



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Building Bridges with Books

BY SHARON LEWIS, JCRC DIRECTOR

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of United Jewish Federation continues its efforts to create connections and relationships between the Jewish community and the diverse communities in the Greater Stamford area. One such effort is "Building Bridges with Books," a Community Read program to be held in January, with a culminating event on January 11th. The book chosen is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig and the hope is that the reading and discussion of this book between people of different backgrounds, faiths and cultures will create a shared experience on which to build future relationships.

Building Bridges with Books, originally envisioned by event chair Lorraine Kweskin, began with the formation of a diverse reading committee made of members of the Interfaith Council, the Mayor's Multicultural Council (both co-sponsors of the event), the JCRC and other community members. Over the summer, the committee read a curated

list of six books to choose one that they thought a wide group of readers could read and discuss. The list was created in consultation with the Ferguson Library, also a co-sponsor of the event.

The committee met in early September to discuss the books and ultimately chose *The Midnight Library*, by Matt Haig. Lorraine Kweskin said, "The committee felt that this book was a good read and one that would allow robust discussion from different points of view." The event, which is free of charge, will consist of multiple reading groups scheduled in early January. These groups will meet either in person or by Zoom and participants can choose what they are comfortable with. The Community Read will culminate on January 11th with a panel discussion related to themes from the book held at the Ferguson Library. The culminating event will be either in person or on Zoom and COVID protocols will be observed.

"I am so delighted that we are giving books an opportunity to create

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UJF Hosts JewBelong Co-Founder at Annual Meeting

(Courtesy of UJF)

United Jewish Federation will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 15th at 7:30pm at Congregation Agudath Sholom, 301 Strawberry Hill Avenue in Stamford. A Zoom option will be available, and a light reception will follow the meeting. Registration is encouraged at www.ujf.org/annualmeeting21.

Ami Soifer, the evening's chair, is excited to announce that the guest speaker will be Archie Gottesman, co-founder of JewBelong.com and the woman behind the Times Square billboards calling out antisemitism. The evening will also include a state of the Federation report from UJF President David Gordon, a presentation of the 2021 slate of UJF directors (listed below), and a thank you to outgoing board members.

JewBelong is a groundbreaking organization and web-based platform



Archie Gottesman, guest speaker

focused on rebranding Judaism to make it more warm and welcoming for all, no matter where they are on their Jewish journey.

Using awareness campaigns, including billboards in Times Square in Manhattan, JewBelong also focuses on ending the antisemitism growing in the U.S.

For almost thirty years, Archie was the Chief Branding Officer/Principal of Edison Properties and the voice behind Manhattan Mini Storage's iconic billboards. Archie has sat on various boards including: Zioness, Democratic Majority for Israel, Israel on Campus Coalition, Animal Haven Shelter and Foundation for Jewish Camp.

If you were in Times Square over the summer, you likely encountered some bold billboards calling out antisemitism. One of them read: "Here's an idea: Let's ask everyone who's wondering if antisemitism is real to wear a yarmulke for a week and then report back." In a time when so many

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Mitzvah Opportunity at JCC Nursery School

JCC Sara Walker Nursery School students collected over sixty-seven bags of food, weighing over 700 pounds. This collection was donated to Congregation Agudath Sholom's Person to Person Food Drive. Working *b'yachad* (together), the children continue to learn the value of showing *chesed* (loving kindness) to others by collecting *tzedakah* (charity) and much needed items for the community throughout the school year.



JCC Sara Walker Nursery School students proudly stand in front of donations collected for Person to Person in Darien.



From UJF's Chief Executive Officer Federation is Here To Meet All Challenges

BY DIANE SLOYER

For almost 50 years, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien has been at the forefront of change, adapting to meet the ever-evolving needs of a dynamic community. In these uncertain times, our purpose has never been clearer. We are here to help those in our community and beyond and will do so in good times and bad.



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

voice in the halls of power, advocating for critical government dollars. Recently, thanks to these efforts, seven area institutions received either State or Federal funding for security.

We have the relationships. The infrastructure. The expertise. And the

hard-earned experience of getting the job done effectively and with full transparency.

We are here for every Jew in our community and there is no challenge that is too great for our undertaking because the stakes are that important!

Supporting Federation in the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community means supporting our Jewish future. Our Jewish institutions and synagogues.

It means ensuring that we are around and will continue to be here - strong and vibrant for years to come.

But our existence, our Jewish existence, is dependent on your financial support. Over the next month and a half, we will be reaching out to you. Please answer our call by supporting Federation. With you on our team we will all succeed!

We're leaning into innovative, new approaches to solve the biggest problems of our day.

We're here to care for people in need.

To respond to crises close to home and far away. And shape our Jewish future.

We're bringing people together to think big. To be bold. To act like the future of our community depends on it. Because it does.

United Jewish Federation stands at the center of a network of agencies, right here in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and around the world. That means we have access to experts who can identify the people best prepared to tackle every challenge.

And we are part of a continental Federation system of 142 Federations in North America that speaks with one

UJF President's Message Having Fun Yet?

BY DAVID GORDON

It's said that "time flies when you're having fun." If that's the case, I have to conclude that being President of the United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien must be a lot of fun because it is hard for me to imagine that it's been almost two whole years since I assumed this role. Twenty-three Board meetings; two in person, two in hybrid format – and nineteen on Zoom. But my, what UJF has accomplished in these two years! With your support, we have:



UJF President David Gordon

- Initiated the Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY program which is now in its second year of actively securing the future of our Jewish community;

- Contracted with the Secure Community Network (SCN) in conjunction with three other Federations to recently hire a shared full-time security professional with an FBI background to bring best security practices to our agencies and synagogues and to train our community in safety measures;

- Funded new initiatives of Schoke Jewish Family Service, the Jewish Community Center, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, our synagogues, Friendship Circle, and the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, including a Hebrew Free Loan Society, Senior Services at Home, a community *chesed* program for grades pre-K through 12, an intergenerational choir, and so much more;

- Continued and expanded our community-building programs such as our Jewish Community Relations Council, community-wide adult education programs, PJ Library programming for children with a new PJ Grandparents group, our New Jewish Voice newspaper which you are reading, Affinity Group programming for medical professionals, lawyers, business

professionals, and our new "Boomer Engagement Network", and so much more;

- Helped our agencies and synagogues obtain PPP forgivable loans, and distributed scholarship and COVID-19 relief funds to those institutions;

- Provided support for our brethren around the world including Israel and our sister city/region Afula-Gilboa;

- Raised our Charity Navigator rating to three stars, on our way towards a four-star rating under the careful stewardship of our CEO Diane Sloyer; and

- Restarted a NextGen arm of UJF to secure and train our future leadership.

When I think of all of this activity, supported by a hard-working staff and a hard-working Board of Directors, there is much to be proud of, and it is no wonder that the two years have gone by quickly.

But, just in case you are concerned that I have been having too much fun, please know that there is still a lot of work to do, and our UJF nominating committee has asked me to assume one more year of leadership to do that work. The extra year will permit me to see some of the new UJF initiatives through to fruition as well as to try to get a good start on a goal that still eludes us, and that is to reverse the tide of ever-increasing divisiveness – religious and political - in our Jewish community. To do that, we need you; not just your financial support, but your moral support, and your positive action. We need you to be willing to do things together as a community; to learn together, to travel together (to Israel), to experience programs (in person!) together, to give each other the benefit of the doubt, to have each others' backs, and to have fun together. If we can make a good start in accomplishing that in the coming year, I am certain the year will speed by positively – not just for me, but for all of us.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

February-March 2022 Issue

Deadline: Monday, January 3, 2022

April 2022 Issue

Deadline: Monday, March 7, 2022

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

December 3.....	4:08 pm
December 10.....	4:08 pm
December 17.....	4:09 pm
December 24.....	4:13 pm
December 31.....	4:18 pm
January 7.....	4:08 pm
January 14.....	4:08 pm
January 21.....	4:09 pm
January 28.....	4:13 pm

UJF Campaign Giving Societies

United Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign for 2021 ends on December 31, 2021. The UJF board has voted to reinstate an Honor Roll which will be printed in the February issue of the New Jewish Voice and will also be hosted on the UJF website.

Each donor's listing will be based on total annual philanthropic giving to UJF.

Please email dianesloyer@ujf.org if you prefer to be "anonymous".

Giving Societies

\$25,000+	Prime Minister Council
\$15,000 - \$24,999	Tikun Olam Society
\$10,000 - \$14,999	Joshua Society
\$5,000 - \$9,999	Devorah Society
\$1,800 - \$4,999	King David Society
\$1,000 - \$1,799	Ben Gurion Society
\$500 - \$999	Golda Meir Society
\$1 - \$499	Circle of Friends

Israel at Your Doorstep

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is excited to be a host community for “Israel at Your Doorstep”, a joint project of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Israel Ministry of Diaspora Affairs. The project brings Jewish and Israel education to small and medium-size Jewish communities. During their three-day visit, in mid-December, two Israeli educators, former community emissaries, will spend time facilitating informal educational programs connecting the community to Israel.



Idan Sharbi



Lital Rasovsky

University in Management and Conflict Resolution and is currently studying for an M.B.A in Bar-Ilan University. He loves cooking (you must taste his Kubbeh soup!) and baking (thanks to his Yemenite roots), hosting friends, traveling, and meeting new people.

Joining the delegation will be Lital Rasovsky, 26 years old who grew up in Gan-Ner (a village in the north of Israel which is also part of the Partnership) and today lives in Jerusalem.

Lital was a young emissary (pre-army) for The Jewish Agency in Upper Fairfield and led two summer camp youth delegations (New Haven JCC and Laurelwood).

She served in the IDF as a Basic Training Squad Commander in the Intelligence Corps and went on to undertake the Officer Training Course to be a Basic Training Platoon Commander. Lital was the Deputy Head of the Training Department of the Tze'elim army base which included overseeing training in many different types of weaponry for regular and reserve soldiers and snipers.

Currently, Lital studies at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem with a specialization in Education and Political Science. She also works with the Jewish Agency screening young emissaries and Shlichim emissaries for summer camps. She is also a Latin dance teacher - salsa and bachata - in Jerusalem!

For more information on the delegation visit, contact Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org.

“Our Federation has a long-term relationship and partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel, and we are excited to be hosting this delegation,” shared Dinah Miller Marlowe, Chair of UJF’s Partnership. “We are grateful to the Jewish Agency for choosing our Federation to host this delegation and look forward to in-person interactions once again,” she continued.

Leading the delegation will be Idan Sharbi. Idan was born and raised in Beit Shemesh and today lives in Tel Aviv. He served in a Hi-Tech army unit of the IDF as a Web-Intelligence Analyst. Upon completion of his service, he was a Shaliach for the Jewish Agency in the United Kingdom for two years. He worked supporting university Jewish student unions, guided Garin Tzabar groups all over Europe and was part of JCCs and congregations where he ran educational programs for children, teens and young adults from all streams of Judaism.

Idan holds a B.A from Ben-Gurion

Chabad Hosts Annual Gala

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford will host its annual Gala Celebration, on Saturday, January 30, 2022 at 5:00 pm, celebrating together with the community.

This past year, Chabad continued to spread and share connections in new and innovative ways together with the Stamford community and the dinner is a way to once again honor and celebrate the positive and the good that came out of the past year. With innovation at the forefront of what they do, Chabad has chosen to implement a “hybrid” model for the Gala Dinner. In these times when connections are needed the most, they have decided to hold the Gala with in-person and online options to join.

The Gala will incorporate the joy

and spirit of the past year. The evening promises to be fun and light and will feature music and entertainment, food and fun for all. For Rabbi Moshe Shemtov, it promises to be a “celebration of our community and Chabad of Stamford extends the invitation for all to attend in whatever way they feel most comfortable.”

For Leah Shemtov, “as we wrap up 2021 and move into 2022, Rabbi Moshe and I are taking the opportunity to celebrate the unique gifts this past year has given us. We look forward to continuing to do our work with added strength in the year ahead, with our community’s continued partnership.”

For more details or to RSVP, visit them on the web at www.Stamfordchabad.org or email programs@stamfordchabad.org

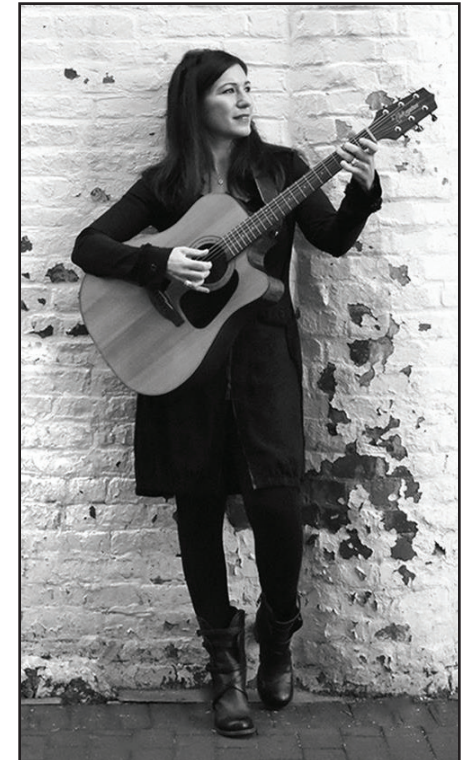
‘The Sacred Secular’ Cantor’s Concert

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) Temple Sinai is pleased to invite the community to its annual Cantor’s Concert scheduled for Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm. The concert is entitled *The Sacred Secular* and will feature Cantor Micah Morgovsky who will deliver a spirited and entertaining program of pop music favorites by the Beatles, Billy Joel, Elton John, Paul Simon, Tori Amos, Ben Folds Five and more. Although pop music is a departure from the sacred music she delivers regularly during synagogue services, Cantor Micah says she “hopes to transform these songs and elevate them as prayer.”

The concert will be offered as an in-person experience and will begin at 5:30 pm. Please plan to be masked regardless of your vaccination status as we expect children under 12 to attend.

Tickets are \$36/adult and \$18/child under age 13. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To register and order tickets, visit www.templestamford.org or call 203-322-1649.

Temple Sinai is located at 458



Cantor Micah Morgovsky
(CREDIT: BETH PETERS)

Lakeside Drive in Stamford. Concert proceeds will support the synagogue’s music and arts programming.

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

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

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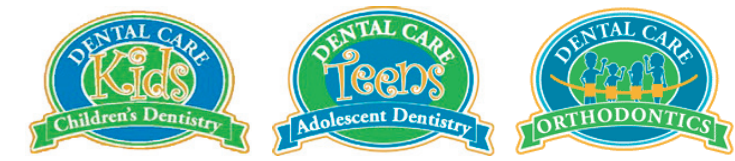
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Chevra Kadisha to Sponsor Schoke JFS Bereavement Groups

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) The Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County has received a grant from the Stamford Chevra Kadisha to expand Kuriansky Family Counseling bereavement support programming for those who might need assistance before, during, or after the loss of a loved one.

The first group, a six-week program for five to ten participants, will be a caregiver support group that will begin online virtually for those who face the hardships of caring for a loved one who is ill. The support groups will be assigned in the next few weeks.

Schoke JFS will run bereavement support groups at three different times to help accommodate various schedules for community members in need including weekend, weekday, and evening-hour groups.

Schoke JFS also plans to organize other facilitated programs, including a session for parents to help them speak to their children about a death, and another session on how to pay a shiva call and other helpful traditions related to grieving.

Finally, Schoke JFS will also initiate open facilitated community discussion groups on any death-related topic, with no specific agenda or objective. These groups will attempt to help individuals discuss the subject of death in a healthy, unafraid,

and productive way, to help them make the most of their lives.

All of these support groups will begin online as virtual groups, and be moderated by Schoke JFS facilitators. Exact dates and times will be assigned in the next few weeks. Details of all upcoming sessions will be available at www.ctjfs.org/counseling.

"We are proud to partner with the Stamford Chevra Kadisha on this new community project, and are extremely grateful for their financial support," said Matt Greenberg, President and CEO of Schoke JFS.

The Stamford Chevra Kadisha is involved with the preparation and burial of the deceased, in accordance with Jewish

law. This involves washing and cleansing the body after death, and dressing the body in simple cotton or linen garments that are identical for each person.

"Many of our community members have been the beneficiaries of our services after the loss of a loved one," said Michael Feldstein, who is on the Board of the Stamford Chevra Kadisha. "We wanted to extend our reach and offer something different, but still related to our mission. We are pleased that we can partner with Schoke JFS to sponsor this important program."

For more information, please contact Eve Moskowitz, Director of Clinical Services, at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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www.ujf.org for updates and donations

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An Evening of Klezmer with the Stamford Symphony

Join the Stamford Symphony on Saturday, December 11 at 7:30 pm for a free online premiere of *An Evening of Klezmer*. This event is in affiliation with United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, UJA-JCC Greenwich and The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County.

The virtual event will include Klezmer music performed by members of the Stamford Symphony, conversations with Stamford Symphony Music Director Michael Stern and Grammy-award winning jazz musician Branford Marsalis, and performances from an international Klezmer group. Zalmen Mlotek,



Featured Artist Pavel Vinnitsky, Clarinet

Artistic Director of the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, will be a featured speaker.

Originating mainly in Central and Eastern Europe, Klezmer is an instrumental musical tradition of the Ashkenazi Jews. Klezmer music is documented in early recordings of Jewish immigrants to America as far back as 1895.

Tommy Haendler, a Stamford Symphony Board Member and community leader, has arranged for an Argentinian Klezmer group part of the Lamroth Hakol institution to perform

for the event. Carl Rosen, who proposed the idea of a Klezmer concert to the Stamford Symphony, sees this as a "way to further engage the community with the world-class musicians of the Stamford Symphony and bring a culturally dynamic music genre to new audiences. Those attending will find it nostalgic, fun, entertaining and informative."

Musical selections for *An Evening of Klezmer* include: Paul Schoenfield's Trio for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano, 1st Movement Freylakh; Anna Vinnitsky's Klezmer Dances for Clarinet and Piano; and Sergei Prokofiev's Overture on Hebrew Themes for Clarinet, String Quartet, and Piano, op. 34.

To register for the event and for more information, go to stamfordsymphony.org/an-evening-of-klezmer/

UJF Hosts JewBelong Co-Founder at Annual Meeting

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Jews are feeling like our cause is less important than others, that our voices are not heard enough, JewBelong and its creative co-founder, Archie Gottesman, brought the conversation to one of the most trafficked and iconic intersections in the world.

Gottesman realized that while there are a lot of well-meaning, good people who were trying to change that perception, there were aspects of so many people's experiences of being turned off by Judaism that weren't being addressed. "Even as a kid growing up in Hebrew School, it was easy to feel like an outsider [or that other Jews are better than you.]" Gottesman wondered, "How do we make it so [that Jews] own [Judaism] and love it?"

Prior to the meeting Archie will have the opportunity to meet with Jewish teens from our area over a light dinner, thanks to the generosity of a donor.

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

THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2021 UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD ARE:

President: David Gordon for additional 1 year term

For a first 2-year term (2022-2023):

Bob Abrams • Kerrin Behrend • Cathy Satz

Board appointed during 2021, and being confirmed for a second year of a first term:

Joshua Esses • Helen Miloslavsky

For a second 2-year term (2022/2023):

David Gordon • Caryn Halbrecht • Michael Schlessinger • Sherry Steiner

For a third 2-year term (2022/2023):

Rachel Klein • Edith Samers • Rhonda Schaffer-Maroon • Greg Waldstreicher

Continuing Directors (years already served)

Jessica Batkin (1 year) • Robin Fischel (3 years) • Nan Gordon (5 years)

Linda Hurwitz (1 year) • Jill Kaplan (3 years) • Susan Kostin (1 year)

Dinah Miller-Marlowe (3 years) • Jonathan Ostroff (3 years)

Tara Shapiro (5 years) • Ami Soifer (1 year) • Beverly Stein (1 year)

Voting Immediate Past President term ending 12/31/22

Ellen Weber



"Shine A Light On Antisemitism" This Chanukah

(Courtesy of UJF) Chanukah is fast approaching. This year, Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and other national partners have set the week of Chanukah to be the catalyst for launching an ongoing effort to "Shine A Light on antisemitism" in all its modern day forms, including anti-zionism. Shine A Light is a national initiative to raise awareness about antisemitism through education, community partnerships, workplace engagement, and advocacy among Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

Antisemitism is becoming part of our daily language. Launching the week of Chanukah 2021 (November 28 – December 6) Shine A Light will feature programming, media, and events to catalyze conversations within and across communities to better understand and

take steps to respond to antisemitism. Join with the global community to shine a light on antisemitism.

JFNA and its partners will be encouraging virtual moments for people to shine their own light of support, -whether it be a public square, their front porch, outside their office, a place of worship, or online. Antisemitism is spreading online, in public discourse, and in popular culture. It is a darkness that threatens, not only the Jewish people and faith, but all of us, no matter creed or background.

To raise awareness of its danger, and vanquish the hatred, it will take a bold act of unity, by people all across the United States, using the only force capable of driving out darkness...light.

This initiative is not about being ANTI antisemitism, it is not about being

a victim. The goal is to shine a light with positivity and by defining what we are for, using the powerful story of Chanukah to champion the message.

As part of the shinealighton.com campaign, JFNA offered micro grants to seed initiatives. Thanks to the efforts of our colleagues in New Haven and Hartford, all seven Jewish Federations of Connecticut, all four JCRCs, ADL of CT, and Jewish Federations Association of CT, received a \$45,000 micro grant to launch a marketing campaign calling out antisemitism in all its forms.

Collectively, our communities share deep concern regarding the rise of antisemitism and the increasing delegitimization of Israel. In Connecticut, there has been an increase in antisemitism activity and expression, including graffiti, zoom bombings,

vandalization, and violent rhetoric and attacks. The Shining a Light on Antisemitism micro grant will allow for a state-wide effort to create a state-wide media campaign to raise awareness about antisemitism and remind the community of our common humanity. The micro grant will use targeted highway billboards, targeted digital media, print advertisements, radio and more.

Plans are underway to "Shine A Light On Antisemitism" throughout our community during the celebration of Chanukah and beyond. For more information, contact Sharon Lewis, Director, UJF's Jewish Community Relations Council at (203) 321-1373, ext 104. Visit shinealighton.com to learn more and find valuable education materials.

News 12 Connecticut Airs Chanukah Cooking Demo with Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Gan Yeladim) Three of Gan Yeladim of Stamford's finest volunteer "sous chefs" helped Morah Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford, prepare and cook Chanukah dishes for News 12's annual Chanukah *Chef's Quick Tips* with Tina Redwine. This is the fourth year that Morah Leah has filmed these Chanukah specials



(l-r) Luca Siegel, Leah Shemtov, Shane Fischel and Yael Sosnovich.

for News 12. This year, she prepared edible dreidels which the junior chefs prepared, played with and then ate. Other dishes included chocolate gelt, potato latkes, donut challah filled

with jelly and traditional Israeli-style *souvganiot* (fried doughnuts). Look out for the clips online on the News 12 website and for Morah Leah's Pesach cooking demos in March.

Chanukah Morning of Torah Learning

(Courtesy of CAS) Congregation Agudath Sholom invites the community to a Chanukah morning of Torah learning entitled "Shabbat Insights: Unlocking the Oasis in Time" on Sunday, December 5th, with Rabbi Tzvi Sobolofsky of Yeshiva University. The program includes two classes and brunch.

At 10:15 am there will be a class on "Cooking on Shabbat: New Innovations and Timeless Principles."

At 11:10 am there will be a class

on "Kiddush and Havdalah."

Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky is a Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva University's Rabbi Issac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) and Rabbi of Congregation Ohr HaTorah in Bergenfield, NJ. He also lectures at the Bergen County Beis Medrash Program (BCBM) housed at Congregation Bnai Yeshurun in Teaneck, NJ.

Enjoy a Brunch and Torah on Chanukah Morning. RSVP online at www.cas-stamford.org.

Chanukah Lights Up Darien

The town of Darien will hold a Chanukah menorah lighting this year on Thursday, December 1st at the Grove Street Plaza at 6:00 pm. The program will include a giant menorah lighting, sponsored by Baywater Properties, traditional holiday foods such as latkes and donuts, and a brief community program. United Jewish Federation's PJ Library will celebrate with the town by offering children a Chanukah gift bag and a holiday story time.

Dan Guller, who has lived in Darien for twelve years, is planning the program, with the goal of shining light on diversity and celebrating Chanukah as a community. Guests are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation to Open Door Shelter.

If you can't make it to the event on December 1st, the menorah will be lit each night at 6:00 pm, with a different Jewish family leading the lighting.

Chanukah for Kids at CAS

(Courtesy of CAS) Events for children of all ages will take place during Chanukah at Congregation Agudath Sholom, 301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford. Come join in the fun! The events, which are open to the entire community, include:

Sunday, November 28 at 9:30 am: Chanukah puppet show featuring The Lost Latkes, followed by fun crafts and treats to get ready for Chanukah. Ages 2 and up.

Sunday, December 5 at 6:00 pm: Middle School Chanukah Party for grades 5 through 7.

Sunday, December 5 at 7:30 pm: High School Chanukah Party for grades 8 through 12.

To sign up, go to www.congregationagudathsholom.org.

For questions or more information, contact Youth Directors Yaakov Faratci or Yolly Faratci at yfaratci@gmail.com, or Youth Chair Jessica Sosnovich at jessica.sosnovich@gmail.com.

Building Bridges with Books

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

connections between members of our community," said Lorraine Kveskin. "Building Bridges with Books continues to build on the momentum started by the Walk for Unity in Our Community

held on October 10th." Register at www.ujf.org/books. For more information, contact Sharon Lewis, UJF's JCRC Director at slewis@ujf.org (203) 321-1373, ext. 115.

Gallery@The J Presents: The Stamford Art Association

(*Courtesy of The J*) The Stamford JCC invites the community to the Gallery@The J for its Wine & Art Opening Reception on Thursday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. featuring "The Stamford Art Association Celebrates 50 Years of Bringing Art to the Community."

This juried exhibit features 24 Stamford Art Association (SAA) members and the juror will be Marguerite Weinert, recently retired SAA Gallery Manager. Ms. Weinert worked for the SAA for 20 years and curated many of its exhibits. Prizes will be awarded and the winners will be announced at the reception. In addition, The JCC is pleased that portrait artist Gigi Barrett will do a drawing demonstration during the evening.

Since its inception, the SAA has continuously served the community and

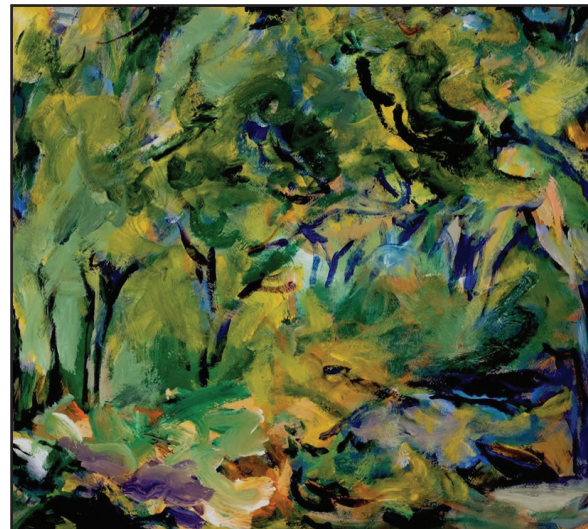
is pleased to partner with The Stamford JCC to celebrate its 50th year. Christine Irvin, SAA's President, says "We are excited to host this exhibit to honor our member artists who continue to be the creative spark that inspires us."

Now in its 50th year, the Stamford Art Association was established in 1971 in an 1874 historical townhouse by 24 artists to showcase emerging and professional artists. The SAA is a nonprofit organization whose members include painters, sculptors, printmakers, photographers and multimedia artists. It hosts 10 virtual and in-person exhibits at the Townhouse Gallery yearly and curates the "Art at the Ferguson" art series at the Ferguson Library. Most exhibits are juried with prominent jurors from art schools, galleries and institutions from

Connecticut and New York. All artists, not just members, are welcome to submit their work for exhibits.

The Stamford Art Association is supported by grants from the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, the City of Stamford's Arts and Culture Grant, the Kuriansky Foundation and generous donations from individual artists and friends. The Gallery is free and open to the general public. The SAA Townhouse Gallery is located at 39 Franklin Street, Stamford, CT 06901.

The Gallery@The J for its Wine & Art Opening Reception is FREE. Please RSVP at www.stamfordjcc.org. For more information, please contact Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Arts & Culture and Seniors at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org or 203-940-3890.



"Leafy Trail" (acrylic painting) by Benice Horowitz, Stamford Art Association member and Stamford art instructor. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STAMFORD ART ASSOCIATION)

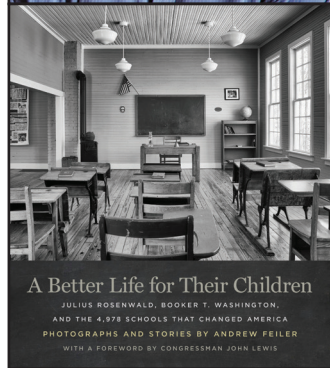
Book & Author Conversation Presents: Andrew Feiler

(*Courtesy of the JCC*) The Stamford JCC and the Jewish Book Council are pleased to host author Andrew Feiler in a "Book & Author Conversation" in-person at the JCC on Tuesday, January 18 at 7:30 pm. He will tell the story of his new book *A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America*. This event is sponsored by the JCC Social Action Committee (JSAC).

Born to Jewish immigrants, Julius Rosenwald rose to lead Sears, Roebuck & Company and turn it into the world's largest retailer. Born into slavery, Booker T. Washington became the founding principal of Tuskegee Institute. In 1912, the two men launched an ambitious program to partner with Black communities across the segregated South to build public schools for African American children.

One of the earliest collaborations between Jews and African Americans, this initiative drove dramatic improvement in African American educational attainment and fostered the generation who became the foot soldiers of the civil rights movement.

Of the original 4,978 Rosenwald schools built between 1912 and 1937 across fifteen states, only about 500 survive. To tell this



Andrew Feiler and his new book *A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America*. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL)

story visually, Andrew Feiler drove 25,000 miles, photographed 105 schools, and interviewed dozens of former students, teachers, and preservationists. The book includes 85 photographs capturing interiors and exteriors, schools restored and yet-to-be-restored, and portraits of people with compelling connections to these schools. Brief narratives written by Feiler accompany each photograph. The book's foreword is by Congressman John Lewis, a Rosenwald school alum.

Andrew Feiler is a fifth-generation Georgian. Having grown up Jewish in Savannah, he has been shaped by the rich complexities of the American South. Andrew has long been active in civic life. He has created numerous community initiatives, serves on multiple not-for-profit boards, and is an active advisor to political leaders. His art is an extension of his civic values.

This event is free for JCC Members and \$10 for the community. Please register at www.stamfordjcc.org. For more information, please contact Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Arts & Culture and Seniors, at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.



United Jewish Federation

To advertise, contact Diane Sloyer at: dianesloyer@ujf.org or (203)321-1373

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Chabad of New Canaan Launches Children's Israel Education Program



Children at the New Canaan Hebrew School enjoyed a Mad Science Sukkot Party during the holiday.

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) This year, Chabad of New Canaan has launched a new immersive and transformative program called Israel Quest designed for children to foster deep attachments to Israel on practical, emotional and spiritual levels.

"More than ever, there is a vital and immediate need to engage Jewish children with a deep connection and pride for the Holy Land and its central role in the Jewish past, present, and future," said Michal Mendelow, director of Chabad's New Canaan Hebrew School. "Israel is under constant attack on college campuses. As they get older, Jewish children are challenged about Israel. For the children at the New Canaan Hebrew School, who don't go to Jewish day schools, this deep learning about Israel, at an early age, is vital."

Using educational tools such as virtual reality, topographical maps, theater, filmmaking, STEAM activities, and more, students will discover the rich history of Israel.

This curriculum explores the centrality of the Land of Israel to Biblical stories and Jewish history.

It focuses on connecting the stories to the land of Israel, so that the children can connect modern Israel to its biblical roots, and all of Jewish history.

This new program was developed by an innovative team of educators from the Chabad Children's Network (CKids), which has chapters in 26 countries and engages more than 25,000 children each year with vibrant, life-changing Jewish education and experiences.

The New Canaan Hebrew School meets on Sunday mornings at the New Canaan YMCA. For more information, contact Michal Mendelow at Michal@NewCanaanJewish.org.



Children in the Chabad of New Canaan Hebrew School learn together.

HAPPY Chanukah
From Board & Staff of United Jewish Federation

David Gordon
President

Diane Sloyer
Chief Executive Officer

CAS and Bar-Ilan University Present Speaker Series

(Courtesy of CAS) Congregation Agudath Sholom (CAS) and American Friends of Bar-Ilan University invite the community to a speaker series featuring Bar-Ilan professors and alumni on a variety of subjects.



Professor Aren Maeir, archaeologist

The sessions will take place on Zoom, one session per month from now through June 2022, with some sessions on Sunday mornings and some on weekday evenings.

The series is free for CAS Members and \$72 for non-CAS Members. Participants will receive a certificate after completion of the course. For more info, contact Rabbi Daniel Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org.

The schedule of speakers follows. (All times are EST.)

Tuesday November 23 at 8:00 pm - Dr. Baruch Barzel, Leading Network Scientist will speak on "Blackouts, Facebook, and Viruses - Surprising Links".

Sunday December 19 at 10:00 am - Professor Aren Maeir, Director for The Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies will speak on "Biblical Archaeology".

Wednesday January 5 at 8:00 pm - Nadav Kidron, CEO of Oramed

will speak on "Israeli Inventions That Changed the World"

Wednesday February 9 at 7:30 pm - Daniel Radomski, Head of WJC Strategy & Programs and Executive Director, WJC Jewish Diplomatic

Corps will speak on "The Global Jewish Community is Facing Unprecedented Challenges. Here's How We Move Forward"

Sunday March 6 at 10:00 am - Professor Haim Cohen, Head of the Molecular Mechanism of Aging Laboratory will speak on "Can We Live Forever? The State of Anti-Aging Drugs"

Wednesday April 6 at 8:00 pm - Vanessa Workman, Teaching Specialist for Archaeometallurgy in the Center for the Analysis of Archaeological Materials (CAAM), University of Pennsylvania will speak on "Great Transitions in Small Spaces: The Rise of Iron in Israel"

(May lecturer and date to be determined.)

Sunday June 12 at 11:00 am - Professor Moshe Hellinger, Political Science Department will speak on "The Changing Face of Israeli Society: Trends, Directions and Challenges"

Judaism and the Natural Environment: A Tu B'Shvat Panel



Dr. Steven Labkoff



Mr. Elliot Glassman



Dr. Lea Winter

(Courtesy of CAS) The holiday of Tu B'Shvat marks the new year for the trees - an occasion that has developed into an opportunity to reflect on the Torah's mandate "to work and guard" (Genesis 2:15) the world that God has given us.

Join Rabbi Moshe Kurtz, Assistant Rabbi of Congregation Agudath Sholom, on Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 7:30 pm, at 301 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford as he moderates a panel featuring experts: Dr. Lea Winter (Postdoctoral

Fellow and Incoming Assistant Professor, Chemical & Environmental Engineering at Yale University), Mr. Elliot Glassman (Senior Associate and Senior Technical Principal at WSP Built Ecology), and Dr. Steven Labkoff (Global Head, Clinical and Healthcare Informatics at Quantori). Each panelist will talk about their connection to the natural world and what they believe is the most productive way for us to think about it as a Jewish community.

We Are Makers: Women Making History

(Courtesy of JHSFC) The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) will present the Norma and Milton Mann Annual Philanthropic Lecture on Sunday, December 12th at 10:00 am hosted by Temple Beth El, 350



Amy Richards

Roxbury Road, Stamford. JHSFC is pleased to bring to the community this year's guest lecturer, Amy Richards, a protégé of Gloria Steinem, and an activist, TV producer, educator, art historian and author who will speak about those well-known and lesser-known women who have shaped America. The lecture is the first and only named lecture of JHSFC and is underwritten by the Mann Family Foundation to honor the memory of their parents, two extraordinary leaders and supporters of JHSFC.

"Women and men will be inspired by the stories of women who have and are 'making' not just their future, but our future," said Eva Weller, JHSFC past president and chair of the Norma and Milton Mann Annual Lecture.

Norma Mann served as the first woman president of the United Jewish Federation in Stamford, as the first woman on the board of Temple Beth El and in numerous other leadership positions. Her daughter, Madeline Mann shares, "Norma was a true feminist! Her trailblazing makes me so proud!"

Richards lectures at dozens of venues each year as president of Soapbox, Inc. She was a consulting producer on the HBO documentary

Gloria Steinem, *In Her Own Words*, an advisor to the PBS documentary *Makers: Women Who Make America*, and recently authored a book inspired by the *Makers* film.

Following the series, women's voices have continued to be highlighted through stories, videos, interviews and an annual conference. Her latest

award-winning books include *We Are Makers: Real Women and Girls Shaping Our World* and a 20th Anniversary edition of *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism and the Future*. She was also the executive producer of the WOMAN series on VICELAND, focused on curbing violations against women globally. Ms. Richards initiates public education projects with a focus on youth, and is recognized as a primary spokesperson and leading voice for contemporary feminist issues.

Richards will share the fascinating stories of successful trailblazing women from all walks of life. Their stories will reflect the early women's movement to the present day and what inspired each to reach the top.

Doors open at 10:00 am for viewing the CT Women's Hall of Fame traveling exhibit: "Rise Up, Sisters!" in addition to a display curated by the JHSFC recognizing the legacy of Norma and Milton Mann. An invitation only in person and virtual brunch for leadership donors will precede the lecture. Registration is required to attend and to receive the Zoom link. To RSVP, email info@jhsfc-ct.org or call 203-359-2196. Temple Beth El Covid-19 guidelines will be followed.

A Winter Night with Gan Yeladim of Stamford

(Courtesy of Gan Yeladim) Families with young children are invited to join Gan Yeladim of Stamford for a special "Havdalah in PJs" event on Saturday, January 8th at 6:00 pm. This popular family favorite promises fun, friends and family celebrating together with music, food, craft activities and bedtime stories. This year, they will provide families with a hybrid option for their Havdalah in Pajamas event.

Chabad of Stamford and the Gan will once again be preparing their popular Havdalah kits which can be pre-ordered and picked up before Shabbat starts. These will include s'mores kits, hot chocolate, candles and more. Families can then either join in the celebrations in person or Zoom in from home. The event is chaired by Gan parent, Iva Freed. For more information, email programs@stamfordchabad.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

UJF Offers a Warm Welcome



Michele Weintraub receives a welcome bag along with some helpful information about her new town. She is now a part of UJF's BEN group (Boomer Engagement Network), which provides her with opportunities to meet new people.



Rachel Kaimowitz and her daughter Bella receive a Shalom Baby visit from UJF's Sharon Franklin.



Abby Bettan, daughter of Aliza and Seth, enjoys some Shalom Baby swag.

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Shalom Welcome program greets newcomers with a visit, a gift bag, and helpful information about their new community. Parents with new babies receive a personal

visit as well as a gift bag filled with toys, PJ Library books, a bib. If you know someone who is new to town, or who has recently had a baby, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org to arrange a visit.

B"H

JWC Jewish Women Connected

NURTURING LOCAL JEWISH WOMEN EMOTIONALLY,
SPIRITUALLY, INTELLECTUALLY & SOCIALLY

Matarot & Martini's
CHANUKAH PACKAGE PARTY
WEDNESDAY DEC 1 • 7:15PM

Creation Event
HANDS ON CREATIVITY
TUESDAY JAN 18 • 7:15PM

International Cookoff
DISHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
WEDNESDAY FEB 9TH • 7:15PM

Women's Unity Event
IN HONOR OF LAG' BAOMER
SUNDAY MAY 15TH 10:00AM

Summer Soiree
GARDEN PARTY
WEDNESDAY JULY 12TH • 6:15PM

Volunteer
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HELPING YOUNG MOMS
BETSY'S BUDDIES

Learning For Women

TORAH & TEA	TUESDAYS	10:30AM	IN PERSON & ZOOM
TANYA CHASSIDIC THOUGHT	THURSDAYS	11:00AM	OVER ZOOM
ROSH CHODESH CELEBRATION	MONDAY MAY 2	8:00PM	IN PERSON

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Federation's Security Director Hits the Ground Running



Regional Security Director Michael Shanbrom and Lt. Nicolas Aranzullo.

With a little over a month on the job, Regional Security Advisor Michael Shanbrom has begun to meet with area institutions. With the recent swastika painted on a bathroom wall in Darien Middle School, Shanbrom and Sharon Lewis, United Jewish Federation's



Sharon Lewis, UJF's JCRC Director, and Lt. Nicolas Aranzullo.

Director of its Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), met with Lt. Nicholas Aranzullo of the Darien Police Department. The Lieutenant was grateful to learn about the work of UJF, and the JCRC and looks forward to working together to keep the Jewish community of Darien safe.

Preventing Normalization of the Holocaust

(Courtesy of UJF) In Connecticut last month, Connecticut State Representative Anne Dauphinais 44th General Assembly District, equated the Governor's mask mandate and vaccination requirement to Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) petitioned the legislature to speak out against this sort of rhetoric.

In a joint statement, House Speaker Matt Ritter, House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora, Senate President Martin Looney and Senate Minority Leader Kevin Kelly said:

Leaders of all four caucuses of the Connecticut General Assembly condemn the recent rise and use of Holocaust imagery and analogies, along with references to Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime in community and political discussions, including current mask/vaccine mandates. Such linkage trivializes the extent of crimes against humanity, diminishes the suffering of survivors, and offends those who understand the profound evil Hitler and the Nazis represented. There is simply no comparison between contemporary political issues and the actions of Hitler and his accomplices who were responsible for the murders of over 6 million Jews and millions of other victims. Our caucuses stand strong against these references becoming normalized in our politics and our communities.

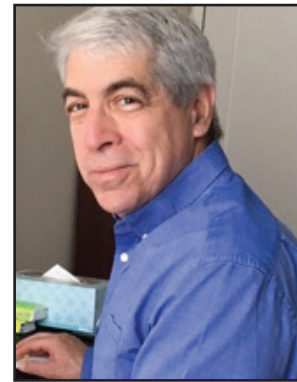
Michael Bloom of JFACT said that "It is a really big deal to get this sort of statement from legislative leaders because bipartisan statements on non-legislative issues rarely happen." He added that he is "thankful we live in a state where our elected officials will not allow the use of Holocaust imagery and comparisons to be normalized."

After the joint statement, Representative Dauphinais continued to equate Governor Lamont's actions with Adolf Hitler. Michael Bloom penned a letter to Candelora requesting that Dauphinais be stripped of her committee assignments. The request was denied.

JFACT lobbies city, state, and federal officials on issues of importance to the seven Jewish Federations, as well as their beneficiary service agencies, across Connecticut. In the last several years JFACT was instrumental in requiring that Holocaust education be added to all curricula in Connecticut. More recently, they have worked with educators to survey teachers in the state about how they are implementing this curriculum and where they need help. They have also reached out to Connecticut state colleges regarding the curriculum that education majors are taught. Notably, University of Connecticut has recently implemented a Holocaust and genocide studies post-baccalaureate certificate aimed at in-service teachers that could be taken during the summer.

JCRC Marks International Holocaust Memorial Day

(Courtesy of UJF) UJF's Jewish Community Relations Council will host author Mel Laytner on January 26 at 7:30 pm to mark International Holocaust Memorial Day, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. Laytner recently published *What They Didn't Burn: Undercovering My Father's Holocaust Secrets*.



Author Mel Laytner

Laytner is a veteran journalist, a former foreign correspondent for NBC News, and United Press International. He grew up on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, graduated from CCNY, and got master's degrees from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. Both of his parents, who run a candy store, were Holocaust

survivors, but they rarely ever talked about their experiences with Mel or his younger brother.

Twenty years after Mel's father Joe passed away, Mel came across a document dating back to Joe's internment in the infamous Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. The document

verified a fragment of a story Joe once told Mel, which got Mel thinking: what else could he find out about his father's life? Mel's search brought him into contact with countless records and documents, tidbits of information from family members, and detailed accounts from other survivors.

Registration for this Zoom program can be found at www.ujf.org/memorial. For more information contact Sharon Lewis at Slewis@ujf.org.




United Jewish Federation | **JCRC**
Jewish Community Relations Council

Join UJF's Jewish Community Relations Council for a Three Part Series:

Cultivating A Caring Soul

Please join us on three evenings as three different authors share how we can improve the world by caring for each other.

JANUARY 19, 2022
HUMANKIND:
Changing the World One Small Act at a Time,
Brad Aronson (Via ZOOM)

FEBRUARY 28, 2022
BE A MENSCH:
Unleash Your Power to Be Kind and Help Others,
Elisa Udaskin (Via ZOOM)

MARCH 21, 2022
THE KINDNESS ADVANTAGE:
Cultivating Compassionate and Connected Children,
Dale Atkins & Amanda Salzhauer (Venue TBD)

To Register:
ujf.org/caringsoul or email Sharon Lewis at slewis@ujf.org

SUPER SUNDAY

Another Successful Super Sunday

United Jewish Federation held a virtual Super Sunday on November 7th. This annual phone-a-thon is a day that donors are asked to answer the call in support of their local and world-wide Jewish communities. This marks the second year Super Sunday was held virtually due to the pandemic. However, volunteers rallied and made calls from the comfort of their own homes to raise funds for a variety of unique initiatives which will benefit area social services, agencies, schools, and places of worship. This year's Super Sunday co-chairs were Robin Fischel, Becky Kevelson, and Shushannah Yasgur.

This year, UJF employed a "text to give" campaign, which on its own raised \$30,000. In total, Super Sunday raised over \$200,000!

Besides the annual phone-a-thon, UJF held an in-person Family Fun Day and several Super Week virtual programs, including Jewish



Thank you to Beldotti Bakery for being an in-kind sponsor for Super Sunday's Family Fun Day.

Federation of North America's Zoom celebration of the Ethiopian Jewish holiday Sigd; an Israel and world Jewish virtual update with JFNA co-chair for Israel and Overseas, Jeff Shoefeld; and a Zoom concert featuring world renowned Russian-US violinist Yevgeny Kutik, who also spoke about his experience coming to the US at the age of five with the help of Federation.



Meredith Cohen picks up her Super Sunday call package.



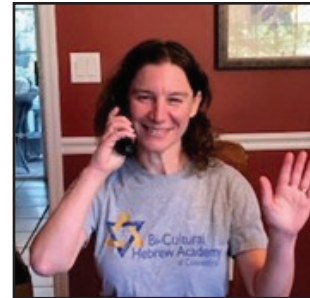
Ellen Weber and her daughter-in-law Jacklyn and son Michael pick up a volunteer bag for Super Sunday.



Volunteer Mark Wagshul receives Super Sunday materials.



UJF CEO Diane Sloyer and Linda Russ, BCHA board member, make calls to donors on Super Sunday.



Rachel Haron, Associate Head of School at BCHA, makes calls for UJF's virtual Super Sunday.



US-Russian violinist Yevgeny Kutik gave a virtual concert on Thursday, November 4th as part of UJF's Super Week.

Kudos For Making Super Sunday Spectacular

CO-CHAIRS

Robin Fischel • Becky Kevelson • Shushannah Yasgur

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VOLUNTEERS:

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Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein	Nan Gordon	Allison Ostroff	Eliezer Silverman
Meredith Cohen	Rachel Haron	Jonathan Ostroff	Linda Spilka
Rachel Cohen	Ethan Kaplan	Judy Raymond	Beverly Stein
Stella Cohen	Jill Kaplan	Catherine Reed	David Stein
Noa Farber	Mitchell Kaplan	Arlene Rosen	Mark Wagshul
David Fogel	Susan Kostin	Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld	Ellen Weber
Maya Fogel	Jake Meyer	Linda Russ	
Alan Freeman	Helen Miloslavsky	Edith Samers	

The Challenges Are Plentiful...

BY ELLEN WEBER, UJF CAMPAIGN CHAIR CRISIS RESPONSE

During the pandemic, community needs increased like never before. United Jewish Federation of greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien marshalled resources to get people/organizations in crisis the help they so desperately needed. And UJF did it at a moment's notice.

Because of your support, UJF was able to:

- Raise and distribute over \$250K in additional funds to benefit the local community feeding the hungry, taking care of the vulnerable.
- Increase its scholarships for preschools, virtual school

programs at the JCC, and camps. Community rabbis received funds to aid synagogue members who requested emergency aid.

JEWISH LIFE

Our community's future depends on powerful Jewish experiences that are accessible to all. These experiences will bring Jews of all backgrounds together as one!

Because of your support, UJF is able to:

- Provide scholarships for day and sleep away camps as well as Hebrew Schools. Federation is a sponsor of One Happy Camper and Birthright Israel. PJ Library books are sent to over 450 children in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien bringing the Jewish experience into the home on a daily basis.

•Impact the lives of community members. By providing formal and informal Jewish education experiences, from schools to camps to synagogues, from Israel trips to cultural events, United Jewish Federation is woven into the fabric of Jewish life.

ISRAEL CONNECTION

For almost 50 years, this Federation has helped strengthen the State of Israel and built strong connections between our community and our Israeli family.

Because of your support, UJF can:

- Contribute to ensuring that all of Israel's citizens have equal access to educational and economic opportunities, to helping disadvantaged preschoolers and to providing scholarships for gifted teens and job-skill programs for their parents.

A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

Federation Holds “Super” Family Fun Day

On Sunday, November 7th, United Jewish Federation held an outdoor, in-person Family Fun Day program in conjunction with UJF’s annual Super Sunday. Kids enjoyed a petting farm, wrote letters to Israeli and American Jewish soldiers, and painted Stars of Hope, which were later delivered to seniors at the Jewish Home in Bridgeport, CT.

Children from across Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien brought in the money they had collected for the UJF Super Sunday Tzedakah coin challenge. This was a true communal effort with Temple Sinai and Temple Beth El Hebrew Schools, Sara Walker and the Gan Nursery Schools and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy participating. Although the coins are still being counted, over \$3,000 was raised!

A special thank you to our Super Sunday co-chairs Robin Fischel, Becky Kevelson, and Shushannah Yasgur for their hard work in planning this day.

For more information about UJF’s family programming or about our annual campaign, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



Stars of Hope coordinator (left) and volunteer Shoshana Dweck paint colorful messages of hope with the kids, which will be delivered to Connecticut seniors.



Quality time at the petting farm.



(l-r) Robin Fischel, Shushannah Yasgur, Sharon Franklin (UJF Managing Director of Campaign & Community Engagement) and Becky Kevelson.



Fun with rabbits, chickens, ducks, goats, and sheep.



UJF board member Jill Kaplan collects hats, gloves, and socks for refugees relocating to Connecticut.



Volunteer Mitchel Kaplan mans the Tzedakah collections.



Super Sunday Co-chair Becky Kevelson reads a PJ Library Story.

JCC Nursery School Children Give Tzedakah

Sharon Franklin, United Jewish Federation’s Managing Director of Campaign & Community Engagement, visited the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School during a shabbat celebration facilitated by Educational Coordinator Sandi Waldstreicher. Each

week the children give tzedakah, or charity, to give to those less fortunate. Money collected on November 12th was donated to UJF’s annual Super Sunday, which benefits those in need locally, in Israel and 72 countries around the world.



The 4's class celebrate shabbat and give tzedakah for UJF’s Super Sunday.



Children contribute their weekly tzedakah.

Federation Meets Them Head On!

•Partner with 11 other Jewish Federations and those in Israel’s Afula Gilboa Region (our sister city) where programs are offered that build Jewish identity and strengthen our own communities. Vulnerable Israelis in our partnership region are helped and long-lasting relationships have developed.

OVERSEAS NEEDS

We help where the needs are greatest, worldwide, supporting Jewish communities that are working to rebuild in the wake of COVID, and ensuring that Jewish elderly and families in crisis are never without food, clothing, shelter, warmth, or medicine.

Because of your support, UJF is able to:

•Make an impact in more than 70 countries by

strengthening Jewish life, powering the reconstruction and revitalization of communities, providing relief to those in crisis and offering comfort and support to the most vulnerable among us.

•Fund both well-established programs and new, innovative approaches to address poverty and trauma in Jewish communities around the world, together with our overseas partners- the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Joint Distribution Committee.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Inspired by our Jewish values, members of the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community want to work toward a just and pluralistic society. As the community relations arm of the

Jewish community, UJF’s Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) supports, promotes, and activates Jewish values.

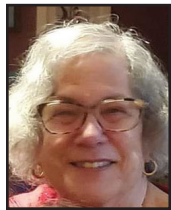
Because of your support, UJF can:

•Mobilize grassroots Jewish activism, advocate on issues consistent with Jewish values, like alleviating poverty, confronting antisemitism and support for the State of Israel.

•Work, through the JCRC, to strengthen our Jewish community’s relations with other faith, ethnic, and civic groups, to partner with them to advance our common interests.

•Hire a regional security advisor, through the Jewish Secure Community Network, to bring best security practices to our agencies and synagogues and train our community in safety measures.

Bits & Pieces



BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Sandy Golove

Eleena & David Adler on the birth of a daughter, Neemah Esther Adler.

Pam Ehrenkranz & Matt Greenberg on the birth of a grandson.

Jessica & Adam Furmanky on the birth of a daughter.

Joanna & Mark Frank on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, Lynn & Jeff Lowin.

Yael Shmilovitch & Elliot Buckman on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, Joyce & Ira Buckman & Sidney & Dan Shmilovitch.

Annie & Brad Waldstreicher on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, Sandi & Stuart Waldstreicher; and to the great grandmothers, Audrey Waldstreicher and Helene Ehrlich.

Kimmie & David Warmflash on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, Sherry & Bennet Kfare and Doris & Ron Warmflash; and to the great grandmother, Camille Warmflash.

MAZEL TOV ON ENGAGEMENT/MARRIAGES:

Malka Finkelstein & Barry Best.

Judy & Howard Goldstein on the engagement of their son, Jake Goldstein to Daniella Bock, daughter of Aviva & Simon Bock.

Catherine & Ed Granelli on the engagement of their daughter, Amy Granelli to Ryan Gallo.

Rachel & Harold Terk on the wedding of their daughter, Hilary Terk to Eddie Wiseman,

son of Nora & Edmund Wiseman.

Yonat & Rabbi Yehuda Tucker on the engagement of their daughter, Tamar Tucker to Avigdor Lifshitz.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Shira Lowenstein: daughter of Devorah & Bradley Lowenstein.

Alex Mangot: grandson of Roz Mangot.

Elliot Nerenberg: son of Shira & Marc Nerenberg.

Eden Weisel: daughter of Alissa Wool & Peter Weisel

Shelby Weisel: daughter of Alissa Wool & Peter Weisel

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Jerome Berkman; husband of Louise Berkman.

Svetlana Chepteff; mother of Inga Tuluca.

Jason Dembling; brother of Gayle Bell

Ida Drucker; mother Lori Drucker and Sharon Turshen.

Marjorie Sacoff Dwyer; mother of Cindy Pitkoff and Jeffrey Cohen.

Chazan Binyamin Glickman; former Chazan at Congregation Agudath Sholom.

Mildred Hershkowitz; mother of Ira Hersh, Jan Hirsh and Lori Tobin.

Jeanne Grace Klein; mother of Robert Klein and Sue Ellen Raphaelson and sister of Ruth Miller.

Robert Moreen; husband of Vera Moreen and father of Gabriel Moreen & Raphael Moreen.

Sheldon Pearlman; husband of Rhoda Pearlman; and father of Joe Pearlman, Karen Shapiro and Susan Foster.

Elaine Rose; wife of Richard Rose; and mother of Jeffrey Rose, Jody Rioboli and Mark Rose.

Richard Seligson; husband of Rachel Seligson; father of Alex, Daniel and Emily Seligson; and brother of Phyllis Schacht and Mitchell Seligson.

Making Mitzvah Moments Youth Event

(Courtesy of CAS) Julia and Jacob Tobin draw pictures for children in Stamford Hospital at Congregation Agudath Sholom's Making Mitzvah Moments Youth Event. Children from all over Stamford joined together to help the community in various ways: making gift bags and drawing pictures for children in Stamford Hospital, writing letters to soldiers in the IDF, making decorations for the Atria nursing home and decorating bags for Schoke Jewish Family Service. It was amazing to see how many mitzvot the children wanted to do!



Hebrew Free Loans Can Help Bridge The Gap

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) The Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service is the place most people think of when someone in the community is experiencing an extreme need. However, Schoke JFS is also a safety net to help before things get extreme. The Hebrew Free Loan program is just that, a financial safety net that can serve as a stop-gap for an immediate cash need which can be paid off over time without interest. This initiative was started with and continues to be supported by Schoke JFS's local Federations.

When a preschool teacher suddenly found her husband unable to work due to a major mental health crisis, there was no way she would be able to cover their nearly \$4,246 monthly expenses on her \$990 a month income. When she was referred to Schoke JFS for help, not only was the agency able to put her at ease, but Schoke JFS was able to introduce her to the Hebrew Free Loan program.

Schoke JFS was able to provide a small loan to get the family through a difficult few weeks until they were back on their feet. In less than 24 months, they were able to pay it back at a manageable \$50 per month. The client shared that without Schoke JFS they would have not gotten through what was one of the hardest times of their lives.

Similarly, another family came to Schoke JFS shortly after buying their first home. After obtaining a mortgage and purchasing the home, there was a storm and their home sustained significant

water damage. Knowing it had to be repaired, they took out a loan with a 5% interest rate to make the repairs, further stretching their already tight budget. Shortly after, one of the parents became unemployed and their income was cut in-half. In order to survive, this family needed to juggle the financial resources they had. By applying and receiving a Hebrew Free Loan, they were able to pay off the other loan, save the interest that would have accrued over time, and lower the monthly payment. They paid back their entire loan to Schoke JFS over time and made it through what would have been an even more challenging time leading them to further debt, financial crisis, and possible foreclosure.

Schoke JFS invites eligible community members to reach out before suffering extreme financial hardship. To participate in the Hebrew Free Loan program, applicants will need to provide financial information, secure a guarantor, submit a statement of need, and commit to a repayment schedule.

This initiative has been funded by the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien and the Jewish Community Foundation of the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County.

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

Creating Community Around Federation's Strategic Plan

(Courtesy of UJF) Sometimes a planned action has unintended consequences and sometimes they are even positive!

The first step for United Jewish Federation's Strategic Plan was a community survey. Every synagogue, Jewish agency and organization sent out the survey and enabled UJF to reach all corners of the Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien Jewish community. Although the findings are just now being tabulated by Federation's consultant, Joy Goldstein, this show of solidarity and

willingness to support this effort is true collaboration. An astonishing 1,046 local residents took the time to complete the survey.

"The next phase of the Strategic Plan is to conduct one-on-one interviews and focus groups with all parts of our community. Input from a variety of communal voices is critical in developing a strategic plan that will set the direction for Federation for today and into the future," said Beverly Stein, UJF Task Force Chair.

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

A JWC Rosh Chodesh Gathering

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Over 30 women joined Chabad of Stamford's Jewish Women Connected for a Rosh Chodesh gathering to mark the month of Kislev.

Rosh Chodesh has long been considered a holiday for women. With that in mind, Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford, focused her discussion on Yehudit, whose heroic deeds have inspired faith and courage in the hearts of Jews throughout the ages. Warming themselves with a drink from the hot chocolate bar, freshly made donuts and other treats, the attendees gathered by the fire pit with warm blankets to hear and read together the inspiring story of Yehudit. In Leah's words, "the story of Yehudit, shows us the unique strength of women and how they have the ability to bring things to their fullest potential."

After the reading, each of the women attending was given a piece of carved granite to place on a menorah to create a beautiful work of art



together that will be lit for the first time this Chanukah.

Chabad would like to thank Tova Weinstock-Reich for hosting the evening as well as event chairs Jennie Folkinshteyn and Annie Watman. On January 8, 2022, JWC will host its annual 'Creation Event' which will combine an evening of food, fun and creativity. This event is free and open to all women in the community.

For more information on all of Chabad's Jewish Women Connected (JWC) events, please email programs@stamfordchabad.org.

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Sweet Success

(Courtesy of BCHA) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Kitah Dalet (4th grade) class held a muffin and coffee sale in early November in support of United Jewish Federation's Super Sunday. Their tasty mitzvah activity was a success, raising nearly \$375. UJF thanks BCHA students for their efforts and creative approach to supporting their local and worldwide Jewish communities.



The BCHA's Kitah Dalet (4th grade) students, with parents Elior Coleman, and Jon Makovsky.

If you have a mitzvah project raise funds for those in need, contact idea you would like to do to help Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

Cardozo Society Evening Brings Law Professionals Together



(l-r) Jack Scherban, Howard Wolfe, and Mel Bloomenthal.

In late October, United Jewish Federation's Cardozo Law Society met for a program featuring Marc Bookman. Bookman, author of *A Descending Spiral: Exposing the Death Penalty in 12 Essays*, is the Executive Director of the Atlantic Center for Capital Representation, a nonprofit that provides services for those facing possible execution. Rob Hoff, of Wiggin & Dana, whose firm sponsored a CLE credit, was the moderator.

The presentation focused on the death penalty and the case of Andre Thomas, from Texas, who committed murder and was sentenced to the death penalty. Thomas was diagnosed with schizophrenia after his arrest, and his case has raised ethical questions about



(l-r) Adam Furmansky, Adam Rattner, and Jason Lewis.

executing the mentally ill. The trial verdict was upheld by a state criminal appeals court in 2008 and by a federal appeals court in 2021.

For more information about UJF's Cardozo Law Society, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



(l-r) Julie Daniel and moderator Rob Hoff chat with speaker Marc Bookman.

Stamford Symphony
Michael Stern, Music Director
The Parrish Choir

Stamford Symphony presents

An Evening of Klezmer



Free, online event at
StamfordSymphony.org

Saturday,
December 11, 2021
7:30pm

Featuring Music Director Michael Stern, Branford Marsalis, Zalmen Mlotek, musicians of Stamford Symphony, and many more!

Musical Selections include: Anna Vinnitsky, Paul Schoenfield, Sergei Prokofiev

In Affiliation with:



What's New for Teens at Chabad of Stamford



Cteen Jr. Kick-Off Event. (l-r): Noa Farber, Sara Strom, Yoav Hochman, Tamar Links, Chaya Rivkin, Ella Dullitz, Rivka Shemtov and Elliot Nerenberg (front).

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's newly relaunched teen programming got off to a strong start this year with events for youth in grades 7 through 12, offering something for everyone.

The Cteen programs for high school students and Cteen Jr, for 8th graders, both aim to harness the potential of teenagers with events that bring teens together to give back to their communities. Cteen events typically include community service activities, trips and Shabbatons on a local and national scale and are a great opportunity to have fun with friends and have a Jewish educational experience.

On January 13, 2022 teens will come together for a challah bake, and in February Chabad is excited to announce that the Cteen international Shabbaton is back. Chabad of Stamford will be taking a group of 9-12th grade Cteeners to New York City for an incredible weekend taking place Thursday evening, February 24 to Sunday, February 27, 2022. Please contact youth@stamfordchabad.org to

secure an early bird discount.

For Bat Mitzvah aged girls, Chabad offers the Bat Mitzvah Club which meets at monthly intervals during the school year and is designed to teach girls about relevant issues facing young Jewish women today in a fun, informative and interactive way. The girls have an opportunity to meet other Jewish girls the same age and through activities, community outreach and thought-provoking discussions, they can learn, discuss and debate, all while having loads of fun.

Now in its 20th year, Chabad is running their annual Bat Mitzvah Club Shabbaton on the weekend of January 7-8, 2022. The Shabbaton includes laughter, great food, and meaningful discussions. After Shabbat ends, the girls will go out together for a fun activity.

Chabad of Stamford also offers Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation lessons on a one-on-one basis. For more information and to sign up for any of the Chabad teen programs please email youth@stamfordchabad.org.

Friendship Circle Veterans Day Camp

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) On Thursday November 11, Friendship Circle teamed up with Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy high school students to run a Veterans Day Afternoon Camp. BCHA teen volunteers hosted Friendship Circle participants for an afternoon filled with different events.

Friendship Circle participants arrived at Bi-Cultural where they were met by their special friends. Critter Caravan brought the animal friends for everyone to learn about and play with. Local musician, Bobby Doowah, came to sing and dance with everyone. There was also circle time, where everyone gathered together to talk and sing Friendship Circle songs.

Chaya Hanoka, Friendship Circle Adult Program Coordinator, said "Both the volunteers and participants really enjoyed the afternoon. We are so grateful for our continued partnership with Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy. Thank you so much to the school for hosting us and sharing their volunteers."

To become involved with the Friendship Circle, please email the Director Malya Shmokin at malya@friendshipct.com.



Ally Benjamin & Chana Goldstein enjoy furry friends.



Danny Freeman & Jacob Becker have fun at Veteran's Day Camp.

UJF's BEN Gets Zen




Yoga guests Sandy Weiner, Barbara Miller, Linda Spilka (front), event chair Elise Lerner, and Cynthia Mindell enjoy yoga on the beach with certified yoga instructor Lou Haber.

(Courtesy of UJF) On Sunday, October 24th, United Jewish Federation's BEN group met at the Cove Island Park beach in Stamford for "Yoga on the Sand." BEN, or Boomer Engagement Network, is a UJF affinity group for those 50 and up who are Jewish and single. The goal of group programming is to allow members to network and socialize in a casual and fun environment, make new friends, and perhaps even meet that special someone.

The program was planned by event chair Elise Lerner, and was facilitated by Lou Haber, a certified yoga instructor and BEN member. The afternoon started with some mingling, followed by interactive Jewish learning with Mr. Haber. The yoga session included stretching, meditation, and traditional yoga moves.

If you would like to join UJF's BEN group, or if you have an idea for a future program, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



Order your Complimentary PJ Library Chanukah Bag (One per family)

Filled with holiday crafts, treats, chocolate gelt, activity sheets, and more.

To order go to: www.ujf.org/chanukahbag
For more info contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org

NextGen Re-Launches with Successful Event

(Courtesy of UJF) “We come from different backgrounds. We work in different industries. But we share common values,” said Melanie Vorm, director of UJF’s newly relaunched NextGen Leadership initiative at an event in mid-November. The launch event was held at the Third Street Half Full Brewery with a full house of over 80 in attendance.

“UJF’s NextGen is dedicated to building a better Jewish community in Stamford, New Canaan, Darien, Israel, and throughout the world. Whether you’re Jewish, ‘just Jewish’ or Jew-ish – we want you to find the meaning, relationships and resources that benefit every part of your life,” Vorm continued. “The mission of NextGen is to be a connector for all young Jews in their mid-20s, 30s and 40s, so no matter what background you come from or which affiliation, you will always have a place that you can call home. We aim to serve as a gateway to help empower you to develop your Jewish identity and build community through social events, fun and meaningful volunteer programs, educational activities, and philanthropy.”

To get involved in shaping the future and to learn more, contact Melanie Vorm at Melanie@ujf.org.



Heather and Coby Greif, Matt and Liat Greif.



The NextGen Launch Committee (l-r) Micky Reich, David Gilboa, Lorraine Hutzler, Robin Fischel, Melanie Vorm (NextGen Director), Stacy Miller, and Molly Schrag Rafalowicz.



Josh and Chani Rosenthal and Robin and Jason Fischel.



Josh and Miriam Sperber sample the twelve beers on tap.



Lexi Scheiber and Jonathan Gradman.



Tom Jackson and Jody Farber, Taly and Trevor Farber.



Rachel and Jake Rothman.



Full House at UJF’s NextGen Launch.

JFS Mitzvah Matches

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke JFS recently launched a new volunteer initiative called Mitzvah Matches. The program matches families with two to three clients for monthly food distribution. Volunteers get to shop the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry once a month and provide groceries to homebound clients, Holocaust survivors, and families in need. Volunteers deliver to the same clients every month in order to build and sustain relationships.



Volunteer families stand outside the Freedberg Family Food Pantry with bags full of groceries to be delivered to their Mitzvah Match clients.

And The Winners Are....

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation held an Awesome Autumn Raffle this fall which offered three great prizes. 100% of the funds raised went to support PJ Library programming. Close to \$1000 was raised!



David Lewis of Stamford, 3rd prize winner.

- 1st prize, Shabbat dinner for four from 613 Restaurant: Becky Kevelson
 - 2nd prize, \$100 gift certificate from Grow and Behold: Allison and Jonathan Ostroff
 - 3rd prize, spirit basket: David Lewis
- A special thank you to 613, Grow and Behold, and Royal Wines. For more information about UJF’s PJ Library or to support this initiative, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

Congratulations to our raffle winners:

Join Federation for a Communal Chanukah Celebration and an Evening of Learning

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th at 7:15pm



Join Cantor Katie Gartner Kaplan and Cantor Micah Morgovsky for a Community Candle Lighting and Songs.

Followed by:

Guest Speaker, Rabbanit Leah Sarna.

Rabbanit Sarna is the Associate Director of Education and Director of High School Programs at Drisha.

“But What if I Love the Greeks?” - Jewish Approaches to Greek Wisdom and Literature

Register for Zoom link at www.UJF.org/chanukah21

Rabbanit Leah Sarna is the Associate Director of Education and Director of High School Programs at Drisha. She previously served as Director of Religious Engagement at Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation in Chicago, a leading urban Orthodox congregation. She was ordained at Yeshivat Maharat in 2018, holds a BA from Yale University in Philosophy & Psychology, and also trained at the SKA Beit Midrash for Women at Migdal Oz, Drisha and the Center for Modern Torah Leadership. Her published works have appeared in The Atlantic, The Washington Post, Lehrhaus, The Forward and MyJewishLearning. She has lectured in Orthodox synagogues and Jewish communal settings around the world and loves spreading her warm, energetic love for Torah and Mitzvot with Jews in all stages of life.

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 our communal efforts, the following individuals have made a commitment to one or more Jewish communal institutions to secure our future.

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

Anonymous (24)	Cyndy and Eric Goldberg
Adrienne and Michael Alexander	Alicia and Jason Goldstein
Jeri Appel	Caryl Goldstein*
Mark Appel	Meryl and David Gordon
Ricky Snow Arbron	Nan and Paul Gordon
Suellyn Bache	Linda B. Gornitsky
Monica Becker and Edieal Pinker	Sharon and Larry Greenberg
Rachel Tyd and Robert Beldock	Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg
Gayle and Mitchell Bell	Grecia and Ron* Gross
Debra and Michael Berg	Scott Handelman
Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz and Parry Berkowitz	Jacqueline Herman
Berkun Family	Dr. Shara and Rabbi David Israel
Darona and Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein	Sari and Alan Jaffe
Melody and Claude Bernstein	Meryl and Ron Japha
Bruce Blasnik	Sadae and Michael Kadish
Judith B. Block	Judith and Grant Kallen
Amy and Henry Bubel	Helene and Harvey Kaminski
Roberta and Alan Cohen	Chanie Kamman
Andrea and David M. Cohen	Dr. Jan Kaplowitz
Diane and Rabbi Daniel Cohen	Jason Kaplowitz
Malerie Yolen-Cohen and Jeff Cohen	Roni Kaplowitz
Judy and David S.* Cohen	Lisa and Arnold Karp
Mimi Cohen	Jessica and Ilan Katz
Rachel and Ephraim Cohen	Joy Katz
Saul Cohen*	Judith and Sheldon Katz
Tracy and Nahum Daniels	Larry Katz
Janice Steinberg and Stephen Davidson	Betsy and Peter Kempner
Elayne Dener	Liz and Marc Kitay
Helen and Marty Donner	Elissa and Philip Klapper
Fran and Bob Dorf	Harris Kligman
Shoshana Dweck	Susan Kostin
Debra and Dan Faizakoff	Arthur Kramer*
Michelle Fanwick	Norma Kraut
Esta and Jay Feinsod	Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher
Sharon and Michael Feldstein	Elizabeth and Scott Krowitz
Peggy and Jerry Fensterstock	Svetlana Kunin
Linda Hurwitz and Richard Fine	Jackie and Marshall Kurland
Robin and Jason Fischel	Lorraine and David Kweskin
Stephanie and Howard Fogel	Helen and Ed Kweskin
Lenore and Dr. Ilan Fogel	Lieba and Steve Lander
Miriam Lavinsky and Morton Folb*	Shelley Leibowitz
Sharon Franklin	Lois D. Stark and Gary P.Lessen
Connie and Alan Freeman	Elizabeth Libner
Susan Frieden	R. and J. Licht
Rachel and Keith Friedman	Ronnie and Gary Lilien
Marc Friedman	Vered and Mark Links
Donna and Edward Fuhrman	Lisa and Seth Linzer
Nancy and Mark Funt	Eleanor and Mort Lowenthal
Lesley and Dennis Gehr	Stu Madison
Carole Gladstone	Lisa and Jeff Manheim
Herbert Gladstone*	Norma and Milton Mann*
Sylvia and Herb Gladstone*	Susan and Len Mark
Leslie Glenn	Chris Maroc
Robin Frederick and Michael Gold	Melanie Massell

Michal and Rabbi Levi Mendelow	Jayne and Bud Schiff	The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin*
Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun	Carol Ruth and Herman Shepherd*	The Estate of Ronald Gross*
Marguerite and Kenneth Neuhaus	Nancy Schiffman	Pamela and Richard Vogel
Rose and Bruce Newman	Monica Smyth and Michael	Annie and Jeremy Watman
Marsha and Louis Panzer	Schlessinger	David Wayne
Leah and Doni Perl	Elayne and James Schoke*	Ellen and Richard Weber
Dr. Robin Evans and Dr. Jeffrey	Chaya and Levi Segal	Linda B. Gornitsky and Harvey
Perry	Myrna and George Sessa	Weber
Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser	Jessica and Laurence Sheinman	Dana and Carl Weinberg
Enid Randall*	Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov	Leon Weisburgh
Bonita and Stephen Rappoport	Stephanie and Bob Sherman	Janet Welkovich
Judith Raymond	Malya Shmotkin	Robyn and Mark Winarksy
Lisa and Harry Rich	Ronnie Ness and Dr. Steven Sichel	Neda Khaghan and Robert
Judy and Adam Rin	Miriam Landsberg-Silverman and	Yaghoubian
Betty and Dan* Roberts	Eliezer Silverman	Rita and Abe Yellen
Sonia and Brian Roitman	Paula Simon	Sheryl and Dan Young
Arlene and Carl Rosen	Diane Sloyer	Lauren and Joe Zalis
Arlene Rosen	Diane and Elliot Sloyer	Joan Zinbarg*
Irma Ross	Ed Smith	Renee Zinn
Sandra Ross	Greta Solomon	
Sally and Jim Rothkopf	Miriam and Steve Sosnick	<i>*Of Blessed Memory</i>
Ruth Rothseid	Sandy and Moshe Speter	<i>This is the list provided to UJF at</i>
Linda and Leonard Russ	Ed Spilka	<i>time of publishing. We apologize</i>
Bonnie Russo	Eileen and Fred Springer	<i>for any names that have been</i>
Edith Samers	Beverly and David Stein	<i>omitted. Please let us know and the</i>
Renee Samson	Betsy and Michael Stone	<i>missing names will be added to the</i>
Sharyn and Richard Sarner	Gladys and Greg Teitel	<i>next issue of the paper.</i>
Leah Schechter	Dr. Julie and Rabbi Jay TelRav	
Hilde Scheraga*	The Estate of Sheila Carmine*	

UJF's PJ Library & Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Invite You To A:



COFFEE TRUCK & COOKIE POP-UP

Outdoors & In-Person - 12/19, 10:30-11:30am

2186 High Ridge Road - Free Program

Sign up at: www.ujf.org/pjpopup

For more information contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or
Miriam Sperber at msperber@bcha-ct.org

PJ Library & **PJ OUR WAY**
A Program of United Jewish Federation

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy
of Connecticut

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 Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish community we love. For more information, visit ujf.org or call Lenore Fogel at (102) 321-1373, extension 115 or Lenore@ujf.org.

RICHARD FINE AND LINDA HURWITZ TESTIMONIAL

“Why do you give to LIFE & LEGACY of Stamford?”

It wasn't a difficult decision. We believe *Tzedakah* is our religious and ethical obligation. Our family has benefitted from the Stamford Jewish Community for 31 years. Temple Sinai is our family's synagogue. Sara Walker Nursery School was our formative preschool.

As members of the JCC, we enjoy valuable programs and services for the whole family. Schoke Jewish Family Service is there should we need it. United Jewish Federation provides support for multiple



Richard Fine and Linda Hurwitz

Jewish agencies in the community as well as its own programs serving all generations. So why did we decide to add LIFE & LEGACY to our will? It's simple. Pay it forward. Programs and services continue to evolve and strengthen our community. By giving to LIFE & LEGACY we hope to help assure that the Jewish Community thrives for our children, their children and future generations when we are gone.

STEPHEN DAVIDSON AND JANICE CHAIKELSON TESTIMONIAL

Our inspiration for wanting to give back to our community is simple. Our parents have been presidents of synagogues, sisterhoods, community associations and volunteer organizations throughout their lives. We both are fortunate to have learned early and consistently from them the importance of community service and have tried our best to live up to the examples they have set for us and



Stephen Davidson and Janice Chaikelson

our own children. Building on that foundation, it felt like a natural progression to participate in a program like LIFE & LEGACY. With LIFE & LEGACY we are able to give back to the shul that inspires us and has helped us to mold our family and to ensure that the next generation has opportunities consistent with those with which we've been blessed.

LIFE & LEGACY, Year Two, Off to a Great Start

(Courtesy of UJF) The Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish community has just completed the first quarter of the second year of United Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY® program. Eleven community organizations succeeded in meeting the requirements to continue in the second year of the initiative. Each organization received an incentive grant, between \$5000-\$7500, for completing their legacy funding goals that can be used for current spending. Recognizing that committing to this program takes time, a key element is incentivizing organizations to put in the effort.

The first quarter of year two showed continued progress in making legacy giving the norm in the Jewish Community, as the number of Letters of Intent continued to grow. In total, community partners have 289 signed Letters of Intent, with over 9 million dollars anticipated in current and future endowment funds.

“This program is a gift to the Jewish community, and I am so pleased to see organizations bringing on new team members and stepping up to meet this urgent challenge. The LIFE & LEGACY program will give us the tools to build a strong Jewish community for the future, something that will be ingrained in our culture long after our four years in the program,” shared Diane Sloyer, UJF's CEO.

Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation continue to provide support to the legacy teams with workshops and webinars as well as individual assistance. Teams are provided various marketing and informational materials by both Federation and The Grinspoon Foundation, as well as a wealth of resources on the LIFE & LEGACY website.

To become involved in LIFE & LEGACY and learn how to leave your mark on the future of the Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien Community, please contact Lenore Fogel at (203) 321-1373, ext. 115 or email lenore@ujf.org.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Potential ALS Drug Gets Boost Toward Preclinical Trials

Neuromagen Pharma secures funding to test a new class of small molecules to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and other neurodegenerative diseases.

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN/ISRAEL21C

A new class of small molecules for treating amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, and other neurodegenerative diseases, is being developed at Neuromagen Pharma of Beersheva with several million dollars in seed money raised from local private investors.

“Currently there are no drugs available to treat ALS, so our drug candidate presents a new treatment paradigm and could be both first and best-in-class,” said

Dr. Gil Ben-Menachem, founder and chief executive officer of Neuromagen.

The preclinical-stage company – whose name means “neuro shield” in Hebrew – was incubated at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) Oasis accelerator and venture builder.

It grew out of research conducted by BGU Prof. Esther Priel and her team at the university's Laboratory for Nucleic Acids Topology. She is the company's co founder and chief scientific officer.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Journeys of Inspiration, Education & Jewish Connections

IT'S TIME TO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

Join United Jewish Federation's Community Trip
February 20th - 27th, 2022



Email Dianesloyer@ujf.org
for more information



United Jewish Federation

PJ Library Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CAMPAIGN & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

UJF's PJ Library and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy invite you to a Coffee Truck and Cookie Pop Up Event on Sunday, December 19th, from 10:30 am to 11:30 pm in-person at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. Bundle up and enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, and a mitzvah project (cups of love for local firefighters). Sign up for this free program at www.ujf.org/PJpopup. For more info contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or Miriam Sperber at msperber@bcha-ct.org.

Take part in UJF's PJ Library & PJ Our Way toy drive for David's Treasure Chest toy closet. Donate new unwrapped toys for boys and girls who are at the Stamford Hospital during the holiday season. Drop off toys at Gan Yeladim Preschool, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, or at the Federation office (1035 Newfield Ave, Suite 200). For more info contact Sharon@ujf.org.

Did you know that every child in your family can get a subscription for a free monthly Jewish children's book? Each child, ages birth to eight years old, can receive an age-appropriate PJ Library book each month! It's easy to sign up - go to www.pjlibrary.org or contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

Have a child turning nine? Sign up for the next phase of PJ Library- PJ OUR WAY. Be on the lookout in your email inboxes for a message from PJ Our Way inviting you to sign up your almost 9-year-old child for a free chapter book each month, making signing up for the next chapter of PJ so much easier! Or sign up for books at www.pjourway.org.



Sharon Franklin

Join a PJ Parent Ambassador neighborhood group for fun outings and social gatherings for kids and adults. Meet new friends in a friendly and relaxed environment throughout Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. Contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org to connect.

Make a recycled Chanukah gift box with your kids and enjoy a fun craft while teaching them to recycle while taking care of their environment.

You'll Need:

- Acrylic craft paint
- Cereal and other food boxes
- Stencils or "Magic eraser sponge" or any dense sponge that can be easily cut with a knife (with parent's help!).

How To:

- Cut the box open as pictured and lay flat.
- Stamp with store bought stencils or create shapes by cutting a dreidel shape (minus the top peg) or a Star of David shape from magic foam erasers, great for cleaning and great for crafting, as it cuts so very easily!



Finished product: recycled chanukah gift boxes.

- Dip the sponge in paint and stamp away. Add details with a paint brush.
- Put the box back together with clear tape
- Add a homemade or store-bought bow to top it off



Dismantled box laid flat to decorate.

PJ Library Feature Family: The Lysenko Family

Slava and Sasha Lysenko live in Stamford with their three very active boys, David (six), Maxim (five) and Victor (two). Besides being busy with school, the two oldest boys participate in a swim team and recently fell in love with tennis.

Both Slava and Sasha are originally from Russia. Slava moved to Stamford 20 years ago, and Sasha joined him eight years later. Before having children, they traveled the world while Slava worked in finance and Sasha continued her career as a CPA. At that time, they were not connected to the Jewish community at all.

Now the whole family is getting closer to their Jewish roots through the life of their children .

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

Our kids love the *Rabbi Benjamin's Buttons* book and *Hanukkah Bear* (we have it in the Russian language). They enjoy the story of Button's vest and learn about four important Jewish holidays. When reading *Hanukkah Bear*, we learn all about the customs of Hanukkah and the traditional holiday food, latkes.

What is your favorite PJ Library program?

Our kids love the PJ Library book program. Each of our kids receive a new book every month. They love getting mail of their own and after opening their package, they flip through their book on their own first, and only then read it together. Sometimes they happily tell us they know the story already from school



The Lysenko Family

and explain to us what is happening in their new PJ Library book.

Why is PJ Library important in your home?

It is amazing to have Jewish-themed stories to read together, even for us as parents, to learn more about Judaism along with our kids since we don't have much knowledge to pass on in that area.

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

Our bedtime is approximately 8:00 pm. By that time, our kids should be done with their baths, and then each child chooses one book, or picks a story from a chapter book to read. Sometimes books are in Russian and sometimes they are in English. Reading time could be up to 30 minutes by the time we are done with three or more books, but allows for enough time to settle down for the nighttime.

Did You Know? PJ Library books come in seven languages, including Russian. UJF's PJ Library held a fall in-person Russian family puppet show, which Sasha chaired.

PJ Parents Go Walking



PJ Library's Baby To Two group held a stroller walk at the Cove Island Park. The mom's enjoyed a cup of coffee provided by UJF's PJ Library Parent Ambassador Lielle Sugar.

PJ Library Around Town



Sharon Franklin, Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement at United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, set up shop this

past fall outside of Chabad's Gan Yeladim Nursery School to talk to parents about PJ Library, and the opportunity to receive a free monthly Jewish book.

WHY I CARE...

Focus on: Stella Cohen

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller

Stella and Isaac Cohen have lived in Stamford for 15 years. Their daughters Shira and Jenna are graduates of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy and are now in high school and college. Stella grew up in Westchester County, and Isaac grew up all around the world - in Israel, Montreal, Korea, and Japan. Both Stella and her husband are very active in their Jewish community.

Here's Why She Cares:

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

My husband and I have been involved with United Jewish Federation for 15 years as volunteers and donors. I was on the initial planning committee for the Young Leadership Group (now called NextGen) and co-chaired the first launch event. I have also co-chaired Super Sunday three times and continue to volunteer each year to make donor calls. I was a Behrend Leadership fellow, a leadership training program facilitated by UJF. I even had the opportunity to work with UJF as the first coordinator for PJ Library.

It is our involvement in the Jewish community that ensures the continuity of the entire Jewish community. What I do, and what other Jews do, directly impacts our Jewish friends here in Stamford, and around the world. One reason I have focused on United Jewish Federation is because it is the one place that has an impact on our entire community, as well as Israel and Jews in-need all over the world - a far reaching impact.

Have you been involved with other Jewish organizations/non-Jewish organizations?

Both Isaac and I have been involved with other Jewish organizations throughout Stamford. I was an active



Stella and Isaac Cohen

participant in Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's parent association and served as co-president for two years. I have co-chaired multiple annual dinners for both Agudath Sholom and BCHA. Isaac and I have been active volunteers for the JCC as well. Isaac has served on the JCC film festival committee, and we hosted an Israeli soldier for JCC's Tzahal Shalom Program which led to me chairing the program for two years. Other places I have been an active volunteer or supporter are Chabad of Stamford, Agudath Sholom, Brandeis University, and FIDF. And we have been active supporters of various cancer non-profits, as well.

Why is it important to give back in this way?

We are very proud to be members of the vibrant Stamford Jewish community. We feel that it is important to give back, and model this for our daughters so they learn the impact of being active members as well. We both came from homes with families that cared about Judaism and its survival. We feel the organizations in which we are involved helps to create a strong community at home and worldwide with a goal of wanting all Jews to have the necessary resources they need. We also believe strongly that it is important to care for Klal Israel.

Potential ALS Drug Gets Boost Toward Preclinical Trials

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Priel and her team have published papers describing how the family of novel small molecules they developed activates the transcription of a major surviving enzyme, telomerase reverse transcriptase, which protects and rehabilitates neuronal cells.

When tested in ALS animal models, these drug candidates demonstrated delayed onset as well as delayed progression of the disease, and increased survival of the neurons by 60 percent.

Neuromagen Pharma's drug is not

expected to be a cure; the goal is to delay the onset and progression of neurodegenerative diseases, thereby improving the quality and length of life for individuals with such diseases.

Ben-Menachem said the funding "will enable us to jumpstart the company and initiate the preclinical work towards developing our promising drug candidates." This work is a step that is necessary before proceeding to human clinical trials for regulatory approval.

In December, the company will present its findings at the virtual 32nd International Symposium on ALS/MND.

TEEN VOICES

My Trip to Israel

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG

After school ended in 2020, I was unsurprised to hear that my scheduled trip to Israel, through TAC Israel (a NJY Camps program in coordination with the Koby Mandell Foundation), was postponed to the summer of 2021. As the 2020-2021 school year came to a close, the postponed trip was also uncertain.



Daniel Goldberg

Everyone on the trip would be fully vaccinated but Israel's policies were constantly changing. Fortunately, the trip was allowed as a group tour with PCR tests, proof of vaccination, and an antibody test.

In early July, I was on my way to Israel with 28 Jewish teenagers from my summer camp, several of whom were from my bunk. After over a year of not having larger group experiences, it was great to be in the presence of old and new friends. After arriving in Tel Aviv, we took a PCR test, got an antibody test, and went to Jerusalem to acquaint ourselves with the tour guide and counselors. While this trip was my third time being in Israel, it was astonishing to see Israel's landscape unfold as we traveled the length of Israel in the oncoming weeks.

Visiting the Kotel was an enchanting experience, and the welcoming environment of the Old City was evident; as we were walking back to our hostel, we were invited to the rooftop of a Jerusalem resident. This brief excursion from our itinerary showed how Jerusalem is a permanent residence, no matter the hardships it has faced over thousands of years. Visiting historic landmarks and cultural museums formed the core

structure of our trip, offering a comprehensive understanding of Israeli culture, Jewish history, and Israel's future. I enjoy learning new things and enhancing my understanding of the world, and the educational aspect of the trip was no exception. What I enjoyed most, however, was the time we spent in nature. Throughout

the trip, we took many hikes through deserts, waterfalls, forests, and mountains (of which Masada was the most fascinating). Every excursion offered a new glimpse into the beauty of the world, and how focusing on each step of the way improves the overall experience. The most stunning view from the trip was during the end of an early morning hike. Just as we reached the crest of Mount Tzfachot, the sun rose over the Gulf of Aqaba revealing a stunning view of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and, of course, Israel.

Reflecting on the trip, I realize that the experience was not simply an expansion of my Jewish identity, but a development of my personal character. After flying home and readjusting to my typical routine, I recognized the importance of taking a break from the daily commotion and absorbing the fresh air waiting in the sunlight. Simply taking a step outside and embracing the allure of the animals, wind, sunlight, and plants goes a long way in rejuvenating the spark within everyone.

Daniel Goldberg is a junior at AITE who enjoys running as a sport and hobby (Cross Country and Track for Westhill HS), learning new things, and solving puzzles, like the Rubik's cube.

PJ Library Families Help Refugee Families

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's PJ Library held a hat, glove, and sock drive for refugees who were relocated to Stamford recently. Volunteers Robert and Jean Meyer are helping to settle new families into their new homes, making sure they have everything they need, including warm items for the coming winter. Robert Meyer accepted a box of new hats, gloves, and socks donated by local PJ Library families, which will be distributed to area refugee families.



Robert Meyer prepares items to deliver to refugees.

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The New Jewish Voice
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United Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Relations Council,
Interfaith Council of Southwest Connecticut, Mayor's Multicultural Council
and the Ferguson Library invite you to:

Building Bridges *with Books*

A Community Read Event

We will read: **The Midnight Library by Matt Haig**
There will be multiple reading groups to discuss the book in early January

Culminating Program:

January 11 • 7:30pm

In person and live-streamed

Limited number of books available for borrowing
at the FergusonLibrary

www.ujf.org/books

For more information contact:

Sharon Lewis, Director JCRC
slewis@ujf.org

Committee:

Lorraine Kweskin, Chair

Shobhna Bhatnagar	Charlesanna Ecker
Debby Goldberg	Michael Hernandez
Michael Hyman	Shahzad Khawaja
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