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United Jewish Federation

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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Chevra Kadisha Honors Its Volunteers

(Courtesy of Chevra Kadisha) The officers of the Stamford Chevra Kadisha have announced that its annual dinner will be held at Temple Beth El on Monday, May 23rd at 6:30 pm.

This year's dinner will honor all of the volunteers of the Stamford Chevra Kadisha, who have successfully managed to give respect to the deceased while following COVID protocols during the past two years.

"The annual Chevra Kadisha dinner is one of the most eagerly awaited community events on the calendar," said Michael Feldstein, who is working with the members of the dinner committee. "It's especially

gratifying this year that we honor the entire volunteer corps, who day in and day out engage in the performance of the mitzvah of making sure those who pass away are afforded a complete Jewish burial. It has been an especially difficult two years for the Chevra Kadisha, as we have found it necessary to modify some of our procedures in order to insure the safety of our members during this period of COVID. But we persevered and managed to continue to perform *taharas* (ritual cleansing of the body) while making sure our volunteers

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Spring Is in the Air

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy is excited to be planning its annual Spring Dinner. This year's dinner will be chaired by Heidi Ganz and Caroline Marciano. The auction chairs will be Allison Greenbaum, Pam Horne and Toby Lazarus.



Author Corie Adjmi will be the guest speaker and the festive evening will include dinner, entertainment, an auction and more. The event will take place on May 18th at 6:30 pm at Temple Beth El in Stamford, 350 Roxbury Rd.

"I have always enjoyed the Spring Dinner," shared co-chair Heidi Ganz. "It

is an opportunity to see old friends and meet some new ones as well. It is always a fun evening and I look forward to chairing it this year," she continued.

Corie Adjmi is the author of the short story collection *Life and Other Shortcomings*, which won an International Book Award, an IBPA Benjamin Franklin award,

and an American Fiction Award. Her essays and short stories have appeared in the *HuffPost*, *North American Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Medium*, *Motherwell* and *Kveller*. She's been featured in *Travel*

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Sustaining The Jewish Future

BY LENORE FOGEL

The Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY® program has had a tremendous positive effect on the Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien Community. In fact, due to the efforts of United Jewish Federation in facilitating the community's partnership with the program, eleven local organizations have come together to secure the Jewish future of the community.

LIFE & LEGACY donors will join in

celebration at 6:30 pm on Thursday, June 9th at the Stamford Nature Center. The event is being chaired by Elissa and Philip Klapper and Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser. A fun and festive dinner is being planned to celebrate the two-year accomplishments of each organization and to thank community members who have declared their intent to leave a legacy gift to one or more Jewish organizations within the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community.

"As we finish year two, the continued cooperation between teams has been uplifting to witness. Asks to sign a Letter of Intent (LOI) are often done with other organizations in mind and teams have even gone together for a joint ask. This is helping UJF build a cooperative spirit for the future. It demonstrates that we are better when we work together," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.

"People are beginning to understand that for our community to thrive, there is room and a necessity for all organizations to succeed. This success is achieved

through mutual respect and cooperation," Sloyer continued.

The LIFE & LEGACY program has brought the conversation of endowment to the community. There is a greater organizational and individual understanding of the importance of an endowment fund for future survival.

While COVID may have been a challenging time to implement Year One of the program, it also underscored the need for endowments. Boards, CEOs, and Rabbis saw firsthand the struggle to

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Opening Day for Fairfield County Jewish Baseball League

On April 10th, Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons threw out the first pitch for this season's Fairfield County Jewish Baseball League in Scalzi park in Stamford. The League is open to children ages pre-K through 6th grade. Games are played on Sundays through June.

Team sponsors include Niedober & Steinmetz, LLC, Howard Wolfe of Goldman Gruder & Woods, LLC, Schoke Jewish Family Service, L&S Realty, Gan Yeladim, Wheel It Forward, Law Offices of Toby M. Schaffer, The Boxer Realty Group, United Jewish Federation, OneWall Communities, Hanna & Mazer Dental Group, Woltz & Folkinshteyn, P.C., Rivera Toyota, and JMX Realty Group.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINE SIMMONS TWITTER @MAYORCAROLINECT)

READ ABOUT UJF'S UKRAINIAN RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE CENTERFOLD

From UJF's Chief Executive Officer Bearing Witness

BY DIANE SLOYER

As most of you know by now, Federation Board member and community leader Kerrin Behrend and I took part in a Jewish Federations of North America sponsored two-day mission, or "Fly-in" to Warsaw and the Medyka border crossing of Poland and Ukraine.

Sometimes people, maybe even some of you, don't really know what Federation does. I do believe what I saw in Warsaw during those two days will help paint a clearer picture.

Simply, Federations organize Jewish communities and are built for moments like this. I feel privileged to have served as your *shaliach*, or emissary, to bear witness to the horrific sadness and despair as well as the resilience and hope for the future.

And never have I been more in awe of the Jewish people and Federation partners including our global Jewish network of the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Joint Distribution Committee and World ORT as well as Hillel International, Hadassah Hospital, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Chabad and more for their coordinated efforts on behalf of the Jewish refugees and beyond.

For Ukrainian Jews, what's happening now is unfathomable. They never imagined that the largest conflict in Europe since World War II would rage in their country. Millions of Ukrainians have been displaced as they flee for their lives with little to no possessions.

For the older refugees, they are living through a second war in their lifetime, something they could have never imagined possible. As they flee with their years of



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

life in one small carry-on bag, they leave their bombed out homes in Ukraine and travel to begin new lives in Israel or elsewhere.

We traveled to Poland and Medyka, a village on the border with Ukraine. When you cross the border, the first tent you see is proudly displaying the Israeli flag, and the Israeli volunteers, putting their careers and lives on hold, welcome all with open arms.

The border was incredibly quiet, and the influx of refugees has slowed down. People are traumatized, in shock, incredibly quiet. But everywhere, you see the best elements of humanity. Relief workers. Rescue workers. Food, water, clothes and toys - all being passed out. Polish police and army soldiers are helping children and those in need.

Our Federation system has to date distributed over 40 million dollars of emergency funds to our partners on the ground. These funds for Ukrainian relief help us deepen and maintain our commitment to leave no one behind. This is who we are - we were built for this moment.

There is so much goodwill. So much decency.

I'm never going to forget being in Ukraine. I'm so grateful that we can help. I'm thankful for all those who have made emergency donations. But, there is still much more for us to do. And there is so much heroism, decency, humanity, and relief work already under way.

We were there on February 24th when war broke out, because we were there on February 23rd. And that, in a nutshell, is what Federation does both locally and around the world.

UJF President's Message The Best Kept Secret

BY DAVID GORDON

By now, I'm certain you know that UJF is part of a federated system (the Jewish Federations of North America) that is at the forefront of taking care of the Ukrainian Jews who are fleeing the war. Through our collective funding, the Jewish Agency for Israel is taking care of supporting, transporting and resettling some of them in Israel, and the Joint Distribution Committee is housing, feeding, and taking care of those who are in Poland, Romania, and other countries who are housing the flood of refugees. That said, if I got ten dollars for every person who has told me over the last month "I didn't know Federation did that", I wouldn't be rich, but I'd have some good pocket money!

Since we are in the Passover season, I have a question: Why is UJF the best-kept secret of our Jewish community? Why don't our community members know that Federation "does that"? Perhaps it is because we don't toot our own horn loud enough. Or, perhaps it is because we do so much with so little. Because we are so concerned about keeping our overhead down, we don't advertise what we do; we just do it. And, sadly, apparently, we often do not get the credit for what we are doing.

So besides raising significant funds from time to time to help our brethren both here and abroad during crises (read Ukraine, Ethiopia, Argentina, Soviet Union, Houston (flooding), Stamford (COVID), etc.), we do so much more that you should know about.

Did you know that:

- UJF brought a Secure Community Network (SCN) professional to our community for a minimum of three years to train our community in best security practices to keep us all safe and to obtain state and federal funds?
- UJF is bringing an Israeli *shaliach* (emissary) to our community starting August 2022 to interact with our entire Jewish (and non-Jewish) community and strengthen our ties to Israel?
- UJF brought the ongoing Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY program to greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien to strengthen the long-term viability of our institutions?
- UJF runs multiple "Affinity Groups" to bring community members across all denominations together to explore



David Gordon, UJF President

areas of common interest (law, medicine, business, etc.)?

- UJF runs PJ Library programming for our community children and distributes hundreds of Jewish-content books every month to those children?
- UJF runs community events such as Holocaust Remembrance Day and

Israel Independence Day to bring our community together?

- UJF financially supports new and innovative programming of our synagogues, and agencies including the Jewish Community Center (JCC), Schoke Jewish Family Service (SJFS), Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA), Friendship Circle?
- UJF publishes this *New Jewish Voice* newspaper which publicizes and reports on the news and good works of our local synagogues and agencies?
- UJF is the central address for our Jewish community's relationship to the leaders and other citizens of our city and state through our Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)?
- UJF does good deeds for the greater Stamford community through its 3SQUARE program (weekend meals for food-insecure children), Reading Partners (helping children become competent readers), Dignity Grows (providing hygiene products to those in need so that they can attend school, work and participate in community life)?
- UJF runs a Teen Tzedakah Corp to train our teens in the importance and process of charity-giving?
- UJF runs a NextGen program and the Behrend Institute to train future Jewish leadership of our agencies and synagogues?
- UJF runs adult education programs of interest to the entire Jewish community?

And, there's more which you can see by accessing our website at ujf.org and which you will see when you receive our first published Annual Report which is also accessible at ujf.org/annualreport2021.

I am very proud of what UJF is doing, and you should be too. Our good work shouldn't be a secret. Please share it with your friends. Thank you!

APOLOGY

In last month's issue of The New Jewish Voice, we inadvertently put a *z"l* at the end of both Elaine Sharlach and her husband, Lester.

Elaine is very much alive (we are happy to report). We would like to apologize for any upset caused by this mistake.

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Thank you to our sponsors:

Congregation Agudath Sholom Celebrates at Annual Dinner

(Courtesy of Congregation Agudath Sholom) On Sunday evening, June 12th at 5:00 pm, Congregation Agudath Sholom (CAS) will celebrate its Annual Dinner with guests of honor Barry Sternlicht and family and Rachel Dayan. The congregation will also have a special tribute to its Executive Director, Matt



Barry Sternlicht

Feinberg. The theme of the celebration is the *shul's* rededication of its reimagined and refurbished building. Barry, Rachel and Matt were instrumental to the building's redevelopment and construction.

Barry Sternlicht, a Miami resident and Stamford native, is Chairman and CEO of Starwood Capital Group, a private alternative investment firm he formed in 1991 which is focused on global real estate, hotel management, oil and gas and energy infrastructure. Barry's parents, Mark, z"l, and Harriet, are legacy members of Congregation Agudath Sholom. Mark and Harriet are known for exuding warmth, a love of Yiddishkeit and family, as well

as a passion for life. These characteristics have left an indelible impression on their children and grandchildren. Barry, inspired by his family's connection to the *shul*, gave a generous and transformative lead gift to the synagogue's Capital Campaign. This gift was the catalyst that sparked a building fundraising drive that enabled Congregation Agudath Sholom to restore the building to its glory. The synagogue is grateful for Barry's dedication of the main sanctuary in honor of his parents.

Rachel Dayan, a New York native and Stamford resident, is a former President of Congregation Agudath Sholom. Rachel grew up in a home that valued Jewish philanthropy. Upon moving to Stamford, she became involved in many of the community's Jewish organizations including UJF and Congregation Agudath Sholom. Rachel's parents, Janet and J. Michael Fried, z"l, instilled in her the value of giving back to the community Rachel headed the CAS rebuilding committee,

and along with Matt Feinberg oversaw the construction project from the initial design phases to completion. Her efforts revitalized the beauty and functionality of the CAS building, incorporating traditional elements with modern amenities.

Matt Feinberg has been the Executive Director of Congregation Agudath Sholom since 2015. He is a Stamford native and lives in the community with his wife Nikki and their two young children. The congregation recognizes his skillful ability to manage such a dynamic organization alongside a major construction project. The membership is deeply appreciative of his talents and experience and honors all he has accomplished.

The *shul* now has many wonderful new and updated features like a beautiful expanded lobby and coat room, a grand staircase, a new education wing with flexible multi-purpose classrooms for services, youth groups and classes, new office spaces, new kitchens and bathrooms, energy-efficient mechanicals



Rachel Dayan
(CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

and electric, updated security features, additional handicap accessibilities and new finishes and lighting throughout. These updated areas will support the growing community.

The dinner is co-chaired by Dinah Miller Marlowe and Talia Siscovick, who were inspired to work on the

dinner because of their connection to the congregation and the honorees. The fundraising journal is co-chaired by Marla Lewis and Leah Miller. The new building adds a level of spirituality to Congregation Agudath Sholom's worship and *simcha* celebrations. The event will celebrate how fortunate the congregation is to have beautiful surroundings to enhance the spiritual and social activities in the community.

For further information, see www.cas-stamford.org or call the CAS office at 203-358-2200.

Norma and Milton Mann Memorial Cantor's Concert and Installation

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Temple Beth El (TBE), Stamford will host its 2022 Cantor's Concert on Thursday, June 2 at 7:00 pm at the synagogue, 350 Roxbury Road. "The Long and Winding Road" will take the audience on an eclectic ride of musical styles and influences along the road of Cantor Katie Kaplan's life from childhood through the present. From campfire to opera, jazz, rock, pop, folk, and her own compositions, this concert will share a taste of everything. As part of the concert and ceremony, Cantor Kaplan will be joined by Cantor Deborah Jacobson, former Cantor at TBE, and one of her first inspirations to journey in the direction of the cantorate. Also joining the evening in song and ceremony will be Rabbi Hazzan Luis Cattán, Cantor of The Conservative Synagogue of Westport, a mentor, friend, and current president of the Cantors Assembly. Together, they will sing and celebrate the mutual commitment between cantor and congregation as Cantor Kaplan is officially and ceremoniously installed at TBE.

Cantor Kaplan related, "As we begin to turn the corner through the COVID



Cantor Katie Kaplan
(CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

pandemic, I am completing two years serving in the role of Cantor at Temple Beth El. I find it the perfect time to musically reflect on 'The Long and Winding Road' that led me through the doors and onto the bimah of Temple Beth El." She is grateful to share these diverse and musically significant moments of her life through song as she is installed as the Cantor.

The concert will include an outstanding band of musicians: Chris

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An Evening with Schoke JFS

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service will hold its annual gala, "An Evening with Schoke JFS", Sunday, May 22nd at 5:30 pm at the Italian Center of Stamford, 1620 Newfield Avenue, in an outdoor tented pavilion. The gala will honor the service of community leaders with a special celebration of the agency's work across Fairfield County. The evening's events will be hosted by the Mayor of Stamford, Caroline Simmons. The event will be co-chaired by Liz Kitay and Meryl Japha with Jeri Appel as auction chair.

Schoke JFS will award the 42nd Annual Mitzvah Award to the Jewish Sportsmen's League (Bruce Blasnik, Gary Bloom, Henry Bubel, David S. Cohen z"l, Marty Donner, Bob Dorf, Paul Gordon, Ed Kveskin, David

Lewis, Carl Rosen, Paul Sabbah, David Swerdloff). The 3rd Annual Volunteer of the Year Award will be awarded to Stacy Kamisar, Julia Marx, and Sheri Warshaw.

The Jewish Sportsmen's League (JSL) began some 22 years ago following an inspirational Rosh Hashanah sermon at Temple Sinai. The rabbi implored its members to find their unique and fun way to do charitable giving. A small group, including the then current and several former presidents of Temple Sinai, gathered at the brunch following the service and decided that a poker game would fit the bill, and so began the JSL. Over the years, two things happened. First, as members of the group expanded their involvement across many Jewish and non-Jewish organizations in the community, the giving expanded to those organizations as well. Second, the group decided to forgo their anonymity and began to take JSL ads and tables at many of the annual community fundraisers. Today's JSL members have been leaders within the organizations they support. The total JSL giving, separate from their personal giving, has now exceeded \$120,000. They continue to be close friends and still enjoy their regular poker game.

Just a few weeks before Passover, in March 2020, COVID-19 sent shockwaves through the world. When everywhere was shutting down and locking down, Stacy Kamisar, Julia Marx, and Sheri Warshaw pulled together groups of volunteers to make sure that clients and families in need throughout upper Fairfield County could still get critical kosher food deliveries from the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry at Schoke Jewish Family Service.

This ongoing volunteer initiative pioneered by Stacy, Julia, and Sheri in the



The 3rd Annual Volunteer of the Year Award recipients, Stacy Kamisar, Julia Marx, Sheri Warshaw.



The 42nd Annual Mitzvah Award recipients, Jewish Sportsmen's League, from top left to right Bruce Blasnik, Gary Bloom, Henry Bubel, David S. Cohen z"l, Marty Donner, Bob Dorf, Paul Gordon, Ed Kveskin, David Lewis, Carl Rosen, Paul Sabbah, David Swerdloff.

parking lot of The Conservative Synagogue in Westport continues to operate, rain or shine, snow or sleet.

By 2021, the operation grew to include partnerships with Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport and Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County. This volunteer team pivoted again, including even greater volunteer recruitment, to deliver kosher food every month to clients in 14 towns throughout upper Fairfield County.

The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and lawn games, followed by dinner, presentation of the awards to the honorees, a paddle raise and dessert. There will also be an online auction.

General tickets include dinner and dessert for \$180. Visit www.ctjfs.org to purchase tickets. Contact Lisa Rich at 203-921-4161 or lrch@ctjfs.org to place a journal ad.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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www.ujf.org for updates and donations

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HOW TO REACH THE EDITOR:

Mail: Sandy Golove
1035 Newfield Ave. - Suite 200
Stamford, CT 06905-2521
E-mail: sandy@ujf.org
Phone: (203) 912-9945

Send article submissions via e-mail to Sandy Golove at sandy@ujf.org marked "Stamford Voice" in the subject line. Expect an acknowledgment; please re-send if you do not receive one.

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JCC Senior Adult Mother's Day Luncheon

(Courtesy of JCC) The Stamford Jewish Community Center will hold a Mother's Day luncheon for seniors on Friday, May 6, with live entertainment beginning at 11:00 am and lunch from 12 noon to 1:00 pm, to celebrate and honor all mothers.

The luncheon is generously sponsored by Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser in memory of their mothers, Beverly Ferber, z"l and Jacqueline Bitterman, z"l.

Reservations are required by Wednesday, April 27th. While the event is free to all seniors, a \$6 suggested donation is welcome.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

May 6.....	7:38 pm
May 13.....	7:45 pm
May 20.....	7:52 pm
May 27.....	7:58 pm
June 3.....	8:04 pm
June 10.....	8:08 pm

UPCOMING DEADLINES

June 2022 Issue (New Deadline!)

Deadline: Monday, May 16, 2022

July-August 2022 - Summer Issue

Deadline: Thursday, June 9, 2022

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

Sylvia Plotkin Day of Games

(Courtesy of JCC) Children are not the only ones who need more opportunities to play. Tired of being home? Need a little socializing and a few laughs? Maybe a cocktail or two? All are invited to the “Sylvia Plotkin Day of Games,” where everyone will enjoy playing their favorite.

Scheduled for Monday, May 16, the Stamford JCC will hold an “Afternoon of Games” from 12:30 to 4:00 pm to include a traditional mah jongg tournament with prizes, non-tournament play for those who want stress-free fun, and an opportunity to learn how to play. Others will enjoy bridge, canasta, Scrabble, Rummy Cube or any game of choice. There will be door prizes, noshes and nibbles, and lots of laughs.

The playing doesn’t stop there, as some may prefer an “Evening of Games” from 7:00 to 10:00 pm when the cocktails come out and the games get going – poker, mah jongg, canasta, bridge, Scrabble, Rummy Cube or any game of choice.

“This year we are having our games day in the afternoon and evening, as we know that everyone has a different schedule, and we wanted to open up this annual event to more people,” relays Judie Birnbaum, co-chair. “We want people to bring the friends they play with regularly, or we will do our best to connect people with new friends.”

The annual event is in memory of Sylvia Plotkin, a beloved longtime JCC member and mah jongg maven. “Sylvia likely taught most of Stamford how

to play mah jongg at the JCC,” recalls Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Arts & Culture and Seniors. “She would have loved this event, as she had a very playful spirit and felt great pride and pleasure in the bustling of activity at the JCC.”

The “Sylvia Plotkin Day of Games” is a fundraiser that supports the “Senior Chanukah Luncheon” as well as other programming for seniors. “The friendships, connections, and sense of belonging facilitated by the luncheons enriched my mother’s life, and it is the same for others,” says Lorraine Kweskin, daughter of Sylvia Plotkin and initiator of the annual event. “If people are not able to join us for the day, we hope they will consider making a donation in honor or in memory of someone close to them, so our community seniors can continue to convene and celebrate together.”

The “Sylvia Plotkin Day of Games” is co-chaired by Lorraine Kweskin and Judie Birnbaum. Those on the committee (in formation) are Beth Baer, Jami Birnbaum, Jessica Berger, Maddie and Sol Field, Jeannie Kriftcher, Cami Murace, and Carl Rosen.

The “Sylvia Plotkin Day of Games” is generously sponsored by Atria Senior Living of Stamford CT, a caring, connected senior living community where older people can live comfortably, eat well, explore their interests and enjoy the company of good neighbors.

To register for the “Afternoon of Games” or “Evening of Games”, visit www.stamfordjcc.org.

Sustaining The Jewish Future

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continue functioning when catastrophe strikes. The unfortunate timely combination of the LIFE & LEGACY program and a global pandemic served as a true education about endowment philosophy. The individuals who have signed or learned about LOIs came to a new understanding that it is possible to be a part of an organization’s present and future, even without liquid assets to donate now.

Specific success in our community included an overall \$9,995,260 (and counting) of future promised gifts, with \$238,000 of this money already recognized and in the endowment funds. Over 328 Letters of Intent have been signed by 218 donors.

Several participating organizations successfully opened an endowment fund as part of their participation in the LIFE & LEGACY program. Those organizations that already had endowment funds experienced exponential growth of promised funds. And this all took place in two short years and during a global pandemic! It is a testament to the leadership of the 11 community organizations participating in this program for embracing this challenge during difficult times and understanding the importance of securing their future and that of the Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish community.

For more information on how to leave a legacy gift, contact Lenore Fogel, LIFE & LEGACY Coordinator at lenore@ujf.org.

Norma and Milton Mann Memorial Cantor’s Concert and Installation

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Coogan (keys), Koby Hayon (guitar, oud), Benny Koonyevsky (drums), Mike Kuennen (bass), and Efrat Shapira (violin). Together they will lead the audience on a journey that is personal, relatable, and inspiring.

Cantor Kaplan’s passion for music and Judaism began in her childhood home in Rutland, Vermont. Her love of singing led her to pursue a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at New York University. She sang numerous roles with regional opera companies and as a soloist before discovering her love of teaching. She went on to earn a Master of Science in Education from the University of Bridgeport and embarked on a fifteen-year career as a voice teacher, music educator, and choral director. Her passion for teaching and learning continued to grow along with her love of Judaism, inspiring her to align her career with her gifts in pursuit of cantorial studies. She earned her certification

as Hazzan through the Cantorial Intern of the Cantors Assembly (CICA) program while working with Rabbi Hazzan Luis Cattani.

There will be an online tribute journal. A dessert reception will follow. The concert (live and on livestream) is sponsored by the Mann Family in loving memory of Norma and Milton Mann, z”l.

General admission tickets are \$36 in advance (\$45 at the door) and student tickets are \$10 in advance (\$18 at the door).

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



Cantor Deborah Jacobson



Rabbi Hazzan Luis Cattani

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Book and Author Conversation Presents: Lawrence Shapiro

(Courtesy of JCC) The Stamford JCC's Center for Arts & Culture and the Jewish Book Council are pleased to host Lawrence Shapiro for a Virtual Book & Author Conversation on Tuesday, May 24, at 7:30 pm. Dr. Shapiro, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will be speaking about the book *When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People: How Philosophy Can Save Us from Ourselves*.

The book, which Dr. Shapiro co-authored with his colleague Dr. Steven Nadler, also a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, provides an engaging tour through the basic principles of logic, argument, evidence, and probability that can make all of us more reasonable and responsible citizens. In this book, the authors argue that the best antidotes for bad thinking are the wisdom, insights, and practical skills of philosophy.

When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People shows how we can more readily spot and avoid flawed arguments and unreliable information; determine whether evidence supports or contradicts an idea; distinguish between merely believing something and knowing it; and much more. "We are anxious to hear from Dr. Shapiro how we can overcome misinformation barriers and create meaningful communication," said Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Arts & Culture and Seniors at The JCC.

Dr. Lawrence Shapiro, Ph.D., is the Berent Enç Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he has received the Honored Instructor Award multiple times. Professor Shapiro



Dr. Lawrence Shapiro and his book, *When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People: How Philosophy Can Save Us from Ourselves*.

(CREDIT: JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL)

was a senior fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities and visiting scholar at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. His books include *The Miracle Myth* and *Embodied Cognition*. Dr. Shapiro was honored with The American Philosophical Association's Joseph P. Gittler Award for outstanding contribution in the field of the philosophy of the social sciences for *Embodied Cognition*.

The conversation will be moderated by Dr. Betsy Stone, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and adjunct lecturer at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where her classes include Human Development for Educators, Adolescent Development, and Teens In and Out of Crisis. An experienced teacher in synagogue schools, she consults for groups of educators, rabbis, parents, and Jewish professionals across the country. "The JCC is so lucky to have Betsy Stone, one of our favorite moderators, to facilitate this conversation," said Nancy Schiffman, the JCC's Director of Arts & Culture.

The program is free to JCC members and \$10 for community. Books are available for purchase. To register, visit www.stamfordjcc.org. For more information, please contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Chabad's Jewish Women Connected Annual Unity Event

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) On Sunday, May 15 at 9:30 am, Chabad's Jewish Women Connected (JWC) will host a special brunch for the women of Stamford. Join them for their annual "Unity in the Community" event.

The event will have an international flavor this year with women from the community sharing special dishes from their countries of origin. The brunch will involve tasting, learning about Jewish communities around the world, laughing,

spending time and getting to know other local women. The event will also include a guest speaker and fun activities and will be a multigenerational one where women of all ages come together in a beautiful outdoor setting where they can experience connection and "commUNITY".

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

"It Happened Here"

(Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society) "It Happened Here!", a seven-panel, theme-based exhibit featuring selected images from the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JSHFC) archives and additional photos from primary sources explores the concept of what it means to belong. Over time how have individual Jews and the Jewish community engaged with and contributed to the community at large? The story begins here in Stamford and Fairfield County in the 1700's through the lenses of the war effort - World Wars I and II, immigration, women making history, and arts and culture, to name a few. The exhibit opens on Sunday, May 22 at 2:00 pm at the Ferguson Library, 1 Public Library Plaza in Stamford.

Join with community members to learn of these well-known and lesser-known individuals whose impact continues to resonate around the community and beyond such as Rabbi Philip Schechter who had a "front seat" in the struggle for just relations between the races, of which the civil rights movement was pivotal. Rabbi Schechter's sustained activism towards social justice included his participation in the march from Selma to Montgomery while a rabbi in Atlantic City. Says Rabbi Schechter of his experiences, "[while still at Hebrew Union College in the late fifties] I became aware of how our prayer book, our Torah, our tradition really teaches us to be concerned about the rights for all people".

You will also learn about Gershom Mendes Seixas who is related to the first Jewish children born in Stamford. Did you know he was the first clergy

to deliver sermons in English? As a vociferous defender of religious liberty, he participated in the inauguration of President George Washington. Furthermore, he was a founder of King's College, New York City's Columbia University precursor. Due to his Patriot sympathies, Mendes Seixas and several congregants fled New York and found refuge in Stratford, Fairfield County, CT, rather than succumb to British rule in 1776.

All are welcome to attend the opening reception for this new exhibit, "It Happened Here!" of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County. Reservations are suggested. This exhibit is partially funded by a grant from the Stamford Arts & Culture Commission. To learn more about The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, please go online: <http://jhsfc-ct.org/> or call: 203-359-2196.



Rabbi Phil Schechter (white hat) at Montgomery, Alabama state capitol rally, concluding Dr. Martin Luther King's march from Selma, 1965. This led to the Voting Rights Act. Kivie Kaplan, national President of the NAACP is second from left.

Chevra Kadisha Honors Its Volunteers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were kept safe." This year's dinner committee consists of Lisa Gavronsky, Jessie Katz, and Tova Miller.

The cost of attending the dinner is \$54 a person. Sponsorships are also available at \$180 and \$360, which entitles an individual to two dinner reservations and can be made in honor

of a family member or in memory of a loved one.

If you are interested in attending the dinner, please reserve online at stamfordchevrakadisha.org. If you have any questions about the dinner, please contact Jessie Katz at Jessica.d.katz@gmail.com.

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Call Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373, ext. 105
or email dianesloyer@ujf.org

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE



“Remembering the Family Store”

(Courtesy of The Jewish Historical Society) The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) is pleased to announce the premiere private screening of the documentary *Remembering the Family Store* (RTFS). The film will premiere at the historic Avon Theatre in Stamford on June 12th. Following the premiere, the film will be open to the community. Check the Avon Theatre listings for days and time.

The film reveals what it was like to have a family-owned business in Stamford, Connecticut from 1940 through 1965 and takes a nostalgic look back to bygone times when store owners knew customers by name. Many business owners and their grown children who are featured in the documentary characterize how downtown Stamford transformed into what we see today.

Conceived by the late Lester Sharlach, as well as several other JHSFC members who were also store owners, this documentary was a way for them to share their stories with the community. The film has been a three-year endeavor that started as a narrated presentation of the many stores. Following the presentation, you would hear many conversations starting with, “I remember when...” This led Lester and the



Frank Martin & Sons was known as the finest men's clothing store of that time.

RTFS committee to pursue what is now a documentary.

Interviewees feature many well-known Stamford citizens including Sam Lotstein from Grand Central Market, Ed Smith from Syl-May's Pharmacy and Barbara Aronica Buck from Frank Martin & Sons Clothing Store, just to name a few. Steve Karp, from Karp's Stationery, narrator and interviewee, said, “I am grateful to Gail G. Trell, Chairperson of *Remembering the Family Store*, for giving me the opportunity as a Stamford native to participate in the creative process. It was an honor to help fulfill Lester Sharlach's inspired vision for this project.”

Gail G. Trell is confident that everyone will learn something new about how



Ed Smith's family business has moved to a few different locations over the years.

Stamford grew from a small town to a bustling city. Gail comments, “Growing up in the town of Stamford, I remember the chicken truck traveling on Pacific Street with the feathers flying on its way to the butcher, as my parents took me shopping to the bakery, shoe store and hardware store. The journey of creating a story of Stamford's downtown merchants on Pacific, Atlantic, and Main Streets to name a few, has been at times challenging as well as rewarding. Working with a dedicated committee and a talented filmmaker, our documentary has brought to life the wonderful memories of a vibrant community prior to urban redevelopment.”

A grant from the Stamford Arts and Cultural Commission, along with the



Sam Lotstein's grandfather opened the first Grand Central Market.

generous support of many donors, made this film possible. *Remembering the Family Store* will premiere at the historic Avon Theater in Stamford this June. Following the premiere, the documentary will be open to the community. Check the JHSFC website and sign-up for our newsletter for updates.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, a non-profit, secular, educational organization established in Stamford in 1983, preserves and archives the past and tells the story. To learn more about JHSFC, please go online: <http://jhsfc-ct.org/> or call: 203-359-2196. For more information about the RTFS documentary, contact Gail G. Trell at: info@jhsfc-ct.org. To see the trailer visit: <https://youtu.be/O-kj-i2eabs>.

Reading Partners Plans for a Fall Return

(Courtesy of UJF) The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program of over 100 volunteers has been on a long pandemic hiatus. This volunteer program has been a project of United Jewish Federation for over 25 years. UJF hopes that volunteers will be able to return to in-school tutoring in the fall if all improves on the COVID front.

There is significant evidence that during the time away, children have fallen further behind in all educational areas, but especially in reading. The coming years will be a time to try to bridge the gap in learning that occurred over the past two years. Reading Partners will certainly have a lot of work to do upon their return to schools.

In order to facilitate a smooth transition back into the schools,

Reading Partners will hold several workshops for volunteers, both seasoned and new. One workshop will cover the topic of what has been lost in the pandemic and how to work to recoup the knowledge. The others will cover topics relevant to helping children in grades K-3 with their reading.

Lenore Fogel, Reading Partners Director, said, “I am so excited for our volunteers to get back into the classrooms. While we have managed to have several virtual events for our volunteers and to all remain connected, the heart of our volunteering is being with the children in the schools. We are looking forward to that day soon! The students miss us as much as we miss them.”

To become a Reading Partner for the 2022-2023 school year, please contact Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org.

NextGen Celebrates Israel's 74th Birthday

(Courtesy of UJF) The NextGen community is gearing up for a night of Israeli-themed festive fun in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut and Israel's 74th birthday. The backyard BBQ and bonfire event will be hosted at the private home of Micky and Tova Reich on Saturday, May 7 at 9:00 pm until midnight. Israeli music, mountains of hummus, and a “good ole time” with old and new friends will be in abundance!

The celebration is just one of many events planned for the NextGen community over the next few months. Others to look forward to include:

- Charity Basketball Tournament, in support of Ukrainian Immigrants moving to Israel. Date TBD.
- Summer Soiree – Sunshine, drinks and friends. Could there be a better combination for a celebration?! July 14 at 8:30 pm
- The Challah Prince is coming to town! That's right, the

Israeli-born Instagram sensation with over 80,000 followers, is coming to Stamford to teach us all how to make and braid challah like royalty, just in time for Rosh Hashana! Sept 18 at 7:30 pm.

- Casino Night – Come and throw the dice with NextGen for a night filled with cocktails, food and friends. October 29 at 8:30 pm.

The newly relaunched NextGen program aims to serve as a connector for all young Jews, regardless of background or affiliation. It also seeks to build community through social events, fun and meaningful volunteer programs, educational activities, and philanthropy. To get involved, contact Melanie Vorm at melanie@ujf.org.

Celebrating Lag B'Omer with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford)

Chabad of Stamford is excited to invite the Stamford community to a special celebration this Lag B'Omer. On Thursday, May 19 at 4:30 pm, the annual “Family BBQ and Trike-a-thon” will be held. Please join Chabad for fun, music, games and food. Enjoy a great time for the entire family with hot dogs, hamburgers and roasted marshmallows on their *medurah* (bonfire.) Kids under 5 are encouraged to bring their trikes for a “Trike-a-thon” in the back parking lot.

Families and friends can sponsor each child at the triathlon with all money raised to be used for playground improvements.

For more information, please email programs@stamfordchabad.org or visit www.stamfordchabad.org.

Federations Play Important Roles in Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief

BY SHARON LEWIS,
DIRECTOR, JCRC

The war in Ukraine will create one of the most significant humanitarian crises of this century. Over 4 million refugees have fled Ukraine, with more than 6.5 million more internally displaced or forced to shelter in or near their homes making this the largest number of displaced people in Europe since WWII. While thousands of Ukrainian Jews have fled the country, most of the 200,000 strong Jewish community is still sheltering within its borders.

The needs are many and urgent, for all those streaming over Ukraine's borders. They include food, shelter, clothing, medical supplies, safe passage, and resettlement in a safe haven. All those staying behind are also in dire need of aid. For the tens of thousands of Jewish homebound elderly, many of whom are Holocaust survivors and those living with disabilities, humanitarian supplies, medicines, and ensuring regular contact are necessary to survive.

United Jewish Federation of Stamford New Canaan and Darien has been participating with Jewish Federations of North America in humanitarian efforts during this crisis by activating its already existing structure in Ukraine to assist the elderly and homebound. Thanks to the structure of the Federation system and its partners, special assistance is being provided to women and children who are especially vulnerable at this time. The Federation system is also helping the Ukrainian health system and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the country deal with a population suffering from emotional trauma.

The relief efforts are being undertaken by 35 NGOs including Federations' partners, Jewish Agency For Israel,



Sharon Lewis,
Director, JCRC

Joint Distribution Committee, and World ORT; as well as by United Hatzalah, Hillel International, Nefesh B'Nefesh, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), the Israel Trauma Coalition, Hadassah Medical Organization, Chabad, Shma Yisrael, Project Keshet, JCC Krakow, and others.

Many thousands of Jewish refugees and millions of non-Jews have fled Ukraine and crossed into Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. The Federation system and its partners are supporting temporary housing, humanitarian support, psychological support and respite activities for Jewish and non-Jewish refugees, many of whom are choosing to remain in the surrounding countries in the hope that they will be able to return to their homes or be reunited with draft age (18-60 year old) male relatives who are currently unable to leave Ukraine.

The Biden Administration announced on March 24, that the United States would admit 100,000 Ukrainian refugees. The Jewish Federations of North America is urging President Biden's team to provide details about when and where they will be resettled, and what government benefits they will be eligible for. HIAS, which has been working in Ukraine for many years to assist with immigration, will continue to play a leading role here.

UJF will work with our local partners to assist Ukrainian refugees who settle in the local area. If you speak Russian and will be able to assist in these efforts, please contact Sharon Lewis, slewis@ujf.org.

Deborah Lipstadt Confirmed as U.S. Special Envoy

(Courtesy of UJF) Dr. Deborah Lipstadt was confirmed as the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. Jewish Federations have supported her nomination and look forward to working closely with her to combat the threat of antisemitism, which has reached alarming levels and must be confronted. Although President Biden nominated Dr. Lipstadt last July, a vote on her confirmation seemed to have stalled in the Senate. Jewish Federations and other Jewish groups engaged in advocacy with letters and gatherings to get to this day.

"This is why our advocacy matters! Our Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) had a hand in making this appointment a reality, and we are confident Deborah Lipstadt will work on our collective behalf to fight the increasing



Deborah Lipstadt

antisemitism both in our country and around the world," shared JCRC director Sharon Lewis.

Deborah Lipstadt is an American historian, best known as author of the books *Denying the Holocaust* (1993), *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* (2005), *The Eichmann Trial* (2011), and

Antisemitism: Here and Now (2019). Since 1993 she has been the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, United States. Lipstadt was a consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed her to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, and she served two terms.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Schoke JFS and Partners Offer Passover Food Assistance

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) This year Schoke Jewish Family Service gave peace of mind to over 250 households in Fairfield County who needed food assistance in order to observe Passover.

The expense and preparation to keep the tradition of not eating leavened bread is often a burdensome financial expense for families already struggling with food insecurity. The clients in need of assistance ranged from young adults, families with young children, empty nesters, the elderly, and Holocaust survivors. In Schoke JFS' efforts to serve everyone in the way they needed, with as much dignity as possible, some households received prepared ready-to-eat meals for Passover. Others received kosher for Passover pantry groceries so that they could prepare their own meals and seders at home.

This year Schoke JFS is grateful to all of the partners that helped to support the agency's Passover efforts. Special thanks to CT Foodshare, Dignity Memorial/Leo P. Gallagher & Son Funeral Home, Foodbank of Lower Fairfield County, H.L. Rich & Sons Moving Services, Met Council, and Streit's. Schoke JFS could not fill the shelves without the continued

support of community collections. Thanks to BBYO, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Congregation B'nai Torah, Chabad of Stamford, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Congregation Beth-El, Congregation B'nai Israel, Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, Stamford JCC and Sara Walker Nursery School, Stop & Shop, JCares, Merkaz, Temple Beth El, The Conservative Synagogue, Temple Israel, Temple Shalom, Temple Sinai, Trader Joes, UJA-JCC Greenwich PJ Library, and PJ Library of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.



Harry Rich and Liz Kitay stand beside a truck full of Passover food donations from Streit's consisting of matzos, egg kichel cookies, biscotti, soup nuts for Passover, and a lot of kosher soup.

**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

Friendship Circle Celebrates Purim

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) Friendship Circle of Fairfield County celebrated the festive holiday of Purim with all of their participants, volunteers and donors. The *mitzvah* of *mishloach manot*, or the sending of presents to friends, was performed both through the mail and personal delivery to friends of the Friendship Circle. Close to 1,000 packages were delivered. Teens received special teen-themed gifts, while participants and donors also received useful and tasty items.

During the day of Purim, Friendship Circle staff and volunteers were on the move. They visited various Friendship Circle participants at home where they hand-delivered Purim treats. Friendship Circle members heard the story of Purim and made a special craft. They were also able to make their own *mishloach manot* for friends and sang Purim songs.

"It was such a great feeling to be able to see our friends in person this year, and celebrate together. The joy of Purim truly shone in our friends' faces. We especially enjoyed singing Purim songs together," said Chani Cunin, Teen Volunteer Coordinator.

Later that night Chanie Kamman, Family Coordinator, held the special Purim *seudah* or festive meal at her house for Friendship Circle families. Over 50 people enjoyed a fun Chinese buffet and heard the *megillah*. "Curious Creatures", an interactive live animal program, made an appearance for Purim fun, and everyone enjoyed playing with the animals.



Daniel Radin and Chana Goldstein enjoy the Purim Seudah at Chanie Kamman's house.



Rachael Roizer, teen volunteer, has fun with Ali Cohen during a Purim visit.

For more information on how to become involved with the Friendship Circle, please contact Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com.

UJF Offers Program on 12th-Century Physician Maimonides

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Maimonides Medical Society gathered in early April for a program featuring Dr. Daniel Eisenberg, a physician at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. Dr. Eisenberg spoke on the topic of "Maimonides: The Physician's Approach to Modern Medical Ethics." Guests learned how the ideas of 12th century physician Maimonides shaped the way one looks at modern medical ethics, including preventative medicine, immunization, alternative medicine, smoking, and the pandemic.

Thank you to the committee of doctors: Jeffrey Cahn, Kayla and Leon Hanna, Shara Israel, Philip Klapper, Allison Ostroff, Remi Rosenberg, and Mark Rosovsky.



Guests attend UJF's Maimonides program. (Front row, l-r) Dr. Allison Ostroff, Drs. Judy and Jeffrey Cahn, Dr. Joe Feuerstein. (Back row, l-r) Dr. Helene and Harvey Kaminski.

If you would like more information about UJF's Maimonides Society, reach out to Sharon Franklin at Sharon@ujf.org.

Passover Prep on the Ground in Poland

(Courtesy of UJF) Local teen Eytan Israel (son of Dr. Shara and Rabbi David Israel) is spending a second year in Israel on a gap-year program before starting college at Yale this coming fall. After spending a week on a Heritage trip to Poland with his Yeshiva, Gush Etzion, Eytan felt he needed to stay on to help with the refugee crisis.

Eytan and a friend found an opportunity at the Chabad of Krakow. There they helped prepare for the seders and helped at the annual matzah baking fair. They will then travel to Lublin where they will *kasher* (make kosher) the kitchen for Passover, in preparation

for approximately 150 refugees living temporarily at a hotel in Lublin.

They will return to Krakow to continue their volunteer work at the Krakow JCC, JRoots, the Krakow Chabad and wherever else they are needed.

"Eytan is a graduate of BCHA and SAR High School and took part in UJF's Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps. He has attended AIPAC and other Jewish leadership programs. He also happens to have grown up across the street from me and it is no surprise that he has volunteered and is helping to make a difference," said Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO.



Eytan and a young refugee at the Matzah Bakery at Chabad Krakow.



Eytan engages with a young Ukrainian refugee.



United Jewish Federation
OF STAMFORD • NEW CANAAN

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

NextGen invites you to celebrate

Israel's 74th Independence Day

With a BBQ, Drinks, Bonfire, Israeli Music
and Mountains of Hummus!

Saturday, May 7th 9pm-12am	The Reich's Backyard 89 Erickson Drive, Stamford, CT, 06903	\$12 per person Blue and white attire encouraged, but not required
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RSVP by May 1. www.ujf.org/nextgenisrael

Event Chairs: Micky Reich and David Gilboa
Sub-committee: Adam Frapart, Lorraine Hutzler, Molly Schrag, Stacy Miller and Robin Fischel

*The NextGen program of UJF seeks to serve as a connector for all young Jews, regardless of affiliation or background. It aims to act as a gateway to build community through social events, fun volunteer programs, educational activities and philanthropy.

AM YISRAEL CHAI!

For more information contact Melanie Vorm, Director, NextGen at melanie@ujf.org



Coming Together In Times Of Crisis

Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO and Board member, Kerrin Behrend, traveled to Poland and the Medyka border with Ukraine as Federation Shlichim, or emissaries.

Our greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community rallied and over 600 pounds of over-the-counter medications were collected to bring to Poland. The 5th graders at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy sorted the medications and prepared letters of love, hope and encouragement to be delivered to the community.

In Warsaw the bags were delivered to the Nozyk Synagogue where all contributions were being gathered and distributed.

The two-day visit included briefings with local Jewish community leaders including Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland.

The delegation visited refugee centers, hotels run by the Jewish Agency for Israel where refugees hope to make Aliyah to Israel and Joint Distribution run hotels where refugees look to what is next. Both agencies have doctors and mental health professionals available to work with individuals.

Meet Daniella:



This is not an easy story. Daniella lived with her parents and sister in Kiev. When that city started to be bombed, they moved to the countryside north of the city.

Then one morning they awoke to find their area had been overrun by the Russian army. They went into hiding in the basement, but they were discovered. There were rumors of Russian soldiers raping women in the area. So, her mother told her that if anyone came, she should crawl into a pile of blankets, and make herself look and sound as young and sick as possible. They came, more than once, but each time the ruse worked, and she survived.

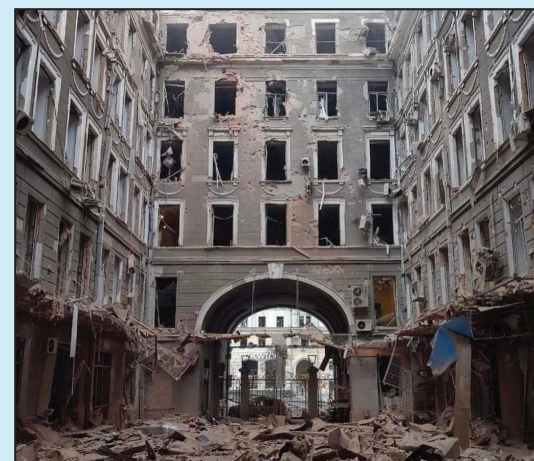
As the Russians withdrew, they were able to make their way to the border and the Jewish Agency hotel in Warsaw. Her parents had made aliyah before she was born but had returned to the Ukraine after a few years. Now they planned to make aliyah again as a family.

Meet Lila:

Lila is a vascular surgeon from Kharkiv where she lived with her two daughters and two dogs. She loved her work and her family and led a very normal life. When the war started, that ended, and they sheltered in the basement of their apartment. The bombing intensified, and they had to flee to survive.

She piled everyone into a small old car, and for the next 7 days crisscrossed the country avoiding conflict zones, finally getting to the Polish border. There they waited 22 hours in freezing cold before getting out. Their journey was not over. En route to Warsaw, the car broke down. She tried to have it towed and fixed, but after being ripped off just abandoned it.

Eventually they found their way to the Jewish Agency hotel. Her daughter said she's slept in 14 different places since leaving Kharkiv. Since the visit, they have made Aliyah.



Meet Alex:

Alex lived with his younger brother and parents in an apartment in Mariupol. When the bombing started, they began living in a shelter, but gradually lost access to gas for heating, then electricity, then water. At that point they made their way across the city to his grandparent's apartment, sheltering at night in the basement. He said that they saw numerous corpses in various states along the way. A few nights later a bomb struck that area, the grandparent's apartment was destroyed by fire, and they had nothing.

They began to try and make their way out. But without communication they didn't know that the Russians had surrounded the city, and they soon ran into a check point.

They were put on a bus and taken to somewhere in the south of Russia where they were left on their own. They took buses north and managed to cross into Estonia. They made their way south through Latvia and Lithuania, and finally and almost impossibly into Poland reaching Warsaw. Alex, although not religious, has been laying tefillin and praying to God, and he's convinced that is why they survived. At the time of printing, they have made aliyah and will settle in Haifa because it's a port city like Mariupol. Alex wants to work and become fluent in Hebrew, then begin his military service.



UJF sponsors a pizza and ice cream party for Ukrainian refugees in Warsaw awaiting Aliyah to Israel.



UJF and Partners Bringing Jews Home

When the Jewish Agency approached United Jewish Federation with the opportunity to sponsor a plane of refugees fleeing war torn Ukraine, looking to settle in Israel, the answer was yes! Rabbi Cohen, senior Rabbi at Congregation Agudath Sholom, was on board immediately securing two lead gifts from Howard and Gayle Rothman and Rich and Pam Vogel. The board of Rabbis and the community at large joined suit and after a briefing held after Kerrin Behrend and Diane Sloyer's trip to the Medyka border, close to three planes, priced at \$60,000 each have been sponsored by Congregation Agudath Sholom and the Greater Stamford community.

Howard Rothman was able to fly to Warsaw, participate in a two day Fly-in visiting the border and then accompany a group of immigrants to their new life in Israel.



Bits & Pieces

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Rachel Lieberman & Jaryn Horner on the birth of a daughter, MacKenzie Rebecca Horner.

Rebecca & Michael Rubin on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, **Sharon & Burt Rubin**; and to the great grandmother **Donna Rubin**.

Daniela & Eli Schildkraut on the birth of a daughter, and to the grandparents, **Ivy & Marvin Schildkraut**.

Lucy Schwartz & Saryah Sober on the birth of a daughter.

Elana & Brian Tepper on the birth of a daughter.

Silvana & Brad Tobin on the birth of a daughter, **Mila Tobin**; and to the grandparents, **Lori & Bruce Tobin**.

Rachel Feit & Elie Weiner on the birth of a daughter.

Lucy Schwartz & Saryah Sober on the birth of a daughter.

MAZEL TOV ON THE MARRIAGE/ ENGAGEMENTS TO:

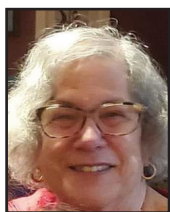
Jodi & Richard Boxer on the engagement of their daughter, **Lexi Boxer to Rabbi David Galpert**, son of **Valerie & Yakov Galpert**.

Esther & Paul Leisman on the marriage of their daughter, **Jackie Leisman to Alex Sable**.

Ilene & Bert Madwed on the marriage of their son, **Daniel to Marina Karnaukh**.

Kim & John Mahoney on the engagement of their son, **John Mahoney to Kylie Levitan**.

Howard Wolfe and Michelle & Jeff Zelin on the marriage of their daughter, **Rachel Wolfe to J. J. Brennert**; and to the grandmother, **Sandy Ehrenkranz**.



Sandy Golove

MAZEL TOV OTHER:

Coby Greif on the publication of his first children's book *Jensen Cleans His Room*.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Jacob Lederman: son of **Aviva & Greg Lederman**.

Anya Nadel: daughter of **Jill Swartz Nadel & Mitch Nadel**.

Benjamin Winarsky: son of **Robyn & Mark Winarsky**.

Jakob Zelazny: son of **Stephanie & Daniel Zelazny**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Roy Benson: grandfather of **Risa Raich**.

Judy Blumberg: wife of **Joel Blumberg**, mother of **Amy Blumberg Haffey**, **Hillary Blumberg Ginsburg** and **Michelle Blumberg Weiner**.

Dr. Mervyn Gornitsky: father of **Linda Gornitsky**.

Dr. Michelle Hamer: mother of **Paige Hamer**.

Vivian Howard: mother of **Robin Minkoff**.

Kurt Kleinman: great uncle of **Lisa Grove-Raider**.

Tamara Linton: mother of **Karen Denker**.

Barbara Jean King Meier: mother of **Maria Reicin**, **Cindy Meier** and **Terry Meier**.

Sheila Newman: wife of **Marty Newman** and mother of **Emily Newman**.

Rabbi Gloria S. Rubin: wife of **Martin Rubin** and mother of **Kenneth Rubin** and **Rebecca Stulberger**.

Gertrude Seid: mother of **Julie Rose**.

Steve Solomon: brother of **Michelle Green**.

Vivian Weissman: mother of **Robin Minkoff** and **Sam Weissman**.

Purim at Chabad

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Almost 350 people attended Chabad of Stamford's "Purim in the Wild West" extravaganza. With *Megillah* readings, music, a mechanical bull, a bounce house, games and a delicious Texan BBQ catered by "The Wandering Que" there was wonderful energy and Purim joy for all.



The Hebrew Corner

A Monthly Primer by Robert Abrams, Co-Chair UJF Education Committee

Have you ever thought about the word we use to make a blessing? A "B'Rah-Chah?" We use the word "BaRuCH" so very many times in our lives, but where does it come from? Let's look at the etymology of the word and where else it is used. The Hebrew source originates from three letters: bet, raysh, and chaf.



Robert Abrams

This root is also used for two other words with which a Hebrew speaker would be very familiar. The first is "Beh-ReCH," which means knee. The other word is "B'Ray-CHah," which translates into a pool of water.

Imagine now that you're walking in the Middle East sun, with very few places to stop and rest, and you ultimately come to a pool of water. Unfortunately, you do not carry a cup or pail with you, so in order to

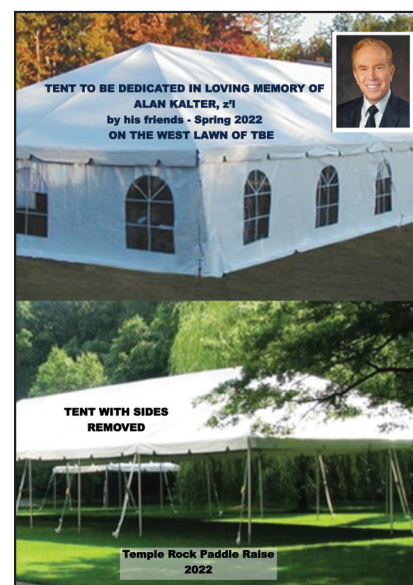
drink from this pool of water, you have to kneel down to slake your thirst. And the phrase that would probably pop up in your head as you kneel down to drink would be, "Thank You, God," or even, "Bless You, God."

Now you understand how three letters in Hebrew were

used to express three seemingly different words but are all related to each other: As you walk under the hot Middle East sun, you arrive at a "B'Ray-CHah" (a pool of water) and use a "Beh-ReCH" (a knee) to bend down and drink from that "B'Ray-CHah." And as you bring the water to your lips, you would most probably make a "B'Rah-Chah."

TBE Remembers Alan Kalter

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Temple Beth El (TBE) held their annual "Temple Rock" fund raiser mid-March this year. During the event they raised money to erect a tent on the west lawn in memory of Alan Kalter, z"l. As a past president of Temple Beth El, Alan was instrumental in raising significant funds during "Temple Rock" paddle raises and auctions over the years. The 40-foot by 60-foot tent with cathedral windows and sliding sides will have a non-slip plastic floor and will be heated. The tent will be used for socials, religious services, Religious School activities and all kinds of programs. It will also be available for rentals for special occasions and for community events. For further information, contact Steven Lander, Executive Director at 203-322-6901, ext. 304.



New tent to be erected at Temple Beth El in memory of Alan Kalter.

Purim at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Gan Yeladim) From *Megillah* readings to dress up, face painting and a bubble bus to exchanging *shalach manot* with friends, a moon bounce and a special *seudah* (festive meal), the children at Gan Yeladim Preschool experience the joy of the month of Adar and Purim.



Chabad Sponsors Purim for Ukrainian Refugees in Poland

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) As war broke out in Ukraine, the community at Chabad of Stamford rallied together to help in various ways. A live address from Sumy (a city on the Russian Ukraine border) was held where participants heard firsthand of the unfolding situation. Realizing the gravity of the situation, Chabad, both worldwide and locally, launched a campaign for “Torah, Tefillah (prayers) and Tzedakah (charity and good deeds)”. Here in Stamford this campaign culminated in enough funds being raised to send a representative to Poland to help the refugees there on the ground.

Chabad was able to help the refugees in Warsaw, Poland fulfill the four *mitzvot* (commandments) of Purim. These *mitzvot* are listening to the *Megillah*, giving to the needy (*Matanot L'evyonim*), sending food portions to friends (*Shalach Manot*) and having a festive meal on Purim day. With the help of the Stamford community, Tzemach Shemtov went to Warsaw for a week to help with the huge influx of refugees who have had to flee from Ukraine.



Tzemach Shemtov (pictured 3rd from the right) with Chabad of Warsaw helps Jewish refugees from Ukraine celebrate Purim.

Chabad of Warsaw works tirelessly to help those displaced by war find food and shelter and during Purim helped them fulfill the four *mitzvot*. The funds raised in Stamford sponsored 500 *Shalach Manot* packages that Tzemach helped pack and distribute. Tzemach was also there to read the *Megillah* to those who needed to hear it and to distribute *Matanot L'evyonim* directly to those in need on Purim day. Chabad wishes to thank everyone who helped make this mission possible.

Joy and Blessings Fill The JCC

(Courtesy of the JCC) Over 150 children and 20 teachers from the Stamford Jewish Community Center celebrated Purim together. Participants marched in costume from their classrooms onto the JCC patio shaking groggers. Spirit and enthusiasm were evident as the children sang and danced to Purim music.

“Mitzvah Day” was a great opportunity for The JCC’s Sara Walker Nursery School children to spread *chesed* (kindness). Children sorted 200 pairs of new pajamas (collected by the Sara Walker Nursery and Kinderplace families) and prepared three lasagnas for Inspirica, packaged 87 *shalach manot* Purim bags for Schoke Jewish Family Service, ran an obstacle course to raise money for Ukraine families and created *mitzvah* bracelets for friends and family.



Miss Helen Felder and her class enjoying the Purim festivities. (CREDIT: BRIANNA STIEBLING)



Parent volunteer Greg Waldstreicher works with his son Jackson to sort pajamas for the children at Inspirica. (CREDIT: BRIANNA STIEBLING)



JCC three-year-olds prepare *shalach manot* Purim packages for JFS. (CREDIT: BRIANNA STIEBLING)

Friendship Circle Dads Mark March Madness

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) The Friendship Circle dads got together for a night out during March Madness. Rabbi Deren from Greenwich began the evening with a word of Torah. While watching the games, the fathers enjoyed classic tournament food and drinks from 613. Shay Pilnik, a Friendship Circle dad said, “For a father who has two special needs children, the dad’s night was a

great opportunity to connect with people having similar experiences and concerns, relax together and share stories, jokes, knowledge and experience. Doing it in a Jewish environment is for me, the best part of it.”

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

Friendship Circle Holds Suicide Awareness and Prevention Workshop

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) On March 27th, Friendship Circle of Fairfield County hosted Rabbi Yarden Blumstein, a suicide intervention specialist from the Friendship Circle of Detroit, for a community workshop for both teens and adults. Rabbi Blumstein has worked for years on a mission to recognize the signs of suicide and to prevent attempts. While not a suicide crisis hotline, he teaches others to reach out and help those who may be isolated and contemplating ending their lives. The rabbi explained, “Out of every five people who receive suicide intervention training, two people will have the opportunity to implement what they have learned within 90 days.”

The event consisted of two parts. During the afternoon, close to 75 teens came to a special workshop for the teen community. Various youth groups participated, including CTeen Greenwich and CTeen Westport. Teens learned about

how to recognize isolation and sadness and other signs that people might need help. They also learned through anonymous sharing that many teens struggle with mental health issues on a daily basis.

The second part of the event was for adults in the community. Rabbi Blumstein spoke about his experiences and how to reach out to those who may need help. Participants completed an anonymous exercise and learned that many of the attendees, or their children, struggle with mental health issues.

The community came away with a much greater understanding of the prevalence of mental health issues, struggles, and knowledge of how to reach out and help.

For more information on how to become involved in the Friendship Circle, please contact Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com.

Gan Yeladim Makes Maple Syrup



(CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan alumni parent Ben Folkinshteyn and Gan parent Jessie Katz came to the preschool in March to show the children how maple syrup is made. Together with the children they tapped the sap from one of the trees on the property, cooked it and enjoyed a pancake party with the syrup after.

Two Bi-Cultural Students Selected for Prestigious National Program

BY LINDA RUSS

"Two Bi-Cultural 7th graders have been selected as Truman Scholars by The Tikvah Fund to take part in its high-level learning program for outstanding Jewish day school and yeshiva students nationwide," Mr. David Giver, principal of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Middle School, has announced.

"Elliot Nerenberg and Sadie Palker have received this distinction, which will engage them in a fascinating learning opportunity," he said.

"The two-year program has just begun with the full cohort of students from across the country participating in online seminars with master teachers on the theme of America and Israel as two exceptional and covenantal nations," Mr. Giver explained. "At the same time, the program will explore in-depth the Hebraic influence on the American experiment, followed up by a course of guided reading of texts related to the theme."

In the 8th grade, students begin the year partaking in specially-curated online courses through the Tikvah Online Academy. Finally, they complete the experience, much like they began, with

online seminars with their full cohort on modern Israel, Zionist longing in exile, and the many voices of modern Israel.

"While I know this will mean more work, I am looking forward to all that there is to be learned and where it will take me," Elliot Nerenberg said.

Asked about this opportunity, Sadie Palker said, "It will be interesting to get a deeper look at how America and Israel are connected and how we connect to them both."

"Bi-Cultural's own belief in looking at all we are as Americans and as Jews is very much in line with this program," added Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, BCHA's Head of School. "It will be great to see what these students bring back to the classroom from what they take away from being Truman Scholars."

"While much of the learning at BCHA happens inside the classroom, our students are constantly finding new opportunities to explore in the world beyond our school's boundaries," Mr. Giver noted. "We take enormous pride in their selection for this prestigious program which will broaden and challenge them intellectually, and enhance learning and discussion with their BCHA classmates."



Elliot Nerenberg



Sadie Palker

Spring Is in the Air

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and *Leisure*, *New York Magazine*, *The Hollywood Times*, *Parade* and *BuzzFeed*. Her forthcoming book, *The Marriage Box*, due out in August 2022, was named a must-read book for 2022 by Katie Couric.

"I moved to town during the pandemic and am grateful to UJF for the PJ Library and NextGen activities that have helped us meet new people. I am hoping the Spring Dinner serves as an opportunity for newcomers and veterans to make new connections," said co-chair Caroline Marciano.

A committee representing our diverse community is in formation:

Tatiana Barton Radin, Cheryl Bader Goldblum, Gianna Bergman, Jessica Brand, Carol Brewer, Caryl Ferber Poser, Alix Field Eben, Robin Fischel, Rhoda Freedberg, Shira Gilboa, Cynthia Gordon, Kayla Hanna, Lorraine Hutzler, Meryl Japha, Becky Kevelson, Elissa Klapper, Claudia Kraut, Lorraine Kweskin, Lynn Lowin, Lisa Manheim, Stacy Miller, Dinah Miller Marlowe, Allison Ostroff, Arlene Rosen, Cathy Satz, Nancy Schulman, Myrna Sessa, Tara Shapiro, Ellen Weber, and Shushannah Yasgur.

Registration can be found online at www.ujf.org/spring22 or call Diane Sloyer at 203-321-1373 ext. 105 for more information.

UJF's Chapter Two Gets Cookin'

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

In April, United Jewish Federation held a Chapter Two program with cookbook author Ronnie Fein. This event celebrated the relaunch of UJF's Chapter Two, an affinity group for women in the empty nest phase of life. Participants enjoyed a cooking demonstration featuring both Ashkenazic and Sephardic holiday dishes with tastings included.

Guests also had a chance to give back to their community by bringing toiletry items, which were packed and later delivered to forty local Holocaust survivors through Schoke Jewish Family Service's "Anachnu" program.

The event planning committee included Heidi Ganz, Debby Goldberg, Susan Greenwald (a special thank you to Susan who coordinated the toiletry packing), Allison Greenbaum, Sari Jaffe, Lorraine Kweskin, Arlene Rosen, and Gail G. Trell.

Mark your calendar for July 12th at 2:00 pm for Chapter Two's upcoming wellness program, featuring MD and author Dr. Joseph Feuerstein and certified yoga instructor Jackie Tepper, creator of Neshama Yoga, a unique fusion of yoga and Jewish learning and spirituality.

If you are interested in getting involved with UJF's Chapter Two, or if you would like more information, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



Ronnie Fein demonstrates a family Passover cookie recipe to guests at UJF's Chapter Two event.



Participants enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at UJF's Passover Cooking Demo.



Jeri Appel and Barbara Webski pack toiletry bags for local Holocaust survivors.



Arlene Rosen, Susan Greenwald, and Phyllis Osterman enjoy catching up at UJF's Chapter Two re-launch event.

Chabad of Stamford Model Matzah Bakery

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford)

Over 25 families joined Chabad of Stamford for its annual "Model Matzah Bakery", enjoying music, story time, baking and snacks together. The children were excited to see the story of Passover acted out in full costume. Each family made their own flour from scratch and baked the matzah according to ancient Jewish traditions.



Your Community Impact

Bi-Cultural Fifth Graders Lend a Helping Hand

(Courtesy of UJF) For the past two years, United Jewish Federation has funded a *chesed* (acts of kindness) program at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. In year one, a van was purchased to help transport students to *chesed*-related activities. Alisa Weissner serves as the BCHA Community Chesed Coordinator and recently she teamed up with United Jewish Federation CEO Diane Sloyer to assist with the efforts to help the Ukrainian community.

When Diane Sloyer and Kerrin Behrend were invited to Poland and the Ukrainian border of Medyka by the Jewish Federations of North America, they were asked to bring over-the-counter medications. Local synagogues and community organizations sprang into action and put out collection boxes.

On April 1st, Alisa Weissner drove the donated van around the community and picked up over 500 pounds of donations and brought them to BCHA. The 5th grade heard from Diane Sloyer and then began to sort and back the donated supplies. When all was done, there were six oversized duffels of medications ready to go.

The 5th grade continued to follow the journey of Sloyer and Behrend and have invited them to come speak after the Passover holiday.

Kerrin Behrend shared, "It was so meaningful to see our community come together and collect an abundance of much needed supplies. It was wonderful to see the students so interested and engaged in the packing and knowing they were making a difference and helping in the war efforts."

"Packing these medical supplies allowed BCHA 5th graders to actively help and feel like they are making a meaningful difference

in *tikkun olam*. It was especially poignant for some who had family that recently escaped from Ukraine. We are grateful to UJF for this opportunity," said program coordinator Weissner.



(l-r) 5th graders Miles Wilden, Liv Haron, Anna Kwalwasser and Sunny Sendersky, proudly display a packed bag of first aid items and COVID tests.



5th grade BCHA students sort over 500 pounds of over-the-counter medications for delivery to the Ukrainian and Poland border.

CAS Young Couples Night

(Courtesy of CAS) In late February, Congregation Agudath Sholom Young Couples got together for an evening of games, trivia, food, friends and fun, featuring a delicious Chinese buffet catered by Kapao.



CAS Game Night chairs (l-r) Miriam and Josh Sperber, Marla and Jason Lewis, Navah and David Zizmor, Hilary and Ari Goldstein, Jessica and Adam Furmansky.



Young couples enjoy an evening out at CAS.

Building Future Leaders with TBE "Mitzvah Makers"

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) As part of United Jewish Federation's 2022 Grants and Allocations distribution, a new program, called "Mitzvah Makers" was started and has been actively making an impact.

This new social action/community service group is mentored by Dayna Patashnik, through Temple Beth El (TBE), and meets monthly. This program is open to all Jewish 6th and 7th graders in the area.

Each month's program reflects on Jewish values and is paired with an action. So far this year, "Mitzvah Makers" have organized and participated in several fun and meaningful programs, such as partnering with the Stamford JCC's JCares gift drive and "MLK Day of Service." The group has also spent time learning about

food insecurity and packing spices at Schoke Jewish Family Service's Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry. Participants have also joined "Project Overcome" for a spirited after-school games day. Look for more in the coming months, including an Earth Day program and a beach clean-up with SoundWaters.

"We are so thrilled to see this grant at work. The future leaders of our Jewish community are learning, firsthand, the importance of mitzvot. UJF is glad to have funded this important and worthwhile program," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.

Each month's events are posted on the Jewish Stamford and Members of TBE Facebook pages. For more information, please contact Dayna Patashnik at TBEmitzvahmakers@gmail.com.



Participants wrap holiday gifts.



"Mitzvah Makers" fill holiday bags.

Dads and Kids Waffle Party

(Courtesy of CAS) Congregation Agudath Sholom's Young Families held a "dads and kids" waffle bar party on a Sunday in March. Co-chairs were Ari Goldstein, Adam Furmansky, Josh Sperber and Yonnie Rubinfeld.



Yaakov Hauptman, Joe Scheiner and David Gilboa enjoy waffles with their children at CAS.



(l-r) Josh Sperber, Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Ari Goldstein, Yonnie Rubinfeld, Adam Furmansky.

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.

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

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

Sharon and Larry Greenberg
Edward J Greenberg
Susan M Greenberg
Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg
Grecia and Ron* Gross
Scott Handelman
Jacqueline Herman
Dr. Shara and Rabbi David Israel
Sari and Alan Jaffe
Meryl and Ron Japha
Sadie and Michael Kadish
Judith and Grant Kallen
Helene and Harvey Kaminski
Chanie Kamman
Dr. Jan Kaplowitz
Jason Kaplowitz
Roni Kaplowitz
Lisa and Arnold Karp
Jeannie Kasindorf
Jessica and Ilan Katz
Joy Katz
Judith and Sheldon Katz
Larry Katz
Betsy and Peter Kempner
Madelyne Kirch
Liz and Marc Kitay
Elissa and Philip Klapper
Harris Kligman
Susan Kostin
Arthur Kramer*
Norma Kraut
Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher
Carol and Allen Krim
Elizabeth and Scott Krowitz
Svetlana Kunin
Jackie and Marshall Kurland
Lorraine and David Kweskin
Helen and Ed Kweskin
Lieba and Steve Lander
Shelley Leibowitz
Lois D. Stark and Gary P.Lessen
Elizabeth Libner
R. and J. Licht
Ronnie and Gary Lilien
Vered and Mark Links
Lisa and Seth Linzer
Eleanor and Mort Lowenthal
Stu Madison
Lisa and Jeff Manheim
Norma and Milton Mann*
Susan and Len Mark
Chris Maroc
Melanie Massell
Michal and Rabbi Levi Mendelow
Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun
Marguerite and Kenneth Neuhaus
Rose and Bruce Newman
Marsha and Louis Panzer
Leah and Doni Perl
Dr. Robin Evans and Dr. Jeffrey Perry
Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser
Enid Randall*
Bonita and Stephen Rappoport
Judith Raymond
Lisa and Harry Rich
Judy and Adam Rin
Betty and Dan* Roberts
Sonia and Brian Roitman

Romanowitz Family
Arlene and Carl Rosen
Arlene Rosen
Natalie and Mark Rosovsky
Irma Ross
Sandra Ross
Sally and Jim Rothkopf
Ruth Rothseid
Linda and Leonard Russ
Bonnie Russo
Edith Samers
Renee Samson*
Sharyn and Richard Sarner
Leah Schechter
Hilde Scheraga*
Jayne and Bud Schiff
Judy Schneiderman
Carol Ruth and Herman Shepherd*
Nancy Schiffman
Monica Smyth and Michael Schlessinger
Elayne and James Schoke*
Chaya and Levi Segal
Myrna and George Sessa
Diane and Steve Shaby
Jessica and Laurence Sheinman
Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
Marsha Kaiser Shendell
Stephanie and Bob Sherman
Malya Shmotkin
Ronnie Ness and Dr. Steven Sichel
Miriam Landsberg-Silverman and
Eliezer Silverman
Paula Simon
Diane Sloyer
Diane and Elliot Sloyer
Ed Smith
Greta Solomon

Miriam and Steve Sosnick
Sandy and Moshe Speter
Ed Spilka
Cantor Micah Morgovsky and
Rabbi Benjamin Spratt
Eileen and Fred Springer
Beverly and David Stein
Betsy and Michael Stone
Gladys and Greg Teitel
Dr. Julie and Rabbi Jay TelRav
The Estate of Sheila Carmine*
The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin*
The Estate of Ronald Gross*
Pamela and Richard Vogel
Phyllis and Harvey Walzer
Annie and Jeremy Watman
David Wayne
Ellen and Richard Weber
Linda B. Gornitsky and Harvey Weber
Dana and Carl Weinberg
Leon Weisburgh
Janet Welkovich
Robyn and Mark Winarksy
Neda Khaghan and Robert Yaghoubian
Rita and Abe Yellen
Marcia Gordon and Seth Young
Sheryl and Dan Young
Lauren and Joe Zalis
Joan Zinbarg*
Renee Zinn

**Of Blessed Memory*

This is the list provided to UJF at time of publishing. We apologize for any names that have been omitted. Please let us know and the missing names will be added to the next issue of the paper.

SAVE THE DATE

Join United Jewish Federation's Chapter Two for:

"LIVING WELL"

A Nutrition & Gentle Meditative Yoga Experience
Featuring Dr. Joe Feuerstein & Jackie Tepper

TUESDAY, JULY 12TH • 2:00PM
350 Roxbury Road, Stamford (Temple Beth El)
\$18 per person
Sign up at: www.ujf.org/wellness

Dr. Feuerstein's Cannabinoid Cookbook provides a ton of healthy recipes using healing herbs and spices that can kick-start your Endocannabinoid system and help you feel better each day! He is an integrative medicine specialist and an assistant professor of clinical medicine at Columbia University

Jackie Tepper is a certified yoga instructor who has developed **Neshama Yoga**, a unique fusion of yoga and Jewish learning and spirituality. (Yoga will be done in chairs or bring a mat to do floor yoga as an option).

Chapter Two is a UJF affinity group for women in the empty nest stage of life.
For more information contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org

LIFE & LEGACY Testimonials

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

Learn why they look to secure our Jewish future and discover your reasons to join them. Together, we can all work to guarantee the future of the Stamford Jewish community we love. For more information, visit ujf.org or call Lenore Fogel at (102) 321-1373, extension 115 or Lenore@ujf.org.

EPHRAIM AND RACHEL COHEN TESTIMONIAL



Ephraim & Rachel Cohen and Family.

We both come from families that emphasize the importance of giving back to one's Jewish community. Whether it was from Ephraim's parents' interest in making Jewish camping available to children in their local community or from Rachel's family's interest in the Jewish day schools in their communities, these important lessons were learned at home and from a young age. Giving back can take the form of both help in the present and help in the future. In terms of the future, we recognize the importance of endowed giving and the critical role it plays in the continuity of our Jewish communities. As such, we are pleased to be involved in the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY Program and very appreciative that the UJF of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien has brought this wonderful endowed giving initiative to our community. Thank you!

EDITH SAMERS AND EDWARD SMITH TESTIMONIAL



Edward Smith and Edith Samers.
(CREDIT: ALISON WACHSTEIN PHOTOGRAPHY)

With so many choices to use our resources, we decided one of the best choices was to leave something for the Jewish community that we have lived in for a total between us of 147 years.

What thoughts came to our minds when we decided to leave a legacy gift:

- Preserve the beautiful values of the Jewish people.
- Help ensure vibrant Jewish organizations and institutions for the younger generations as they were there for us when we were young.
- Support the Federation that keeps the community together now and always.
- Guarantee that regardless of what our children do with funds we leave them, there will be a small sum to preserve Jewish life.

We care and cherish the Jewish people and the Jewish community. How could we leave this earth without giving something to keep it going when we are no longer here to support it annually?

UJF Delivers Passover Cheer



Darien residents, Marianna Gersh and her son, receive a PJ Library Passover gift bag to help celebrate the holiday.

TBE Wins March Madness LIFE & LEGACY Competition

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Temple Beth El (TBE) was the first of the eleven community organizations participating in the United Jewish Federation and Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY program to reach the special March Madness incentive goal. The organizations were offered a cash incentive to be used now, if they were able to sign between five and ten new Letters of Intent for the legacy program during the month of March. While others came close, Temple Beth El was the only team to hit the goal.

"TBE members always rise to the occasion whether it is donating over 500 bags of groceries for our high holiday food drive or raising more than \$20,000 last year for the Kosher Food Pantry or helping to fill Federation duffel bags with medical supplies for Ukrainian Refugees. Meeting the March Madness challenge is another example of our commitment to *tikkun olam*," stated Carl Weinberg co-chair of the Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY team at Temple Beth El.



Team captains Jeff Cohen and Carl Weinberg.

PJ LIBRARY

PJ Our Way Faces Off for Passover

(Courtesy of UJF) PJ Our Way participants joined (virtually) with kids from Rochester, NY for a fun and tasty program to cook and enjoy some friendly competition in preparation for Passover.

PJ Our Way kids learned about Israeli artist Hanoach Piven, who creates unusual portraits using found objects and foods that relate to the person he is portraying. His subjects have included Paul McCartney, Barack Obama, Albert Einstein, and biblical hero Moses.

The "Matzah Face-Off" program included two rounds, a matzah pizza selfie and a delicious dessert round. Guests got to vote on two winners from each category, and prizes were given out to the top choices. The program allowed tweens to connect with kids their own age from another

community, while testing their cooking skills.

UJF's PJ Our Way offers fun and engaging local programming throughout the year. Kids can also sign up for a monthly PJ Our Way subscription, which includes a monthly chapter book sent to their home, selected by them from a choice of four books. To sign up for a subscription, go to www.pjourway.org. For more information about PJ Our Way programming, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



Matzah pizza faces!

PJ Library Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

Save the date for a **Pre-Shavuot Bash**, hosted by United Jewish Federation's PJ Library, and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy with ice cream, crafts, and entertainment. Sunday, May 22nd at 10:30 am at the Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave. Registration is required! Sign up at www.ujf.org/pjfun.

- **Looking to meet new people?** You can join a PJ Library Parent Ambassador group (including baby to toddler group) for fun and social get-togethers with other young families. Contact Sharon@ujf.org.
- **Books for all!** Families are eligible to receive "One Book Per Child" for children ages birth to 8 years old. It's easy to sign up! Just go to www.pjlibrary.org and fill out the



Sharon Franklin

online form, and books will arrive within a month or two.

- **PJ Our Way** offers kids 8 1/2-12 a free chapter book each month. Tweens can choose from a selection of four high-quality titles that have been reviewed by a panel of PJ educators, kids, and parents. To sign up go to www.pjourway.org.
- **Join UJF's PJ Library Facebook group:** PJ Library of Stamford, New Canaan & Darien.
- **Grandparents in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien** can now receive a free subscription of PJ's PROOF Magazine and 2 free books each year. Sign up at: www.pjlibrary.org/grandparent-enrollment. Plus, UJF has a grandparents group with

engaging and educational programs. Join the Facebook page: PJ Library Grandparents of Stamford, New Canaan & Darien.

For more information on all the above, contact Sharon Franklin, Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement at sharon@ujf.org (203) 321-1373, ext. 109.

SHAVUOT SPRING CRAFT - NATURE CROWNS!

Supplies: Duct tape, brown paper grocery bags, scissors, and a colorful mix of leaves, flowers, and anything else you'd like to use for embellishments on your crowns.

Step 1: Measure the circumference of each child's head. Use that measurement (plus an extra couple inches for the "seam") to cut a two-inch-wide strip from the paper bag that will fit around their heads.

Step 2: Cut another paper bag strip of the same length, but this

time cut one side straight and one side in whatever pattern that you'd like to appear along the top edge of the crown. (a simple zigzag is shown in the picture below).

Step 3: Tear off a piece of duct tape of the same length and lay it down on a flat surface, sticky side up. Attach your plain strip of paper bag at the bottom edge (make sure any printing on the bag faces down) and the shaped strip along the top edge (again with printed bag side down), leaving most of the sticky tape area exposed. This adhesive strip is where you'll attach all of your beautiful fall adornments to create a glorious crown!

Step 4: Attach leaves, flowers, and other items to your crown, and enjoy wearing it for the holiday!



An example of a finished crown.



Use tape on your crown to attach flowers, leaves, and other items from nature.

PJ Library Holds "Supper and Song" Celebration

(Courtesy of UJF) PJ Library families had a chance to escape their kitchens and Passover preparation to enjoy a pizza dinner. Kids enjoyed crafts, a music and movement program with Jonathan Cahr, and pizza.

Judith Bernstein, co-chair of the event, commented, "Attending UJF's PJ Library 'Supper and Song' event was a wonderful opportunity to see friends and enjoy a kid-friendly dinner out with my family. Plus, it was a nice break during a hectic time one week before the holiday."

Thank you to the event co-chairs Jessica Berger, Judith Bernstein, and Robin Fischel. For more information about PJ Library programs or to subscribe to books, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



The Bettan family enjoys pizza and friends.



Kids made funny frog hats to wear at their seders.



Dancing to the music.



A circle of friends at PJ Library's pre-Passover event.

PJ Library Feature Family: The Millers

(Courtesy of UJF)

We're the Millers! My husband Jon and I (Stacy) live in North Stamford with our girls Charlie (5) and Delilah (almost 3). Charlie attends Pre-K at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy and Delilah attends nursery school at Gan Yeladim. Jon grew up on Long Island, and I grew up in Michigan. We met at school in Bloomington, Indiana, and never imagined that

we would be living in Connecticut - but here we are, and we're so happy about it.

As a relatively new resident to town, tell us about your experience in the community.

When we moved here from Brooklyn in 2019 for a job opportunity, we didn't know anything about Stamford, or anyone living here. It was a slow start, but since discovering this amazing Jewish community, we have absolutely fallen in love with this town. This community is unlike anything we've ever seen - so kind and close - we feel so lucky to have stumbled upon it.



Stacy and Jon Miller and their two daughters, Charlie and Delilah.

What is your family's favorite PJ Library book(s)?

Even though Purim is over, Delilah insists we keep reading *Goldie's Purim* every night. Her best friend is also named Goldie, so she thinks it's just the best.

Why is PJ Library important in your home?

PJ Library is such a wonderful program, and we think it's important

to teach our children Jewish stories and values that will hopefully instill a sense of pride.

What is your bedtime routine like? Does it include a PJ Library story?

The girls' bedtime "routine" usually goes something like this: Bath, watch a show, beg for a second show (which I always cave in on), beg for another show, stall with a snack, stall some more by making up a game they absolutely need to play, brush teeth, get into bed, and for the grand finale read a couple of books (which almost always include a PJ Library story - usually *Goldie's Purim*).

WHY I CARE...

Focus on: Lynn Lowin

"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."
-- Benjamin Disraeli

In our Jewish world, the word "family" takes on a broad meaning because it is not solely confined to relatives through blood or marriage. I will tell you about my personal family as long as you understand that, to me, all of you readers are also my family.



Lynn Lowin

My grandfather, Isaac Oretzky, was what they called a "yeshiva bucher" in Minsk, where he and his family lived. He was the student who inhaled words and ideas. Isaac came to America just before World War I. He taught in a variety of yeshivot on the east coast and developed a reputation as an excellent, if unorthodox, Orthodox, teacher. In fact, the fledgling State of Israel invited him to head up their Education Department. This was an honor he remembered all

his life, despite the fact that he reluctantly refused. My parents and grandparents were avid Zionists, and their love of Israel, what my grandmother called our first family home, permeated our lives.

My husband, Jeffrey, and I raised our children, Jonathan and Joanna, in Scarsdale. We moved to Stamford three years ago, just before the pandemic. We became as active in the Stamford Jewish community as COVID permitted, and met people mostly on Zoom. We joined Congregation Agudath Sholom, and I became a member of Federation's Education Committee and "L'Dor V'Dor," Federation's grandparents group, as well as The Jewish Historical Society. Joanna and her husband, Mark Frank, are at Temple Sinai with their

two young children. Joanna teaches Special Education at The Leffell School in Westchester. Mark was honored by the community several years ago for his work, in particular, for Schoke Jewish Family Service.

There is a long family tradition of involvement in Jewish organizations. My father was the recipient of the First Annual Award from the United Jewish Appeal's Music Industry Division. He was also a trustee for the Music and Performing Arts division of B'nai B'rith. My mother was a lifetime member of Hadassah and honored for her work. My husband taught Sunday school while in law school and has been active all his adult life in the synagogues we attend and the local Federations. I taught at a variety of synagogues and, when we lived in New York City, was a member of a variety of committees at Park Avenue Synagogue.

For all of us there is family; there is shul; there is Israel; and there is Federation.

I see involvement with the Jewish community less as giving back and more as continuing a tradition that began thousands of years ago. Unfortunately, we Jews have been singled out and attacked on more occasions than I care to recite. If we were not ready to respond, and respond immediately, we would have disappeared a long time ago. This would be tragic not only for us but for the entire world. We, the Jewish family, were at Sinai all together, and it was there where we entered into the covenant of *tikkun olam*, our pledge to repair the world. It is partly through organizations like Federation that we have the strength and the wherewithal to be able to fulfill this promise.

TEEN VOICES

Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corp Philanthropy Experience

BY ASHER FARBER

As a student at a public high school, I wanted to write about a Jewish experience I have enjoyed since leaving Jewish day school. I am participating in the Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corp (KTTC), a program run through United Jewish Federation. It is for teens in 9th through 12th grades. The program, facilitated by Jonathan Fass, is designed to train the next generation of community philanthropists. We meet once a month to discuss the core values of Judaism, how they relate to giving tzedakah, and the different organizations to which we can donate. The goal at the end of the training involves our group of teens identifying the different organizations we want to donate the tzedakah to.

Sounds simple, right? The basic premise is very simple, giving to those less fortunate. However, through our meetings with Mr. Fass, we have discovered how to look deeper into an organization's mission statement and determine if their views and values align with ours, and whether as a group, this matches with our philosophy of giving.

In line with the famous quote by Hillel, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?"



Asher Farber

If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when," KTTC taught me the responsibility that we have, even as teens, to look after our fellow Jews and others in our community, even if they are not Jewish.

I enjoy this program because it connects me to my Jewish roots now that I go to public school. I also love knowing that I have the freedom and ability to identify and choose a charity which will help people in need. It is an amazing idea to let teenagers like myself do something like this because it teaches us the importance of tzedakah. The program also reminds me of how grateful I am and that we can do more to help in the world. As teenagers we do not always remember that we are so fortunate. While I know this from experience, being a part of a process that allows me to think about what charities to donate to, while talking about Judaism, makes me realize that even the "little things" shouldn't be taken for granted.

Asher Farber is a 10th grade student at Westhill High School. He enjoys running track and field and playing the drums.

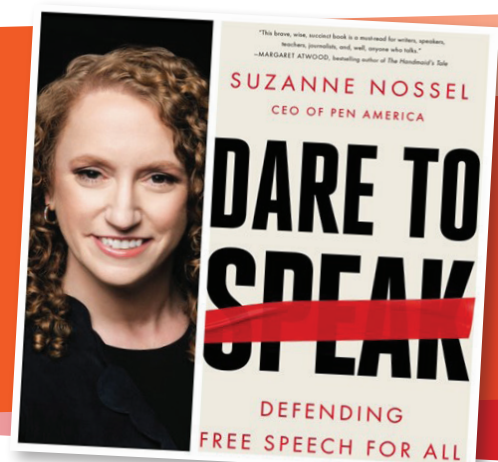


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Corie Adjmi is the author of the short story collection *Life and Other Shortcomings*, which won an International Book Award, an IBPA Benjamin Franklin award, and an American Fiction Award. Her essays and short stories have appeared in the HuffPost, North American Review, Indiana Review, Medium, Motherwell and Kveller. She's been featured in Travel and Leisure, New York Magazine, The Hollywood Times, Parade and BuzzFeed. Her forthcoming book, *The Marriage Box*, due out in August 2022, was named a must-read book for 2022 by Katie Couric.

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