www.ujf.org/tapestry to register.

For more information, please contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at 203-321-1373 ext. 1004, or at Eric@ujf.org.



Dr. David Flatto, Hebrew University Professor of Law, Religion, and History



Neil Rogachevsky and Dov Zigler's book *Israel's Declaration of Independence, The History and Political Theory of the Nation's Founding Moment*.

Mozaic Celebrates Fifty Years of Service to Seniors

(Courtesy of Mozaic Senior Life) Mozaic Senior Life, formerly Jewish Senior Services, has announced that Joan A. Kuriansky will be awarded the Louis Lotstein Award for Distinguished Service for long-term service to Mozaic Senior Life. Jim Bennett will be receiving the Arthur and Gladys



Joan A. Kuriansky

Lunin Humanitarian Award recognizing outstanding public and community service. These awards will be presented at the Women's Auxiliary Fall Gala on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton. The event will also celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Mozaic Senior Life.

The Louis Lotstein Award for Distinguished Service was created to recognize leaders for their long-term service to Mozaic Senior Life, as demonstrated by the devotion of the late Mr. Lotstein. Joan is the daughter of one of the founding members of The Jewish Home for the Elderly of Fairfield County in Bridgeport. She continues to fulfill the legacy of the first generation of Kurianskys by supporting many organizations through the Kuriansky Foundation, including her outstanding dedication to Mozaic Senior Life, and by personally being engaged at all levels in many Jewish and secular organizations, nationally and internationally. In addition to continuing her father's philanthropic engagement in charitable causes, she has followed a path of activism and advocacy, specifically for gender-based rights focused on developing and implementing policies and programs that have lasting impact on women's and girls' rights towards health and economic security with issues surrounding aging, healthcare, economic self-sufficiency, and gender-based and domestic violence.

Andrew H. Banoff, President & CEO of Mozaic Senior Life, shared, "Joan Kuriansky has been part of the history of the (Mozaic) Jewish Home her entire life,

as her family has been engaged with our development since its inception. She has not lived in this area for many years but has continued to support us emotionally and financially and remained committed to our mission personally, through her family members, and the Kuriansky

Foundation. We are grateful to Joan and the entire Kuriansky family."

Jim Bennett, the Lunin Award recipient, is a successful businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist, and has been a vital part of the Fairfield County community. Spanning the generations, from his involvement as the Chair of the original Compo Beach Playground Project through his enthusiasm for Mozaic Senior Life, he has always had a passion for looking out for others. Since joining the Mozaic Senior Life's Board of Directors in 2019, Jim has been a member of the Audit, Executive, Finance, and Investment committees. He is the founding Chairperson of the Vision 2031 committee, helping position the organization for the future.

Andrew said of Jim, "We are privileged to have his wisdom, insight, and calm demeanor to lead us through the Vision 2031 Steering Committee. Jim is a personal reflection on the important work that we do every day and the gratitude that we have to our dedicated workforce."

The Women's Auxiliary looks forward to the Fall Gala to officially honor these two extraordinary individuals and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Mozaic Senior Life. The memorable evening will be complete with a fabulous auction and elegant dinner. If you are interested in making a reservation for the Fall Gala, would like to receive an invitation, or would like to put an ad in the commemorative journal, please contact Dayna Hayden, Director of Development, at 203-365-6409 or dhayden@mozaicsl.org.

PJ Library Announces New Community Partnerships

(Courtesy of UJF) PJ Library and United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) are proud to announce two new community partnerships, which will enable even more Jewish children to discover the joys of Jewish literature.

UJF will be co-hosting two different holiday-themed PJ Library events together with Temple Sinai this year. On Sunday morning, October 1, all are welcome to join for a "PJ Library in the Sukkah" program. Plans are also underway for a PJ Library Chanukah program on Sunday, December 3.

UJF and PJ Library will be partnering with Temple Beth El's 2023-2024 ShabbazzBimBam series, which turns music and movement into special Shabbat memories for families with children up to age 5. Please join for a special pre-Shabbat PJ Library program at 5:00 pm on Friday, November 10. And the first-ever "PJ Library Pajama Party

Havdalah" will be held on Saturday evening, February 10. Plus PJ Library volunteers will be making pop-in visits to read PJ Library books at various ShabbazzBimBam events throughout the season.

"We are so excited for PJ Library to be partnering with Temple Beth El, and we look forward to introducing more families to the incredible PJ Library books available to them," said TBE Engagement Coordinator Dayna Patashnik.

Temple Sinai Religious School and Youth Director Erica Quamily added, "Having PJ Library here to celebrate Sukkot and Chanukah with us will help bring these holidays to life for the youth in our community."

For more information about PJ Library, please visit www.ujf.org/pj-library, or contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at 203-321-1373 ext. 1004 or Eric@ujf.org.

UJF Affinity Groups Are Back!

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) will host its first ever combined Affinity Groups event on Monday evening, October 23 at 6:30 pm at Workpoint, 290 Harbor Drive, Stamford.

Please join UJF for a delightful evening of social and business networking, as well as a truly enlightening presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Mensch, a member of Hebrew University's Bogen Family Department of Economics and the Federman Center for the Study of Rationality.

UJF Affinity Groups include:

- BEN (Boomer Engagement Network for single "baby boomers")
- Cardozo Society (for legal professionals)



Dr. Jeffrey Mensch,
Hebrew University
Professor of Economics

- Chapter Two (for empty nesters)
- Maimonides Society (for medical professionals)
- Rothschild Society (for business professionals)

Do you know someone who fits into one or more of these groups? Then please bring them out to join in the fun, too. Everyone loves networking and making new friends!

Tickets are \$25 per person, and will include light hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

To register, please visit www.ujf.org/Affinity. For more information, please contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at 203-321-1373 ext. 1004 or Eric@ujf.org.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

November 2023

Deadline: Friday, October 6, 2023

December 2023 / January 2024 - Chanukah

Deadline: Monday, November 6, 2023

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

October 6.....6:10 pm
October 13.....5:59 pm
October 20.....5:48 pm
October 27.....5:38 pm

Luncheon for Senior Adults at The JCC

(Courtesy of JCC) All senior adults in the community are invited to a Senior Adult Luncheon on Friday, October 13 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. The luncheon is free and open to all seniors, with a suggested donation of \$6 per person. Reservations are required by Friday, October 6.

Please register online at www.stamfordjcc.org or contact Shari Ziegelman at 203.487.0979 or sziegelman@stamfordjcc.org.

Chabad of Stamford's Women's Study Opportunities

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Every week, Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford, spearheads enriching study sessions tailored specifically for women in the community.

On Tuesday mornings, participants have the choice to join the 'Torah & Tea' class either in-person or virtually via Zoom. This class delves into insights from the weekly Torah portion, the Jewish calendar, and topical issues applicable to modern Jewish women.

On Thursday mornings, a dedicated session on the Tanya (the foundational

book of Chabad philosophy) is held via Zoom. Leah emphasizes this as an opportunity for women to "connect with their deeper spiritual core by exploring the Tanya weekly." Recognized as the bedrock of the Chabad movement, the Tanya provides a blend of its mystical teachings and practical wisdom. It navigates the terrains of Jewish spiritualism, psychology, and theology, offering pragmatic advice on integrating divine service into daily routines.

Additionally, special learning sessions centered around *Rosh Chodesh* (the new month) are organized

periodically throughout the year. The first *Rosh Chodesh* learning will take place on Tuesday, November 14 at a private home in Stamford.

Throughout the year, Chabad of Stamford also organizes trips to the *Ohel* (the Lubavitcher Rebbe's gravesite) in Queens, usually followed by lunch at a local kosher restaurant.

Individualized study sessions can also be arranged upon request. For those interested in attending or seeking further details, reach out to programs@stamfordchabad.org or call Chabad at 203 3CHABAD.

Learn to Read Hebrew in Eight Sessions!

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Temple Beth El will offer an opportunity to learn to read Hebrew on Thursdays on Zoom from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on October 12, 19, November 2, 9, 16, 30, and December 7, 21. Sessions will be led by Susan Shapiro.

Questions? Want to sign up to attend? Contact Susan Shapiro at sbshapiro@hotmail.com.

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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There's a New Buzz at Temple Beth El

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Temple Beth El (TBE) in Stamford has announced TeeBeEs, an initiative in which families with children ages five or younger can come together, get to know each other, and share uniquely Jewish experiences. The program is open to families with or without synagogue affiliation.

TeeBeEs families become members of the "Hive" and currently can participate in two program offerings at no cost:

- **ShabbuzzBimBam:** a 45-minute music and movement program led by Natasha Fenster and Steve Epstein, that is offered once a month on Shabbat (Saturday) mornings. Join us on Friday, October 13 at 5:00 pm for a Shabbat music and movement program for families with children age 0-5 with older siblings welcome.

A light Shabbat meal will be served following this program. For more information, contact youngfamilies@tbe.org.

- **Shabbuzz Shalom:** a 1½-hour program that includes music, crafts, dancing, blessings, fun and more, that is offered



TeeBeEs families at a Shabbuzz Shalom program in Emmet's Playground at TBE.

throughout the year on Shabbat, holidays and special times

Both programs are followed by a light meal. Attendance has varied between 20 to 40 families, and additional offerings are being planned.

There is also a special Hive membership option, which allows unaffiliated families to join Temple Beth El at a significantly reduced membership rate, which includes full membership benefits, such as High Holiday tickets, as well as bonuses, such as free attendance at selected TBE special events. This option is only available to families where the oldest child has not yet entered kindergarten.

If your family is interested in buzzing in to see what it's like, there's a Sukkot Shabbuzz Shalom program scheduled on Friday, September 29,

from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm, at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road.

For questions or more information, please contact Dayna Patashnik, TBE engagement coordinator, at tbeengagement@gmail.com.

Fall Happenings With UJF's Community Shaliach

(Courtesy of UJF) It's time to turn over a new leaf with summer officially coming to a close. Luckily, United Jewish Federation's Community *Shaliach* (emissary), Yoav Yaron, has a few ways community members can come together throughout the fall. Beginning on Thursday, October 12 at 7:00 pm, Yaron will host a "Banter & Beer" night at Aspetuck Brew Lab in Bridgeport, where friends new and old can enjoy a

pint (first one is on UJF) and some light conversation. Dates are also scheduled for a Hebrew poetry night which will be held at a private residence every Wednesday starting in November and running through March. The first Hebrew poetry night will take place on Wednesday, November 29 at 7:30 pm.

"After a very busy summer, I am looking forward to the fall and the chance to host events that keep people at

the heart of the season," said Yoav.

"Whether they enjoy hops and barley, are into writing or reading poetry, or simply want to enjoy the comfort of some home cooking from Israel, UJF has a little something for everyone."

To sign up to attend these fun-filled fall gatherings, contact Yoav Yaron at yoav@ujf.org or register at www.ujf.org/banter&beer and www.ujf.org/poetry.

Agudath Sholom Hosts Guest Speakers

(Courtesy of Congregation Agudath Sholom) Congregation Agudath Sholom (CAS) is pleased to announce its fall lineup of guest speakers.

On Shabbat, October 27-28, CAS will host Nechama Price, the Director of Yeshiva University's Graduate Program for Advanced Talmud Studies (GPATS), from which she earned certification in 2003.

Price is a Senior Lecturer in the Bible and Judaic Studies departments at Stern College, where she has been teaching since 2004. She earned a Masters Degree in Jewish Education from Azrieli Graduate School, and an MA in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School. She is also a graduate of the inaugural class of the American branch of Nishmat's Yoetzet Halacha Program, and currently serves as a *Yoetzet Halacha* (Women's Jewish Law Advisor) to the communities of Englewood,



Nechama Price



Dr. Saul Haimoff

Tenafly, Livingston, West Orange, and Long Branch NJ. Price recently published her first book, *Tribal Blueprints*, analyzing the lives and personalities of the twelve tribes. She is a community scholar and speaks all over North America. She lives in Bergenfield, NJ with her husband and four children.

Dr. Saul Haimoff will be the guest speaker on "Mental Health Shabbat," November 17.

Dr. Haimoff is an advocate for mental health awareness, especially in the Jewish community, and has volunteered to give lectures and classes to help educate the general population on mental illness and effective therapies. He serves as head rabbi at The Brandeis School in Lawrence, Long Island, NY, and serves as the associate rabbi and youth director at the Jewish Center of Atlantic Beach. He also has a private practice where he provides psychotherapy to children, adolescents and adults with anxiety, depression and behavioral issues.

And on Shabbat, December 15-16, CAS will host Jordan B. Gorfinkel, also known

as "Gorf." Gorf is a comic book creator, newspaper cartoonist, and an animation and multimedia entertainment producer.

Friday night will feature a teen/parent dinner and experience, and Saturday night will include a "Cartooning Workshop for Kids" in addition to other presentations over the weekend.

For nearly a decade, Gorf managed a team of writers, artists and creators on the Batman franchise for DC Comics, producing more than 2000 stories in multiple mediums. Gorf's creations, such as *Batman: No Man's Land* and *Birds Of Prey*, have resulted in critically acclaimed and commercially successful publications. Gorf founded and operates Avalanche Comics Entertainment ("ACE"), a dynamic storytelling studio that produces creative content for corporations, brands, entertainment companies and foundations.

For more information, please see www.cas-stamford.org or call 203-358-2200.



Jordan B. Gorfinkel

New Kabbalah Course: Unlocking Mysteries of the Universe

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) Beginning this November, Rabbi Levi Mendelow, who directs the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) courses for Chabad in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, will offer *The World of Kabbalah*, a transformative six-week course. This immersive journey will delve into the intricacies of the cosmic order, offering participants valuable insights for personal growth and enlightenment.

Beginning November 1, *The World Of Kabbalah* will be offered twice each week: on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to noon at the Stamford JCC and on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at Chabad of New Canaan. Students may join the evening course remotely, on Zoom.

At the core of this course lies the belief that knowledge is a bridge to connection. For seasoned spiritual seekers and curious beginners, *The World of Kabbalah* offers an opportunity to gain clarity about the inner workings of Kabbalah and its relevance to everyday life. Meticulously crafted, this educational journey breaks the multifaceted topic down into six clear modules, ensuring seamless instruction and effortless comprehension for educators and participants alike.

The World of Kabbalah invites individuals to embark on an awe-inspiring exploration of the interconnectedness that weaves into the fabric of Creation. From unraveling the significance of the *Sefirot* (attributes/emanations) to exploring the divine soul and the spiritual realms,

participants will uncover a profound sense of purpose and harmony by developing an understanding of the divine and of G-d's universe.

"In a world filled with complexity, *The World of Kabbalah* offers a transformative journey towards understanding ourselves, our connection to the divine, and our place within the universe. This course provides a road map for navigating life with intention, purpose, and profound insight," said Rabbi Levi Mendelow.

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

All those interested may call 203-972-7708 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information.

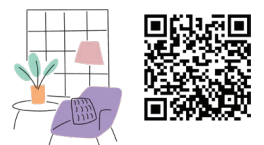
JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 1,600 international locations in the U.S., Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Panama, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Venezuela. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since it was founded in 1998.

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Learn more at a monthly informational luncheon. To reserve your seat or to become a Priority Reservation Member, please contact us at **203-396-1140** or info@mozaiccl.org.

mozaicconciergeliving.org





Always Room for Dessert at Sukkot

BY RONNIE FEIN

In ancient times, Sukkot was one of the three pilgrimage holidays mentioned in the bible. At the time, Israelites would travel to Jerusalem, and because these pilgrimage holidays (the other two were Pesach and Shavuot) coincided with a harvest, there were festive celebrations and plentiful amounts of food, in addition to religious observances.

Sukkot was the festival that marked the end of the fruit harvest.

In our modern era, most of us observe the holidays very differently. On Sukkot, for example, we now build sukkahs, which symbolize the 40 years the Israelites wandered through the desert after the Exodus from Egypt. Some of us eat meals in the sukkah. Some even sleep in their sukkah! And some of us just visit for a while for the holiday experience.

When my kids were growing up, we visited the sukkah at our synagogue, but we also had the occasional celebration in the tiny log cabin playhouse in our yard. It was a small playhouse, so not very convenient for a real Sukkot meal.

But dessert? Sure!

There are loads of easy, transportable desserts that are perfect for eating in a sukkah, whether it's a tiny log cabin or something more posh. The desserts I brought to the playhouse and still prepare to this day, are all fruit-based. After all, we are observing the fruit harvest!

Over the years my sukkah desserts have included Grand Finale Cookies (oatmeal raisin chocolate chip), Plum or Blueberry Streusel Cake, Banana Cupcakes, Applesauce Cake, Plum Torte, Mandel Bread, Fruit and Oat Bars – fruit

desserts easily transported and easy to eat outdoors.

Here are another two delicious fruit desserts I've made for Sukkot that are suitable for feasting in a sukkah (or right at home). The others I mentioned (and many more) are available on my website: www.ronniefein.com.

BAKED APPLES WITH RAISINS, HONEY, ORANGE AND PISTACHIOS

4 large baking apples
6 tablespoons golden raisins
1/4 cup chopped pistachios (or use other chopped nuts or seeds)
2 teaspoons grated fresh orange zest
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
6 tablespoons honey
1/2 cup orange juice
1/2 cup water
1 tablespoon butter, cut into 4 pieces (or use coconut oil)

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Wash the apples and remove the cores, leaving about one-half inch at the bottom. Peel the apples about halfway down from the



Baked apples with raisins, honey, orange and pistachios.

top. Place the apples in a baking dish. Mix the raisins, pistachios, orange zest, ginger, cinnamon, 3 tablespoons honey and 3 tablespoons orange juice in a small bowl. Spoon equal amounts of this mixture into the hollowed apple cores. Combine the remaining honey, juice and water and pour over the apples. Dot the tops with butter or coconut oil. Bake for 45 minutes, or until the apples are tender, basting occasionally with the pan juices.

Makes 4 servings

BLUEBERRY CRUMB CAKE

Crumb Layer:

1/2 cup unsalted butter
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/3 cup quick oats
1/2 cup finely chopped nuts
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

Melt the butter and set it aside to cool.

Place the flour, brown sugar, oats, nuts, cinnamon and nutmeg in a bowl and mix until well blended. Pour in the butter and blend it in. Let cool for 4-5 minutes, then crumble the mixture using your fingers. Set aside.

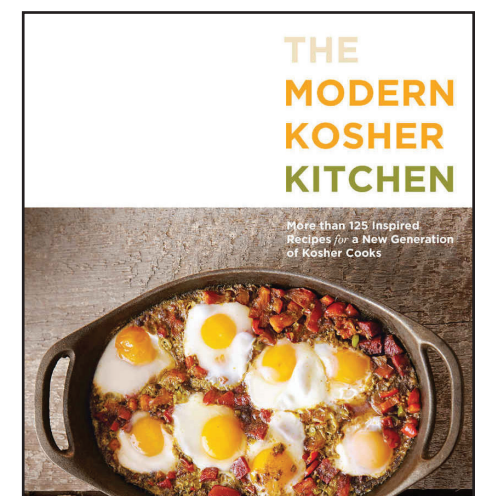
Cake:

1/2 cup unsalted butter
2 cups flour
1/2 cup sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 large eggs
1 cup milk
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups blueberries

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 9-1/2-inch springform

pan. Melt the butter and set it aside to cool. Combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt in the bowl of an electric mixer. In another bowl, combine the eggs, milk, vanilla extract and melted butter. Pour the liquid ingredients into the dry ones and stir only to combine: do not overbeat. Turn the batter into the prepared pan. Top with the berries and press them down into the batter gently. Cover with the crumb layer. Bake for about 50 minutes or until a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean.

Makes one cake serving 8-10



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

Celebrate Sukkot and Simchat Torah with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford invites everyone to immerse themselves in the festive spirit of Sukkot and Simchat Torah through a series of community-centered events.

Kickstarting the celebrations on the second day of Sukkot, Sunday, October 1, is the annual "Sukkah Hop". After services, set off on a fun gastronomic journey, hopping from one family's Sukkah for appetizers to another's for main courses and beyond.

The communal warmth continues on Tuesday, October 3, with a family-centric "Supper in the Sukkah" at 4:30 pm. Chabad invites families to join for an evening

filled with delicious food, interactive games, and great entertainment. Guiding the younger members through the activities will be the dedicated team of Gan and Chabad Kids Club (Hebrew school) teachers.

On the following day, Wednesday, October 4, Chabad extends a special invitation to the women of the community. The JWC (Jewish Women Connected) Luncheon in the Sukkah, an annual favorite, is set to start at 12:30 pm. Enjoy a gourmet spread and engage in enlightening discussions, in the company of friends and fellow community members.

For the teenagers in grades 8 through 12, the evening of October 4

features a fun "Sushi in the Sukkah," starting at 6:30 pm.

On Saturday, October 7, the younger members of the community are in for a treat with the "Kids' Hakafot in the Park", now in its 4th year. Families are invited to gather at Barrett Park, located at the corner of Burdick Street and Newfield Avenue where there will be singing and dancing in circles in celebration of the holiday. Starting at 4:30 pm, this special event promises fun in an outdoor setting.

For more information on Chabad's offerings or to purchase your *lulav* and *etrog* for Sukkot, please drop an email to programs@stamfordchabad.org.



**DON'T FORGET TO USE
THE COMMUNITY
CALENDAR**

**THE CALENDAR
CONTINUES TO BE
IMPORTANT TO
AVOID CONFLICTS**

WWW.UJF.ORG

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL TALY@UJF.ORG



SUKKOT, SHEMINI ATZERET AND SIMCHAT TORAH HOLIDAY LISTINGS

TEMPLE BETH EL

(Conservative Egalitarian)

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman & Cantor Katie Kaplan.
Associate Rabbi, Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg
301 Roxbury Road | 203-322-6901 | www.tbe.org

Sukkot

Shabuzz Shalom Program

(for young families with children ages 0-5
with older siblings invited)

**Friday, September 29 at 5:00 to 6:30 pm
at Temple Beth El**

For questions or more information,
please contact Dayna Patashnik,
TBE engagement coordinator, at
tbeengagement@gmail.com.

Sukkot Festival Services

Saturday, September 30 and

Sunday, October 1 at 10:00 am

Followed by a Kiddush luncheon in the
Sukkah

Simchat Torah

**Sunday October 8 at 10:00 am
at Temple Beth El**

A lively Simchat Torah service and
celebration will take place including
music, student participation, dancing
with the Torahs, and lots of candy! For
more information, contact office@tbe.org.

*For further information on all services,
call the Temple office at 203-322-6901, ext. 300*

TEMPLE SINAI

(Reform)

Rabbi Jay TelRav & Cantor Micah Morgovsky
458 Lakeside Dr. | 203-322-1649
www.templestamford.org

Simchat Torah

Friday, October 6

Desserts/cheese crackers and wine
prior to the service: 6:00 pm
Service: 6:30 pm

For further information, contact Jayne Vasco at (203) 322-1649.

CHABAD OF NEW CANAAN

Rabbi Levi Mendelow
www.newcanaanjewish.org

Sukkot

Sunday, October 1, 1:00 pm
Young Families - Lunch in the Sukkah

Simchat Torah

Saturday, October 7, 7:15 pm
Simchat Torah Dinner, Hakafof, and dancing

Sunday, October 8, 10:30 am
Simchat Torah Family Celebration

For more information contact Rabbi@newcanaanjewish.org

CHABAD OF STAMFORD

Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
770 High Ridge Rd. | 203-3-CHABAD | 203-324-2223
www.stamfordchabad.org

Sukkot

Friday, September 29 - Erev Sukkot
Mincha & Maariv: 6:20 pm

Saturday, September 30 - Sukkot
Shacharit: 10:00 am
Mincha & Maariv: 6:20 pm

Sunday, October 1 - Sukkot
Shacharit: 10:00 am
Community Sukkah Hop: 12:15 pm
Mincha & Maariv: 6:20 pm

Tuesday, October 3 - Chol Hamoed
Family Supper in the Sukkah: 4:30 pm

Wednesday, October 4 - Chol Hamoed
JWC Women's Lunch in the Sukkah:
12:00 pm

Friday October 6 - Hoshana Raba
Shacharit: 8:00 am
Mincha & Maariv & Israeli Hakafof
followed by Israeli Style Kiddush: 6:15pm

Shmini Atzeret

Saturday, October 7
Shacharit: 10:00 am
Torah Reading & Yizkor: 11:00 am
Kids Hakafof in Barrett Park: 4:00 pm
Mincha, Maariv, and Hakafof: 6:15 pm

Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 18
Shacharit: 10:00 am
Birkat Kohanim: 11:00 am
PreHakafof breakfast: 11:15 am
Hakafof followed by lunch: 12:00 pm
Mincha & Maariv: 6:15 pm

*For more information and to RSVP please
email programs@stamfordchabad.org or call 203-3CHABAD*

YOUNG ISRAEL OF STAMFORD

(Orthodox)
Rabbi Eli Kohl
69 Oaklawn Ave. | www.youngisraelstamford.org
Outdoor Davening in a Tent
Youth Services (for youth schedule, email www.marjuivri@gmail.com)

Sukkot

**Saturday-Sunday,
September 30-October 1**
Services at 9:00 am

Shemini Azeret & Simchat Torah

Saturday-Sunday, October 7-8
Services at 9:00 am

Simchat Torah Hakafof

Saturday, October 7
Services at 7:15 pm

CONGREGATION AGUDATH SHOLOM

(Orthodox)

Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Senior Rabbi and
Rabbi Moshe Kurtz, Assistant Rabbi
301 Strawberry Hill Rd | 203-358-2200 | www.cas-stamford.org

Sukkot

Friday, September 29th
Candle Lighting: 6:21 pm
Mincha: 6:26 pm

Shabbat, September 30th - Day 1
Shacharit: 7:00/8:00/8:45 am
Mincha: 6:15 pm
Candles: Not before 7:21 pm (YaKNeHaZ:
Blessings on wine, kiddush, candle,
havdalah and shehechyanu)

Sunday, October 1st - Day 2
Shacharit: 7:00/8:00/8:45 am
Mincha: 6:20 pm
Havdalah: 7:19 pm

**Monday-Thursday, October 2nd, 3rd,
4th, 5th - Chol Hamoed**
Shacharit: 6:20/7:30 am
Mincha: 6:20 pm

Friday, October 6th - Hoshana Rabbah
Shacharit: 6:00/7:30 am
Friday Candle Lighting: 6:10 pm
Friday Mincha: 6:15 pm

Shemini Atzeret

Shabbat, October 7th
Shacharit: 7:00/8:00/8:45 am
Main Sanctuary Yizkor: No earlier than 10:00 am
Mincha: 6:05 pm
Candles After: 7:08 pm
Simchat Torah Hakafof: 7:15 pm

Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 8th
Shacharit: 7:00/8:45 am
Mincha: 6:10 pm
Havdalah: 7:07 pm

*For further information on all services, call Agudath at 203-358-2200
or email Rabbi Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org.*

CHABAD AT HARBOR POINT

Rabbi Yisrael Deren
101 Park Place, Washington Blvd. and Pacific Street, Unit 110
For information, contact Levi Deren at levideren@gmail.com or call
203-912-7708.

PLEASE CALL OR VISIT SYNAGOGUE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Friendship Circle Teen Volunteers Kick Off New Year

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle)

On Sunday September 10, returning and new teen volunteers gathered to welcome a new year of volunteering. The event was held at the Friendship Circle Center at 48 Union Street. Teens were treated to a full evening of fun and socializing, along with the opportunity to learn about different ways of volunteering and a talk by special guest speaker Daniel Tratt.

The event included a video game truck and bumper balls, as well as a french fry bar and snow cones. An alumni panel of volunteers who have graduated and now live in the area, shared how the time as past volunteers is relevant and meaningful in their young adult lives. Tratt told his personal story, and discussed how he overcomes various challenges in his daily life.

Chani Cunin, Volunteer Coordinator, said, "I am so excited to welcome back our seasoned volunteers and welcome aboard our new teens. It is wonderful to see these young men and women so



Close to 100 teens attended the Friendship Circle 2023 Teen Volunteer Kickoff.

passionate about their volunteering and eager to get started again. It promises to be another fabulous year at the Friendship Circle!"

For more information on the Friendship Circle, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com.

Schoke JFS Kosher Mobile Food Pantry Turns One

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) This October, Schoke Jewish Family Service (Schoke JFS) is celebrating one year of the Kosher Mobile Food Pantry on the road. Since its launch in October 2022, the Kosher Mobile Food Pantry has served as a safe resource for community members and exemplified Schoke JFS's values and goals: fighting hunger and feeding hope.

With the ability to stock shelf-stable and perishable food items, the Kosher Mobile Food Pantry has had an extremely impactful first year. The Mobile Food Pantry has grown to include household items that many food-insecure clients also need. Combined with volunteer efforts, the Kosher Mobile Food Pantry provides paper goods, household items, and hygiene supplies in addition to food. Food insecurity is a growing concern; Schoke JFS has expanded its bandwidth to improve clients' access to food throughout Fairfield County.

Since its first community food distribution in fall of 2022 until now, the Mobile Food Pantry has distributed 1,500 grocery bags to over 300 households. Individuals who benefit from this service range from those who live alone to families of eight. The availability of the Food Pantry exponentially increases access to food for individuals throughout Fairfield County, in communities which are just as diverse as the families themselves.

Currently, the Mobile Food Pantry hosts monthly food distributions in Stamford, Norwalk, and Bridgeport, supported through strong relationships with local synagogues and community



Leah Schechter, Chief Program Officer, unpacks pallets of kosher chicken from the Mobile Food Pantry with Elizabeth Hinds, Volunteer Services and Programs Coordinator.

organizations including First County Bank (Shippan, Stamford), Congregation Beth El of Norwalk, Congregation B'nai Israel of Bridgeport, and Caroline House in Bridgeport. This year, the Schoke JFS Kosher Mobile Food Pantry provided food resources to the 400 families attending the 9th Annual Back to School Shop event, making it the largest distribution for Schoke JFS.

This is only the beginning for the Kosher Mobile Food Pantry with more distributions and partnerships underway. Each grocery bag packed offers more security in the homes and hearts of those in need in the community.

Young Israel Welcomes Back Youth



Pete Paliuli entertains Abby Lasher with his magic.



Families gather together for a morning of fun. (ALL PHOTO CREDIT: RO WEXLER)

(Courtesy of Young Israel of Stamford) On Sunday August 27, Young Israel of Stamford kicked off its new year of programming with a breakfast sponsored by LOX NYC, the magical talents of Pete and Chris Amusements, and a chesed (acts of kindness) project to thank the Stamford Police Department.

BANTER & BEER

01. WHAT

Enjoy a cold pint and light conversation with friends old and new at some of Connecticut's local breweries hosted by UJF's

Community Shaliach, Yoav Yaron.

02. WHEN

Thursday, October 12 7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 15 7:00 pm

More dates to come!

03. WHERE

www.ujf.org/beer&banter



\$8.00 PER
PERSON

FIRST
PINT ON
UJF!

BCHA Warmly Welcomes Students Back to School



Students, faculty and staff at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut celebrate the first day of school.



(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy)
Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut opened its doors to another school year! This year's students were welcomed back in grand style. They were greeted by faculty and staff as they came off the buses and were able to walk on the red carpet into the school when parents

dropped them off. Students were even able to get a photo under a balloon arch or high-five an eighth-grader who was there to cheer on everybody who entered the school. After an amazing first day with the teachers, Grades 1 to 8 capped off the day with an assembly that welcomed new faculty, staff, and students.

Seventeen New Faculty Members Join Growing BCHA Staff

BY PAUL SILVERFARB

At Stamford's Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut (BCHA), the beginning of a new academic year is always an exciting time, filled with anticipation and fresh beginnings. This year, the school has an extra reason to celebrate as it proudly welcomes seventeen new faculty members to the BCHA ever-growing academic family. This significant expansion comes at a time when enrollment is on the rise, signaling a bright and promising future for the school.

These exceptional individuals bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to the school. From seasoned educators to rising stars in their respective fields, they have been carefully selected to align with BCHA's mission and educational objectives. Their diverse backgrounds and expertise will enrich the academic programs and provide students with unique opportunities for growth and exploration.

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Early Childhood has grown, and the school added three new Pre-K teachers and one new kindergarten instructor. The Lower School added a first grade general studies teacher, while the BCHA Middle School added a new principal and math teacher.

The school also added a new physical education teacher.

BCHA has also added several new faculty members to its support services. The Upper School added a new learning specialist, while the Middle School added a new support specialist. An additional psychologist was also hired to work with both Upper and Middle School students. The Judaics department at BCHA has added two new rabbis in the Middle School, while several more teachers have been added to the school's Upper School Judaics.

"The surge in enrollment at our school is a testament to the trust and confidence that students and their families have in our institution," said Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, Head of School. "It reflects the value they see in the excellent Jewish and general studies education we offer and the opportunities we provide for personal, spiritual and intellectual growth."

The school is particularly excited that three new teachers, and the new Middle School principal, are alumni of BCHA.

In the coming months and years, BCHA looks forward to celebrating the achievements and contributions of its students and faculty alike as they continue to grow, learn, and thrive together as a dynamic community school.



INSPIRING & EDUCATING FOR NEARLY 70 YEARS!



DISCOVER BI-CULTURAL HEBREW ACADEMY

Where academic excellence, traditional values and Jewish heritage combine to create happy, successful students!

OPEN HOUSE

UPPER SCHOOL
Grades 9 to 12

Sunday, October 22nd
10 am - 12 pm

LOWER SCHOOL
Grades Pre-K to 4

Sunday, October 29th
10 am - 12 pm

For more information please contact Bonnie Marcus, Director of Admissions, at bmarcus@bcha-ct.org

2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903
Lower School (203) 329-2186 • Upper School (203) 883-8970 • bcha-ct.org



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



Professional Development at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) As Gan Yeladim welcomes the start of what is shaping up to be their largest year yet, both Morah Hillary Isaacs (Associate Director, School Psychologist) and Morah Leah Shemtov (Director) remain as involved as ever in ensuring that each child and family continues to experience the unique, personalized touch that defines the Gan's ethos.

During Professional Development week, the training programs were designed to be both hands-on and relevant, aligning with the evolving needs of the school. For Leah Shemtov, the emphasis was focused on the joy of Yiddishkeit (being Jewish) and ways to ensure that each child and family has a personalized relationship with Judaism. The staff also participated for the third year in a workshop about conscious and connected discipline which aims to help the staff to understand the children and their families.

On a more practical level, they were privileged to once again welcome

Michael Shanbrom, Director of Security, from United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, Canaan, and Darien who came to train staff on safety and security procedures and precautions. Sessions on CPR and medical training, preschool inclusivity, holistic education, language development and more were also held. At Gan there is also a strong awareness that their staff are the backbone of their institution. As such, throughout the week they indulge them with special meals, thoughtful gifts, and fun experiences as a way of saying 'thank you' for their unwavering dedication and hard work.

Another priority at the Gan this year was to have a refreshed learning environment for the children, and during the summer they embarked on a significant classroom revamp. Every learning space boasts a plethora of new materials designed to spark curiosity and facilitate learning as they seek to create vibrant, conducive environments for the children. The Reggio Emilia philosophy,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Explore Jewish Life, Meet New People, Get Inspired



Stamford Jewish Experience at Third Place by Half Full Brewery

(Courtesy of Congregation Agudath Sholom) Stamford Jewish Experience is a warm, inclusive, innovative and engaging program geared to millennial young professionals of all Jewish backgrounds looking to explore Jewish life and meet new people. It runs a wide range of programming including happy hours, Shabbat dinners, educational lectures and classes as well as weekend getaways.

The first event was held at Third Place by Half Full Brewery in late August. The evening was a fun-filled event of beer tastings, finger foods, and socializing.

The program is run by Congregation Agudath Sholom, thanks to a grant from United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien. For more information, contact Rabbi Daniel Cohen via text at 203-252-8252.

The Big Give

Powered by UJF's Super Sunday

Join United Jewish Federation for a fun-filled weekend from **Friday, November 10** through **Sunday, November 12**, including speakers over Shabbat, a NEXTGen Casino Night at Temple Sinai, PJ Library and volunteer opportunities, and a Phone-a-thon to encourage community members to donate to UJF's **BIG GIVE!**

Learn more at
www.ujf.org/thebiggive



United Jewish Federation

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



UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN, AND DARIEN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS





UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF STAMFORD, NEW



W CANAAN, AND DARIEN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN, AND DARIEN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Bits & Pieces



BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Jessica & Jason Denker on the birth of a son, Jacob Ethan Denker; and to the grandparents, Karen & Bruce Denker

Sabrina & Robert Fox on the birth of a son.

Becca DiMeo & Steven Ginsberg on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, Ronnie & Paul Ginsberg.

Jamie Morvitz & Matt Miller on the birth of a daughter, Melody Sage Miller.

Rachel & Rabbi Elchanan Poupko on the birth of a daughter, Sara Raizel Poupko.

Sara & Rabbi Mendel Shmotkin on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, Malya & Rabbi Zalman Shmotkin.

Lindsay & Corey Shulman on the birth of a son, Max Brandon.

Barbara & Ken White on the birth of their great granddaughter, Morgan Zoe Sinensky.

Nina & David Wollner on the birth of a daughter.

Helene Zimmerman on the birth of a

great granddaughter, Ella Hertz.

MAZEL TOV ON MARRIAGES/ ENGAGEMENTS:

Judy & Jeff Cahn on the engagement of their son, Brian Cahn to Jayme Chapler.

Rachel & Dan Haron on the engagement of their son, Nathan Haron to Micaela Reznik, daughter of Judy & Anthony Rezik; and to the grandparents, Kamal Haron and Linda Rezak.

David Jelen on the marriage of his son, Matt Jelen to Yael Saiger.

Elissa & Philip Klapper on the marriage of their daughter, Hannah Klapper to Elie Lehmann.

Michele & Scott Piskin on the marriage of their son Todd Piskin to Camille Coonrod.

Susan & Carl Shapiro on the marriage of their son, Harrison Shapiro to Elana Reiss, daughter of Debbi & Paul Reiss.

Sandy & Moshe Speter on the engagement of their grandson, Baruch Glazer, son of Debbi & Avi Glazer to Shoshana Szajowitz, daughter of Chani & Yaakov Szajowitz.

MAZEL TOV OTHER:

Noah Doft, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Stamford student, placed 18th worldwide out of nearly 9,300 high school students in this year's AAPT PhysicsBowl.

Rabbi Moshe Kurtz on the release

of his new book, *Challenging Assumptions*.

Marilyn Wolpin on the release of her new book, *Bring Back the Babka!*

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Layla Bahar: daughter of Maya Sparks and Darren Bahar and to the grandparents, Rachel & David Bahar.

Mason Dulitz: daughter of Jessica & Levi Dulitz.

Adele Forman: daughter of Jennifer & Marnin Forman.

Eli Hoff: son of Tricia & Rob Hoff.

Zachary Kornfeld: son of Rachel & Sean Kornfeld.

Leah Pollack: daughter of Maureen & Jonathan Pollack.

Yosef Schuckman: son of Kira & Evan Schuckman and to the grandparents, Ilyse & Dean Schuckman.

Mindy Segal: daughter of Chaya & Levi Segal.

Sarah Julia Singer: granddaughter of Toby Schaffer and Hyman Schaffer.

Eden Stricker: granddaughter of Howard Weiss.

Jackson Stricker: grandson of Howard Weiss.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

William Berkowitz: husband of Elayne Berkowitz; father of Suzanne Fruithandler and Greg Berkowitz.

Gertrude Ecker: mother of William Ecker.

Joseph Gelb: husband of Miriam Gelb; father of Marcia Rutstein and Howard Gelb and brother of Arlene Gelb Kamarata.

Leslie Horowitz: mother of Barnett Horowitz and Irving Horowitz.

Raymond Israel: husband of Jackie Israel and father of Eric Israel and Caryn Sabbath.

Mervin Jacobs: father of Rhonda Ginsberg.

Martha Krakowitch: sister of Melanie Massell.

Evelyn Kucker: mother of Susan Peyser and Peggy Thompson.

Edythe Lavine: mother of Lori Ratner and Terri Griggs.

Marvin Lawrence: husband of Muriel Lawrence; and father of Jeffrey Lawrence and Michael Lawrence.

Anita Lederman: grandmother of Alyson Koblick.

Edward Lotstein: husband of Marsha Lotstein and father of Debra Lotstein Greenspon and Seth Lotstein.

Renee Parker: mother of Adam Parker and Scott Parker.

Jerry Regan: husband of Gail Regan; and father of Jessica Stahl and Karen Regan.

Dorothy (Dotty) Smith who worked at UJF for over 35 years: mother of Anne Marie Husk, Peggy Clarizio, Patty Schmid and James Smith.

Michael Vail: husband of Martha Vail, father of Glenn Vail and brother of Ronnie Vail Fein and Jeffrey Vail.

The Hebrew Corner

A Monthly Primer by Robert Abrams,
UJF Education Committee Chair

How do we know when something is important? One way to decide if something is important is by judging how much time it takes to think about an issue or solve a problem. And this notion takes us directly to the three letters Chet, SHin, and Vet (that's the Bet without the dot inside it, turning it into a Vet, but it is the same letter).

LaCH-SHohV in Hebrew is "to think" in Hebrew. And if something is worth thinking about, then it might be important, or CHaSHooV.

Sometimes you and I do not have enough time to solve a problem, so it might be easier to use a computer, or a maCH-SHayV in Hebrew. Further, if you don't want to do your taxes or you need to find out how well - or poorly



Robert Abrams

- your business is doing, you would probably want to engage someone to do a reckoning or accounting; a CHaSH-Bohn in Hebrew.

A thought in Hebrew is a maCH-SHaVah, and when a concept is well-thought out, it is considered to be muhCHooSHahV.

And perhaps the finest quote we can use to describe a waste of time comes from the book of Proverbs. Proverbs chapter 19, verse 21, can be translated as, "Many are the thoughts/maCHaSHaVoht in someone's heart, but it is God's thought that is established." The quote was clearly the foundation for the folk saying, "Man plans, and God laughs."

A Message from UJF's Community Shaliach Memories That Last a Lifetime

BY YOAV YARON

Core memories help us form and develop our mature and unique personalities, even during those fleeting moments in life that may not necessarily seem significant at the time.

It may be a brief ride on a bus through town, being quickly introduced to new people, or even hearing someone speak about something they care deeply about. We each have these memories inside of us. One of my core memories is the youth movement I experienced growing up. To be precise, it was the first time I spent overnight camping. Our humorous counselors each placed on our sleeping bags a clean diaper with a piece of chocolate with a note that read, "First night away from home".

To this day, I can still vividly recall so many instances from that night which are ingrained in me even though it was over 20



Yoav Yaron

years ago.

Life is incredible like that. At the end of August, I had the privilege to acquire a new core memory thanks to my time spent with the BBYO B'yachad 2023 Conference, where I helped train the BBYO chapter's board members. This was part of my new role as advisor for the Leviticus Stamford AZA (Boys) chapter. I learned about BBYO, the

structure, the history, and the volunteers who generously give of their time (some with over a decade of volunteering). I met with an exceptional group of young men who care about community, Jewish life, and the value in creating opportunities for their peers. Their collective energy and devotion to the creation of their own core memories - likely without even knowing it -- is inspiring and motivating. I can't wait to work in the community with BBYO, attend upcoming events, and get to know the members better.

It's yet another opportunity to make some more core memories of my own.

BCHA Alums Make a Difference in Central America

BY PAUL SILVERFARB

Two alumni of the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) of Connecticut used their summer break to help the communities of Guatemala and El Salvador. BCHA class of 2017 graduates and current Yeshiva University students Ally Hadge and Sydney Hoffman traveled to Central America for a life-changing two-week *Chesed* (acts of kindness) trip.

This *Chesed* trip was a part of Yeshiva University's Torat Adam Summer Experience, as around 40 undergraduate students traveled to Central America to roll up their sleeves and improve the lives of people around them.

"My awareness of my language toward others, my urge to express gratitude for my circumstances, and my strength as a Jew all grew," said Hadge. "Throughout the entire journey, a thought that stuck with me was that, being blessed to have been raised as I have, never requesting more is crucial; instead, one should be content with what they have and offer anything they do not need to benefit those who are less fortunate. I observed how those who do not have much are so full of life and optimism, and I understood how I could never behave differently since I have so much more."

During their time in Armenia, San



BCHA Class of 2017 graduate Sydney Hoffman poses for a group selfie during her *Chesed* trip to Guatemala and El Salvador. (PHOTO CREDIT: SYDNEY HOFFMAN)

Salvador, and in Guatemala City and Antigua, Guatemala, Hoffman and Hadge visited and volunteered in schools, clinics, hospitals, and homes of local families. It was an experience they won't soon forget.

Hoffman said that the experience transcended the boundaries of a typical educational mission.

"I could not simply 'go' on this trip," she said. "I needed to be a part of it. I eagerly immersed myself in every aspect of the experience. I orchestrated and designed science fairs with experiments and reached out to four local schools to arrange everything necessary for our time together."

Hoffman also had the opportunity to work in a clinic that was located in an impoverished town that barely had any medical supplies.

"In fact, I had to use my own stethoscope and blood pressure cuff," she said. "Further, nothing was done online, so I charted everything on a scrap piece of paper and handed it back to the patient. If I had read about this clinic in a textbook I never would have believed it."

Although they spent a good portion of their *Chesed* trip providing aid to the towns they visited, both Hadge and Hoffman took a little time to unwind and explore the area.

"Going into the trip, I was worried

about my ability to build relationships with the people, as I do not speak any Spanish," said Hadge. "However, I was astounded by the realization that there are other forms of connection, such as laughter, eye contact, hand gestures, and smiles. For just a few minutes with every interaction, I noticed when distributing flowers, food, and clothing that giving went beyond what words could express. My understanding of the saying 'actions speak louder than words' has changed as a result of this experience in a completely different manner."

BCHA is proud to have laid the foundation for its alumni to continue acts of *chesed* as they continue their academic careers.

Professional Development at Gan Yeladim

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

which Gan draws on, encourages the use of natural materials in order to create a sense of wonder and possibility.

This year Gan will again offer a wide range of enrichment activities for the children. In sports they have introduced Kung Fu and Aleph Bet Yoga to the curriculum as well as continuing with their popular soccer, all sports and gymnastics offerings. In music and movement, they have added a drumming

class and will also offer chess, ceramics and Hebrew storytelling to ensure a holistic development for their young learners. Moreover, exclusively for the Pre-K class, in partnership with the Stamford Nature Center, they have designed a special monthly curriculum focused on hands-on experiences with animals and nature.

For more information on Gan Yeladim, please email wendy@stamfordchabad.org.

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For more information, contact Melanie Vorm (melanie@ujf.org)

*Dietary laws observed

A Warm Welcome



Newcomers to Stamford, Judy and Seth Lerner, are warmly welcomed by United Jewish Federation Deputy Director, Eric Ross.

Calling All High School Students

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's flagship teen program is back this fall! Applications are now open for the 2023-2024 Cohort of the Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps - a program of United Jewish Federation, funded by the Kuriansky Family Foundation.

Directed by Jonathan Fass, this elite leadership training program explores the fundamentals of philanthropy, preparing teens to become communal leaders. The program begins this fall and is open to 10-12 graders. Program information and registration can be found at www.ujf.org/teen.

For more information contact Diane Sloyer, dianesloyer@ujf.org.

Cheers To UJF

(Courtesy of UJF) The Home Brewing Workshop in August led by Community Shaliach, Yoav Yaron, hit the spot as community members enjoyed making their own bottles of beer and learned the ins-and-outs of brewing at home. (Pictured l-r) Ari Prescott, Yoav Yaron, Ariella Goldstein, Ellen Weber and Mitchell Bell.



Gan Staff Returns to Nature

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Morah Rikkil Shemtov and Morah Shikha Agarwal go out in nature to collect items to create a "Staff Tree" of roots and leaves as part of Gan Yeladim's professional staff development. The nature project symbolized two important character traits, with leaves representing strengths that are "visible" and roots representing strengths that are more "hidden."



A New Year at the Gan

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan Yeladim of Stamford is delighted to welcome both new and returning families. With a record-breaking enrollment this year, parents were welcomed with flowers as they dropped their children off at the Gan on the first day of school. Pictured: Kaili and Dan Scherban with their children.



Volunteers Needed

Thanks to the generosity of the extended Sichel Family and United Jewish Federation, Aaron's Place: A Kosher Comfort Room (at Stamford Hospital), has been up and running for over two months. This quiet space provides

families and medical professionals a place to grab a snack and on Shabbat a place to light candles, make kiddush and partake in a Shabbat meal. In addition, both hospital elevator banks now have a Shabbat elevator.

B"H

GAN YELADIM OF STAMFORD




OPEN HOUSE

& FAMILY DAY





WHERE THE SUCCESS STORIES OF TOMORROW BEGIN TO BLOSSOM



NOVEMBER 5, 2023 @ 9:30AM

CONTACT US:

wendy@stamfordchabad.org
 203-324-2223
www.ganyeladim.org
 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06905

50(ish) Voices: Looking Back on Fifty Years of UJF

BY WENDELL MAXEY

One of the best parts about commemorating the last 50 years of United Jewish Federation this year and applauding the impact the organization continues to make locally and globally, is being able to share the experiences, memories, and moments from across the community about what UJF means personally to people.

Through this limited testimonial series, these "50(ish) Voices" and stories help make UJF what it is today: still a convenor of the community with a remarkable story to tell together.

Thank you to those in Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien who have been reaching out and taking part in the "50(ish) Voices" online Q&A, including past presidents, campaign chairs, volunteers, and former staff members of UJF. The kind responses and reflections provide the opportunity to recognize, hear, and learn from the wide-reaching voices in the community as UJF looks back, and ahead, to another 50 years of Federation.

WHY DOES CELEBRATING THIS 50 YEAR MILESTONE MATTER TO YOU?

As a past President (2003-2006), the continued viability of UJF is very important because the role it plays in the Jewish community is essential. – Ed Spilka

I have been actively involved in UJF for the past 21 years and have been proud and honored to do so. I have seen firsthand the

impact it has had on our community both locally and globally. We live in a wonderful Jewish community and UJF has had a major role in keeping it strong and vibrant. UJF has been here for our community in good times and bad. – Ellen Weber

HOW HAS UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

I learned about fundraising and how to "make the ask" at my first "Super Sunday" about 25 years ago. It was held at a downtown office where volunteers could use a room full of landlines together. There was a spirit of community unlike any other. I was trained by the giving guru, Fred Springer. Did I realize then that his guidance – giving from the heart – a little more than you think you can afford – would lead to a lifetime of volunteering and philanthropy? I am glad it did. – Barbara Aronica

We learned that UJF provides a vital voice for those unable to speak for themselves. We made so many friends over the years through our involvement, people who may not have known otherwise who have enriched our family's lives proving, for us, to give is to receive! – Peter Poser

My mother fled the Nazis and I was raised with a sense of vulnerability because I was a Jew. My sense of responsibility to the Jewish community was nurtured at the firm I worked for as it was one of the largest contributors to United Jewish Appeal. I believe that all Jews care about their community and will step

up to provide support when it is called for. – Ed Spilka

I have been involved with the UJF from the Young Leadership Division, to volunteering and chairing two Super Sundays, to being Volunteer of the Year 2018. Now I have the unique opportunity of seeing UJF from "the behind the scenes" side of things. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing an idea for an event become a fully functioning successful event, and knowing the work and layers that went into it. For example, our Yom Ha'Atzmaut event that was so well attended this year with great food and a camel! – Taly Farber

HOW DO YOU FEEL UJF HAS AFFECTED OUR COMMUNITY?

The Jewish community has had many challenges in the past 50 years and Federation has been at the forefront of addressing many of them. The future of our Jewish community is of great concern to me especially with the increase in antisemitism. But with a strong UJF presence, I know we can face these challenges together. – Ellen Weber

DO YOU HAVE FAMILY OR MULTI-GENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS WITH UJF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?

When we moved to Stamford in the late 80's, my father-in-law, Stanley Ferber, reminded us that if you want to live in a Jewish community, you must support that community. With that as our guiding principle, my wife, Caryl and I

have participated and donated throughout the last 35 years. – Peter Poser

WHY IS A STRONG UJF IMPORTANT FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS?

A Jewish Community needs a central organization that cares about all the agencies and encourages interagency support and participation. UJF is that organization and therefore vital to our community's success. – Peter Poser

The Jewish community is always likely to be small, fractured and beset by antisemitism. It is important to have a few strong pillars that can be depended upon to ensure we remain vital and healthy. UJF will always fill that role with proper leadership and direction. – Ed Spilka

There is a saying in Hebrew "ad meah v'srim", which means "until 120". It's what you wish someone on their birthday, like Moses from the Bible who lived until 120 years. This is just as important for the UJF. That there should be strong Jewish support of Israel, and Jews in the community, nationally, and internationally, is needed "ad meah v'srim". – Taly Farber

To read more entries from 50(ish) Voices and this limited testimonial series, visit www.ujf.org.UJFstories. To submit your entry for "50(ish) Voices," visit www.ujf.org/50ishvoices, or if you prefer to tell your story to one of the project chairs, Peter Poser or Barbara Aronica, contact Wendell Maxey (wendell@ujf.org) at United Jewish Federation for more information.

The Schoke JFS Internship Experience

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service has a skilled staff of licensed clinicians at the helm of the agency's Clinical, Case Management, and Home Companion programs. It is exciting to have qualified professionals mentoring and guiding interns who are graduate students in social work, in addition to everything they offer Schoke JFS clients.

Interns working with Isrella Knopf in the Home Companion Program have the opportunity to complete home visits with elderly community members, join intake conversations, and assist with training and certification programs for prospective aides within the department.

Interns reporting to Hannah Pollack in the Case Management Department fill many different client needs, guiding clients through resources, assisting with application completion, organizing and initiating referrals, and even serving as medical advocates. With opportunities to build relationships with clients and partner agencies alike, Case Management interns gain valuable experience practicing social work in a variety of situations.

Interns in the Clinical Department



Hannah Pollack, Associate Director of Case Management, sits with Case Management Intern Rebekah Bacon, reviewing case documents.

support a caseload of five to ten individuals, couples, or family therapy clients. They have the opportunity to facilitate support groups or socialization programs as part of their capstone project. Clinical Department interns participate in the department's weekly meeting, learning from a team of qualified, licensed clinicians.

Those interested in learning more about internships at Schoke JFS are welcome to contact Leah Schechter, Chief Program Officer at lsechecter@ctjfs.org or 203-921-4161.

Schoke JFS Camp Scholarships Bring Summer Fun

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Gabby and Harrison Preman, two Joan and Ben Zinbarg Camp Scholarship recipients, enjoyed four weeks at the JCC in Woodbridge, Connecticut. Both of them had a blast making new friends and enjoying an array of activities including swimming, playing gaga ball, and helping run the camp carnival. Schoke JFS received this happy note: "The time they spent at camp this summer was invaluable and our family is so appreciative of the support of the Joan and Ben Zinbarg - Schoke Jewish Family Service Camp Scholarship Program."



Preschool Fun

Children at Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center have fun in their singing, music and puppetry class.



Federation Reading Partners Kick off 23-24 School Year

United Jewish Federation is happy to welcome and work with this year's Team Leaders for UJF's Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program. UJF is looking forward to seeing the Team Leaders and volunteer tutors back in schools helping young students improve their reading.



(l-r) Meg Mooar, Ena Sarkar, Barbara Rosenberg, Cathy Ernst.



(l-r) Anita Katz, Leah Baker, Lois Dreyer, Barbara Kennedy, Pam Hirshfeld, and Stephanie Fitzgerald

New Around Town

Yoetzet Halacha at Congregation Agudath Sholom

(Courtesy of Congregation Agudath Sholom) Congregation Agudath Sholom (CAS) is excited to welcome Zissy Turner as the new CAS Steinmetz, Bernstein, Alexander Yoetzet Halacha (Women's Advisor in Jewish Law) for the Stamford Community. Dena Block will serve as a limited resource for consultation and programming in partnership with Zissy.

Zissy is a graduate of the graduate Program in Advanced Talmud Study at Yeshiva University and served as community Scholar at Lincoln Square Synagogue. She currently serves as 9th grade Dean at SAR High School in Riverdale where she teaches Tanakh (Bible) and Gemara (Talmud).

A Yoetzet Halacha is a woman who is certified to serve as a resource for women with questions regarding taharat hamishpacha (family purity laws). The Yoetzet Halacha will work together with a committee of dedicated women



Zissy Turner

to build programs on a wide array of women's health and halacha (Jewish law) topics. Zissy can be reached at zissy.turner@gmail.com and Dena at blockdena@gmail.com.

To learn more about the Mikvah (ritual bath) committee, contact chairs Adina Adelman at adina@stamfordmikvah.org and Nicole Makovsky at nicole.makovsky@gmail.com

Celebrating One Year of Connecting

(Courtesy of UJF) This September, Moishe House Without Walls (MHWOW) led locally by United Jewish Federation Shaliach Yoav Yaron celebrated its one-year anniversary. Moishe House Without Walls (MHWOW – pronounced letter "M", letter "H", and "WOW") provides support, educational, and financial resources to to cultivate a Jewish community.

Around the world, MHWOW hosts gather their peers for Jewish experiences that range from Friday night Shabbat dinners, holidays, learning events, and cultural celebrations.

To celebrate MHWOW's first successful year in Stamford, a program was led by Julie TelRav in which the participants created paintings inspired by different Piyyutim (religious songs) of the High Holidays.



(l-r) Front row: Julie TelRav, Elizabeth Hinds, Yoav Yaron. Second row: Eddie Guterman, Marion Glickson, Hannah Pollack, Ariella Goldstein, Doreen Yagnatinsky, and Ernest Fayngold

If you know young adults in their 20's and 30's locally or what to learn more about MHWOW contact Yoav: Yoav@ujf.org

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY Heritage Gala Celebrating 40 Years

Elissa & David Kaplan
with the 2023 Heritage Award

Sandy & Fred Golove
with the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award

Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Congregation Agudath Sholom
Stamford, Connecticut



Dinner • Exhibits • Program
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or contact Sima Broza: sima@jhsfc-ct.org

LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll

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

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

Anonymous (20)
Anonymous (27)
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Alice & David Andersen
Jeri Appel
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Ricky Snow Arbron
Suellyn Bache
Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
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**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 Greater Stamford Jewish community we love. For more information, contact Lenore Fogel at (203) 321-1373 or at lenore@ujf.org

RABBI ELI AND NAOMI KOHL TESTIMONIAL

In our eight years in Stamford we have continued to see growth at the Young Israel of Stamford. As a young community, we often don't think about the sustainability of our shul, as we are focused on its growth and expansion. The LIFE & LEGACY program has been instrumental in helping the wonderful community that we are



Rabbi Eli and Naomi Kohl

helping to construct remain on strong financial footing well into the future.

As the Rabbinic leaders of our community, we think it is important to participate and lead the way in this fantastic initiative. May this year be one of great growth and blessing in our lives. May we merit to think about how we can secure our institutions well into the future, and merit long life to be able to see the fruits of our labor.

Racking up Medals in Karate, Marathon, Windsurfing

August proves a winning month for Israeli athletes across a variety of sport disciplines.

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN,
ISRAEL21C

Adding to Israel's collection of athletic awards garnered in various sports this month, an Israeli karate delegation took home six gold, one silver and four bronze medals from the August 23-27 SKIF Shotokan Karate World Games in Hungary.

Also in Hungary, Israeli marathoner Maru Teferi made history on Sunday by winning a silver medal at the World Athletics Championships. This was Israel's first medal in the men's marathon and fifth from the competition in total. Teferi previously finished in 13th place at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and won a silver medal at the 2022 European Athletics Championships in Germany.

Israeli sailor Adi Millo won a bronze medal at the U21 World Windsurfing Championships in Switzerland (August 21-27), while Rivka Bayech took home a bronze from the European Junior Taekwondo Championships in Estonia, August 24-26.

To recap other medals that Israelis have won for athletic performance across several disciplines over the past couple of weeks:

On August 19, Israeli windsurfers Shahar Tibi and Katy Spychakov won



Israeli silver medal marathoner Maru Teferi at the World Athletics Championships, August 2023. Photo courtesy of Israeli Embassy in Hungary.

gold and silver medals, respectively, in the women's iQFoil category at the Allianz Sailing World Championships in The Netherlands, earning Israel's first world title at the sailing contest in a decade.

On August 25, Israel won its first-ever group all-around gold medal in a World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships event, earning a spot at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Later in the same competition, Team Israel won first place in the combined exercise final using balls and ribbons, and Daria Atmanov won a bronze medal for her individual performance.

Civil Rights Journey

Saturday, January 27 thru
Tuesday, January 30
2024

just a few spots left

\$1,500 – double occupancy
\$1,865 – single occupancy*

*Price subject to change depending on number of participants; additional costs include airfare, ground transportation from airport, dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Rosa Parks Museum
- Edmund Pettis Bridge
- 16th Street Baptist Church
- Equal Justice Initiative's
- Legacy Museum and more!

INCLUDES

- Deluxe Coach Bus
- Tour Guide
- Admission Tickets
- Hotels for 3 nights
- Breakfast & Lunches

www.ujf.org/civilrights

UJA-JCC Greenwich Chairs
Jane Batkin, Joan Mann, & Sally Mann

For more information contact
Sharon Lewis (slewis@ujf.org)

United Jewish Federation Chairs
Rob Hoff, Beverly and David Stein

UJA-JCC greenwich
THE CENTER FOR
JEWISH COMMUNITY,
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שירה בִּסְלוֹן POETRY IN THE LIVINGROOM

Come together with Community Shaliach, Yoav Yaron, for an evening of unraveling Hebrew poetry, secrets, traits, and language

ONE WEDNESDAY A MONTH
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 20 - JANUARY 24
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Location: in private homes
\$10 for the series
www.ujf.org/poetry

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JOIN UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION'S PJ LIBRARY

**In partnership with Temple Sinai and Temple Beth El
For Fun, Food, and More!**

"PJ LIBRARY IN THE SUKKAN" PROGRAM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 – 9:30-11:00am
Including Food, Games, and Entertainment
Temple Sinai – 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford, CT 06903
The event is open to the community. Advanced registration is required here: <https://www.templestamford.org/form/Sukkot%20Breakfast>

"PRE-SHABBAT PJ LIBRARY" PROGRAM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 – 5:00-6:30PM
Part of the SHAB-BUZZ-BIMBAM series – Including activities, PJ Library Story Time, and kosher shabbat dinner.
Temple Beth El – 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT 06902
The event is open to the community. Advanced registration is required here: www.tinyurl.com/shabbuzz11-10

Temple Sinai
GROWTH HAPPENS HERE

Experts Baffled by Ancient Trenches Uncovered in Jerusalem

Archeologists say the trenches cut into the bedrock appear to be designed for soaking large quantities of something, but they don't know what.

BY JOHN JEFFAY, ISRAEL21C

Experts say they're baffled by a one-of-a-kind series of channels carved into the bottom of a cliff in Jerusalem almost 3,000 years ago.

They say the trenches, cut into the bedrock, appear to be designed for soaking large quantities of something, but they don't know what.

Their best guess is either flax to make linen, or dates for silan.

But researchers from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) and Tel Aviv University admit they can only speculate.

The location of the channels, in the City of David National Park just outside the Old City of Jerusalem, strongly suggests a connection with either the First Temple or a royal palace.

Yiftah Shalev, senior researcher at IAA, said: "We realized that we had stumbled on something unique, but since we had never seen a structure like this in Israel, we didn't know how to interpret it. Even its date was unclear."

They brought in experts, including a

police forensic unit, to check for pollen, organic remains or traces of blood that would provide a clue, with no success.

The excavations, carried out at the Givati Parking Lot, have so far uncovered two distinct structures, believed to be part of a single installation.

The first, at the northeastern end, includes a series of at least nine channels at ground level, together with seven drainage pipes from the cliff top. The second structure, 20 meters to the south, is very similar but has five channels.

"Despite some differences in the way the channels were hewn and designed, it is evident that the second installation is very similar to the first," said Prof. Yuval Gadot of Tel Aviv University's Archeology and Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations Department.

He said the discovery of a second structure had yielded information that allowed them to date the last time it was used — the end of the ninth century BCE, during the reigns of King Joash and King Amaziah — but did not resolve the mystery

of its purpose.

"The central location of the channels near the city's most prominent areas indicates that the product made using them was connected to the economy of the Temple or palace," Gadot added.

"Ritual activity includes bringing agricultural animal and plant produce to the Temple. Many times, Temple visitors would bring back products that carried the sanctity of the place."

The fact that the channels flow in different directions, and the absence of a drainage basin, suggests their function was to soak products and circulate liquid, rather than drain it, said Shalev.

"The production of linen, for example, requires soaking the flax for a long time to soften it. Another possibility is that the channels held dates that were left out to be heated by the sun to produce silan [date honey], like similarly shaped installations discovered in distant places such as Oman,



The mysterious channels. (PHOTO CREDIT: EMIL ALADJEM/ ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY)

Bahrain and Iran."

Experts believe what they have uncovered so far is part of a much larger, industrial-scale installation.

The next step is to take further soil samples in the hope that analysis will shed some light on the mystery.

The excavations are being funded by the Elad Foundation, which manages the City of David National Park. The public will be able to see them next week during the 24th City of David Studies of Ancient Jerusalem conference.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, November 5, 2023 - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

JTConnect presents a Teen Conference on ANTISEMITISM

\$18.00 per person (includes Kosher lunch)

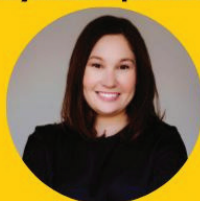
Scholarship assistance is available.

The Emanuel Synagogue - 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT

Open to 8th-12th graders and parents!

Join us for this important community conversation about Antisemitism and how it impacts teens in the Jewish Community.

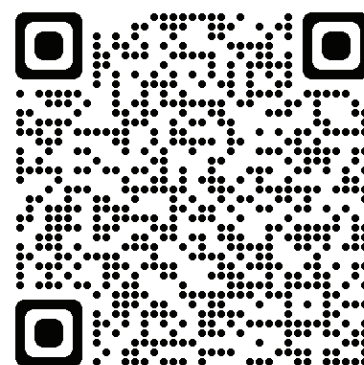
Keynote Speaker:



Amy Spitalnick, CEO
Jewish Council for
Public Affairs



SCAN ME



Community Partners as of 8/22/23



Interested in being a Community Partner or learning more information?
Contact Caroline Poland at 860.727.6157 or caroline@jtconnect.org
www.jtconnect.org - Register online by 10/26/2023 - linktr.ee/jtconnect

KOL ECHAD - ONE VOICE

Twenty-Five Years of Service

**BY MATT GREENBERG,
CEO OF SCHOKE JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE**

I moved to Stamford almost 25 years ago, after accepting my position at Schoke Jewish Family Service. I remember those first few days being shown around the community, and visited several institutions. I was struck by the large number of people at programs and events in each one and could not help but think how fabulous it was to see so many members of our local community in one place.

Twenty-five years later, I feel much the same. We live in a community that often comes together in times of celebration and in times of need and is like family. As a therapist, I often work with families and individuals struggling with challenging issues. When there is a crisis with someone in the family, that is when other family members need to step in to help.

Recently, I have had several occasions where I have had to make some difficult decisions regarding clients and my own family members who are elderly. We are all aging, and some of us are able to navigate that change more easily than others. Some have resources and support networks that make the transition uncomplicated. But not so for everyone. Unfortunately, even in our community with opportunities for engagement and social interaction, seniors are still more likely to be underserved. The necessary resources to age well don't always exist. If they are unable to drive, or don't have someone to drive them, or have limited mobility, they remain isolated, and unable to get to classes, or programs, or more importantly, needed medical appointments, or grocery shopping.

While Schoke JFS takes steps to assist, this

is not a one agency problem. This affects us all, individually, in our families, and with community members. Schoke JFS addresses some of these issues through programs such as Social Strolls, which provides a chance for people to gather informally to chat and participate in some fun activities; chair yoga, which helps people socialize, exercise, and develop relaxation skills; Anachnu, our weekly programming for Holocaust survivors, which is also open to all seniors, and provides both educational and recreational opportunities virtually and in person; Brain Fitness, which helps seniors improve their memories; and the Hirsch Kosher Home Delivered Meal Program, which not only brings prepared meals to seniors, but provides friendly visits as well.

But organizations such as ours need help too! A member of our community has been meeting with communal leaders to create a system of shattering the isolation and loneliness that people experience after the loss of a partner, or are new to the community. He represents a large community of single seniors who would like all the Jewish institutions to prioritize

increasing connections between seniors, whether it is invitations to shabbat meals or arranging a travel buddy system for existing programs.

As we celebrate Sukkot, we must bring to life the values symbolized by this holiday. The sukkah is a tangible representation of shelter, but it also symbolizes the ideals of hospitality and inclusion. Just as we open our sukkot to guests, we are called to open our hearts and homes to those in need of an invitation or a practical way to include others in communal events and celebrations. This is particularly important to seniors in our community. Invite someone to a meal in your sukkah, or home. Offer a ride to someone to attend a program. Suggest ideas to our organizations that will be inclusive to seniors in our community. Sukkot serves as a powerful reminder that our possessions are transient, but our acts of kindness and compassion leave a lasting impact.

The New Jewish Voice hopes this regular column will give community Rabbis and CEOs the opportunity to share their experience and wisdom with our readers.

TEEN VOICES

BBYO Invests in the Jewish Future

**BY KEIRA LUBLINER
AND MATAN SIGEL**

Did you know there are two BBYO chapters in Stamford, one for high school boys and one for high school girls? Leviticus is the Stamford chapter of AZA for boys and Tikvah is the Stamford chapter of BBG for girls.

The chapters meet every other week for

(BBG) are proud to announce that we have three wonderful new advisors: Yoav Yaron, UJF's Community *Shaliach*, Ryan Murace (BBYO Leviticus alumni) and Rachel Steinmetz, Director of JCC summer camps.

In late August, Board Members traveled to the Connecticut Valley Region's 2023 BBYO Board Member Training Conference held



Board members from Stamford's BBYO Leviticus (AZA) and Tikvah (BBG) chapters attended the 2023 BBYO Board Member Training Conference. (Top row l-r) Jesse Kalt, Zach Price, Coby Citron, Matan Sigel, Sawyer Price, Gavin Daniel, Blake Cortell, Jonah Rosenberg, Eli Shwartz. (Bottom row l-r) Ilana Gilbert, Izzy Binger, Brooke Wolly, Keira Lubliner, Alex Young.

a program that consists of a vast variety of activities such as basketball tournaments, painting parties, casino nights, and the celebration of Jewish holidays, which include potluck dinners in a Sukkah, white elephant parties for Chanukah, Purim carnivals and more. Participants share traditions at these programs like singing the international youth movement songs and eating "spooey" (pretzels dipped in frosting). These rituals make the group feel connected as a community, a chapter, and also to BBYO around the world.

This year Leviticus (AZA) and Tikvah

at Hartford's Bradley International Airport to kick-off the new year. The new advisors helped assist our chapters with planning for the upcoming year, trained participants for their upcoming board positions, and spent some quality time bonding. The year ahead looks very exciting. If you want to know more about BBYO chapters in Stamford, please contact chapter Presidents Matan Sigel (Leviticus - mjs032006@gmail.com) or Keira Lubliner (Tikvah - keiralubliner@gmail.com).

Keira Lubliner and Matan Sigel are seniors at Stamford High School.

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and UJA-JCC Greenwich invite you to a major gifts evening with award-winning author Dara Horn



Wednesday, October 18 Dinner at 7:00 pm at a private home

Event chairs: Rebecca & Darren Anikstein and Caryn Halbrecht & Tommy Haendler

**RSVP by October 10 \$90 per person
This event is open to major donors of \$5,000 or more to the 2023 annual campaign.**

Register at www.ujf.org/horn or call 203-321-1373

For more information, email dianesloyer@ujf.org



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a community celebration
of Adult Jewish Learning

PRESENTED BY

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

Saturday Evening

November 18, 2023

6:30pm

Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT

This year's Tapestry theme will be "Israel at 75" – with each of the presenters focusing on an aspect of Israel, from creation through modern day.

The evening will begin at 6:30pm with a wine and cheese reception, followed by a communal Havdalah ceremony.

There will be a wide variety of learning opportunities for adults, and crafts for kids 3rd grade and older.

The evening will close with a dessert reception, as we all gather to celebrate the unity of our community.

Attendees will participate in two learning sessions, with 5 topics available per session.

Come together to see old friends and make new ones!

Advance tickets are \$25 per person. **Pre-Registration closes Sunday, November 5th at 5:00 PM.** Registration after November 5th and at the door will be \$36 per person for Tapestry. **All classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.** For more information, contact Eric Ross at 203-321-1373 ext. 1004 or Eric@ujf.org.



**United Jewish
Federation**

of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
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