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United Jewish Federation

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Israel's Watergen Makes Water From Air for Syrian Refugees

The first unit, installed last month, provides fresh drinking water to 500 internally displaced people per day. A second unit will soon be installed.

BY SARAH LEVI/ISRAEL21C

Israeli company Watergen has provided one of its water-from-air generators to a medical facility in the Syrian city of Raqqa in a collaborative partnership with the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees (MFA), a humanitarian organization comprised of faith-based and secular supporters aimed at supplying aid to Syrian refugees.

The ongoing civil war in Syria has left some four million Syrians internally displaced in the country's northern region where they lack access to clean drinking water, electricity, healthcare and education.

According to UN Security Council report, "people in Syria's north and northeastern regions remain unable to reliably access sufficient supplies of safe water for reasons both environmental and man-made."

Raqqa, a former ISIS stronghold, has suffered severe infrastructure damage from



Each Watergen unit will provide enough drinking water for 400 people per day. (PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLD PR)

Syria's civil war, along with severe weather conditions that have left the city in need of a sufficient supply of clean drinking water.

Watergen, based in Petah Tikva, manufactures atmospheric water generators that produce clean, fresh drinking water from

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Securing Our Community

**BY MICHAEL SHANBROM,
REGIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR,
UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION**

For a little over seven months, I have had the pleasure of serving as the region's first Jewish community Regional Security Advisor for South & Western Connecticut.

Prior to this, I worked 24 years in law enforcement and intelligence, with over 20 years of that with the FBI. The current threats to Jewish communities in the US from both domestic and foreign actors are very real and are only increasing. Local Jewish communities in Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien are not immune. I am grateful to United Jewish Federation for investing in the security of the Jewish community.

Across the United States and the region, we have witnessed alarming increases in both mass attacks and crimes directed against our Jewish communities. It is imperative that we work together

to heighten our situational awareness, harden our Jewish community facilities, and to prepare for and train to survive an attack.

In the Regional Security Advisor role, I administer a security program that provides consultations, organizational threat assessments, training/drills, and incident management to our Jewish community organizations, including schools, daycare centers, synagogues, and camps. I serve as a conduit between area Jewish community organizations, law enforcement and Secure Community Network's (SCN) 24-hour Jewish Security Operations Center that tracks threats across the United States.

To mitigate some of the risk that we face, I have been working closely with area synagogues including Congregation Agudath Sholom, Young Israel of Stamford, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, Chabad of Stamford, and

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Celebrating LIFE & LEGACY

LIFE & LEGACY®, a program of United Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, has enabled the greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community to secure over 12 million dollars in endowment funds to safeguard the future of our Jewish Community. The eleven participating organizations came together to celebrate their success in early June, marking the completion of two years in the program. (See centerfold for article and more photos.)



(l-r) Peter Poser & Caryl Ferber Poser, Event Co-Chairs, Elissa & Phillip Klapper Event Co-Chairs, Lenore Fogel, Coordinator LIFE & LEGACY, Arlene Schiff, National Director LIFE & LEGACY, and Diane Sloyer, CEO, United Jewish Federation.

From UJF's Chief Executive Officer Empowered To Do Better

BY DIANE SLOYER

On July 12, I will celebrate my 5th anniversary as the CEO of United Jewish Federation. They say, "Time flies when you are having fun," and while there have been challenges and not all fun, it has been a wonderful and rewarding five years.



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

As you probably know

by now, Federation was asked to move from Newfield Avenue to make room for the growing and expanding needs of the JCC membership. This growth is consistent to what we see all around Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien. While brought on by COVID, I would like to believe that all those new to our community are pleased they chose our community as their new home.

The traditional gift one receives to commemorate a fifth anniversary is wood. At UJF, we are no different. So, I would like to thank David Eben for donating beautiful new wood desks to Federation. And a special thank you to Harry Rich and Sons Moving, for picking the new desks up and delivering them to our new home at 2009 Summer Street in Stamford.

One might ask, "What has kept me motivated these past 5 years?" As Jane Goodall, the anthropologist once said, "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." The differences and impacts our Federation has made in the past few years have been exhilarating. I thank you, our committed donors, staff, and wonderful lay leaders for your commitment

in making this happen.

And these impacts we've made on our community have been numerous:

- Increasing our PJ Library subscriptions from over 300 to over 500 kids. Knowing that Federation is a conduit for Jewish literacy is awesome!
- Bringing LIFE & LEGACY to our community and securing close to 12 million dollars in after-life gifts for our community brings me hope for the future.
- Raising more dollars and providing grants for growth and innovation throughout our community is beyond exciting.
- Providing Jewish summer camp incentives to kids through One Happy Camper provides an immersive Jewish experience.
- Raising over \$375,000 for Ukrainian relief shows we can rally in times of crisis.
- Bringing a *shaliach* (Israeli emissary) to our community this fall shows Federation's commitment to Israel. And the list goes on...

Moving is never easy, and as we continue to unpack our 150 boxes and miss the JCC, which was our home since the building was erected, I am empowered by the many accomplishments of Federation and the tremendous impact it continues to have on our greater community.

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better," said Maya Angelou.

We, at Federation, will always strive to do better!

Israel's Watergen Makes Water from Air for Syrian Refugees

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the moisture in the air without having to connect to a water source. The generators use a standard connection to electricity or solar panels and can produce up to 6,000 liters of drinking water per day.

The generator in Syria is powered by solar energy and was the first of several installed in Raqqa's medical facility.

According to MFA Executive Director Shafi Martini, "The first unit, installed last month, has been providing fresh drinking water to 500 internally displaced people

per day. A second Watergen generator will soon be installed in another area medical facility, and MFA plans to set up additional units in hospitals and schools throughout northern Syria."

While Israel does not have diplomatic ties with Syria, Watergen President and CEO Michael Mirilashvili said, "Throughout history, conflicts have often been centered around controlling water sources. Today we are doing the opposite: building peace and a common future around a groundbreaking Israeli technology."

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

July 8	8:11 pm
July 15	8:07 pm
July 22	8:02 pm
July 29	7:56 pm
August 5	7:48 pm
August 12	7:39 pm
August 19	7:29 pm
August 26	7:18 pm

UJF President's Message Reflections About Service To Our Community

BY DAVID GORDON

Approximately three years ago, Diane Sloyer, CEO of our Federation called me at my office to ask whether she could meet with me. As a long-time supporter of Federation, I was happy to meet with Diane. I knew she was doing a terrific job, and I expected that she would



David Gordon, UJF President

be asking me for my 2019 pledge. After a pleasant forty-five minutes of bringing me up to date with Federation's directions and plans, I asked Diane why she had asked for the meeting. To my extreme surprise, she said that she was there to ask me to be President of the Federation, and that I should please hear her out and not immediately say "no". When I finished picking myself up off the floor, I gave her a good half-dozen reasons why I should not be the President, but I did honor her request to not immediately say "no". Two months later, after numerous conversations with past-Presidents of UJF, community lay, professional, and religious leaders, conversations with my family, support of my wife, and some soul-searching, I finally said "yes".

Now, two and a half years into my presidency, I can say that I am very happy that I agreed. It has not been an easy presidency, especially with the challenges of special campaigns for COVID relief

and Ukraine; but it has been extremely rewarding. I have had the opportunity to see the tremendous good that Federation can do and is doing in our community, as well as in Israel and the world.

I have also had the opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful community leaders that I otherwise would not have

known. And while my work is not yet done (as six months of service still remain), I can reflect on how far UJF has come in the last few years and feel that I have had some positive impact in benefitting our Jewish community. I can also say that I do not believe that I have lost any friends in the process. Rather, I have been able to make new friends and acquaintances who will stay with me for years to come. In addition, it has not been a thankless job. I have received much appreciation from numerous people.

So, why am I sharing these reflections with you? Because I want you all to know that serving our community by taking a leadership role on the UJF Board or Executive Committee is something that is most definitely worth doing. Yes, it is hard work. But the work is far outweighed by the rewards. Please don't wait to be asked. Call me or Diane and let us know how you want to get involved. You will be happy that you did.

Shalom Welcome!

Rebecca Weiser Greenberg and Seth Greenberg recently moved to Stamford from Miami, and received a Shalom Welcome visit from Sharon Franklin, UJF's Managing Director for Campaign and Community Engagement.



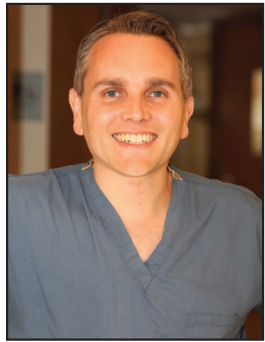
Shalom, Baby!

Heather LaFantano Greif (pictured) and Coby Greif recently received a Shalom Baby welcome visit from United Jewish Federation in honor of their new baby girl.



Living Well with Chapter Two

(Courtesy of UJF) As the summer unfolds, United Jewish Federation's Chapter Two will hold a wellness program, featuring a presentation on



Dr. Joe Feuerstein



Jackie Tepper

nutrition by Dr. Joseph Feuerstein and a gentle meditative yoga experience with Jackie Tepper. The program will be held on Tuesday, July 12 at 2:00 pm at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road in Stamford.

"Chapter Two was started about six years ago by Sue Frieden and Sari Jaffe as a way for empty nesters to gather around shared interests. I am excited that Federation has revived this important affinity group bringing together former participants and many new faces. Committee members take an active role in planning events and creating experiences that fit their interests," shared Sharon Franklin, UJF's Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement.

Dr. Feuerstein is an integrative medicine specialist, an assistant professor of clinical medicine at Columbia University, an author, and a speaker. He will discuss his new book,

The Cannabinoid Cookbook, which provides healthy recipes using healing herbs and spices that can kick-start the endocannabinoid system and help people feel better each day.

Jackie Tepper is a certified yoga instructor who has developed Neshama Yoga™, a unique fusion of yoga and Jewish learning and spirituality. Her gentle yoga session will include stretching, breathing, and meditation, and will be done in chairs. As an option, guests can bring a mat to do floor yoga.

Chapter Two committee member Allison Greenbaum, who took part in programming in the past, attended the spring re-launch event. "I really enjoy attending Chapter Two programs and have found the speakers and activities interesting. At the spring Passover cooking demo with Ronnie Fein, I learned helpful recipes I used for my seder. It's also been a nice opportunity to meet new women, something I have found harder to do since becoming an empty nester. As a committee member I look forward to helping plan future programs."

Sign up for this program at www.ujf.org/wellness. Chapter Two is a UJF affinity group for women in the empty nest stage of life, and is focused on learning, shared experiences, social action projects, and philanthropy. For more information contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

Adult Learning at Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Judaism encourages continuous learning, and Chabad of Stamford offers many opportunities for men and women to learn on a weekly basis. Whether a participant is well-versed in Jewish studies or is just getting started, Chabad has a class that will help them stay connected to Judaism. All ages and all levels of observances are welcome.

Classes for women range from the weekly women's Torah and Tea class with Leah Shemtov to women's Tanya, which delves into Hasidic mysticism. Torah And Tea classes bring women together to learn lessons from the Torah as well as lessons for life. This year, the class has also focused on Michal Oshman's book *What Would You Do If You Weren't Afraid*.

For men, Rabbi Moshe Shemtov

hosts a weekly Tefillin Club on Sunday mornings at 8:00 am. At Tefillin Club, men can start the week on a high note by wrapping tefillin, saying the Shema, and sharing some words of Torah and inspiration while bonding over a bagel and lox breakfast. Men's Tanya classes are also held on Sundays before and after the Tefillin Club.

Regular *Farbrengens* (gatherings) are hosted for both men and women throughout the year.

Most of Chabad's classes are in person, but Zoom options are often available to allow those who are homebound to join. One to one learning is also available by special arrangement. For more information about any of their adult learning opportunities, please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org or visit www.stamfordchabad.org.

Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat at Congregation Agudath Sholom

(Courtesy of Agudath Sholom) Congregation Agudath Sholom is proud to host Yisroel Ben-Porat as its scholar-in-residence on Saturday, July 9. He will teach classes related to the celebration of American Independence Day.

Ben-Porat is a PhD Candidate in Early American History at City University of New York Graduate Center and is an editor at *The Lehrhaus*, a prestigious Jewish thought publication. He has also served as a senior thesis advisor at the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University.



Yisroel Ben-Porat

Ben-Porat will speak throughout the day. At 10:30 am, his topic will be *The Wayward Wife: Adultery in Jewish Thought*. At 7:15 pm, prior to late-afternoon *mincha* prayers, he will speak about *The Hebraic Origins of America*, and at 8:30 pm, during *seudah shlishit* (third shabbat meal) he will discuss *The Jewish View of History*.

All are welcome to attend the three lectures. No RSVP is required. Visit www.congregationagudathsholom.org for more information.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

September 2022 - Rosh Hashana Issue

Deadline: Monday, August 8, 2022

October 2022 - Sukkot / Shemini Atzeret Issue

Deadline: Friday, September 2, 2022

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Holiday Preparations Begin Ninety Days in Advance

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) When Passover seems far behind and Rosh Hashanah seems far away, it's time to share a behind the scenes look at two of the busiest times of the year for the Schoke Jewish Family Service Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry. During Passover 2022, the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry provided over 450 households with kosher for Passover food. This included thousands of pounds of grocery items, 450 dozen eggs, and over 500 prepared kosher for Passover individual meals. In order to make this possible, planning for the holiday began 90 days in advance.

Here's how it happens: First Schoke

JFS identifies clients that will need food assistance in order to celebrate the holiday and determines whether they will need ready-to-eat items because they are unable to cook. Then Schoke JFS identifies community partners and vendors who will help to collect, donate and provide holiday-specific food items. All this takes place in the first thirty days. Sixty days before sitting down to any holiday meals, the agency is busy stocking the pantry with items and taking inventory. These counts are important because it will inform the agency whether there is enough of each item for every client. Since Schoke JFS is committed to ensuring clients have what they need to celebrate, the agency uses donated funding specifically designated for food purchases to supplement all the donated items the pantry receives.



Schoke JFS High Holidays food package.

Clients visit the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry once per month, so all the holiday items need to be fully stocked at least 30 days before.

Think about what it takes to prepare your own household for Pesach and plan your meals, or think about this fall, when Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot holidays will fall immediately after shabbat.

When you multiply that preparation by 450 households, it is easy to understand that it takes a full 30 days to be sure that all the households that rely on Schoke JFS have everything they need for the holidays.

As you might have guessed, Schoke JFS is already preparing for Rosh Hashanah. In order to provide for all of the families who will rely on the pantry for holiday meals, Schoke JFS will need over 400 bottles of honey, 500 packages

of kosher chicken, 400 dozen eggs, 400 bottles of grape juice, hundreds of apples, and many other assorted holiday items by August 25.

From July 25 to August 25, Schoke JFS will be collecting food for Rosh Hashanah. Items can be dropped off any time between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm at 196 Greyrock Place, or to make special arrangements for a donation, email Lisa Rich at LRich@ctjfs.org.

Rosh Hashanah deliveries will be September 12 to September 22. If you would like to help deliver holiday packages to homebound clients, email Leah Schechter at LSchechter@ctjfs.org or visit the volunteer portal to sign up at <https://ctjfs.galaxydigital.com>.

As soon as the new year begins, Schoke JFS will begin the same 90-day cycle to be sure clients have what they need for Thanksgiving and Hanukkah. The agency is grateful for the support of the community in helping those in need celebrate the holidays.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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www.ujf.org for updates and donations

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Save the Date for the JCC's Annual Gala

(Courtesy of JCC) At its annual gala on Thursday, September 8 the Stamford Jewish Community Center (JCC) will honor Joy and Larry Katz. Joy, a JCC Past President, and Larry are being honored for their dedication to The JCC and the Jewish Community. The JCC Emerging Leader Award will be presented to Bennet Moskowitz. The JCC will also recognize the hard work of the Vision2022 Campaign Committee, as well as celebrate its successes.

The gala will feature cocktails, dinner, auctions and a commemorative journal. The event will be held at The Stamford JCC (time to be determined). Dietary laws will be observed.

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

BEN Gets Social this Summer

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Boomer Engagement Network (BEN) affinity group will hold a "Backyard Summer Social" on Thursday, July 21 from 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm at a private home in Stamford. Guests at this outdoor gathering will enjoy drinks, a variety of lawn games, light fare, music, and plenty of schmoozing.

Co-chairs of the event are Elise Lerner and Rob Lesser. "This will be a great event to meet those who share the same sense of

community and values. And it will be lots of fun on top of that," commented Lesser.

BEN is a Federation affinity group for Jewish singles ages 45-ish and up, providing fun social programs and activities, learning opportunities, and a chance to meet new friends.

Sign up for the BEN Backyard Summer Social at www.ujf.org/summer. For more information contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

Annual BBQ and Barachu

(Courtesy of TBE) Temple Beth El invites the community to join its 14th annual "BBQ and Barachu" to be held on Friday, August 19 at 5:30 pm, rain or shine. This popular free event starts with a barbeque dinner featuring hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers with all the trimmings. This is a perfect opportunity to meet and greet TBE's Board and membership, as this annual event always attracts over 250 people.

During the BBQ, held on the beautiful

grounds of TBE, there will be special activities for young children.

Following the BBQ, a spiritually uplifting, musical Kabbalat Shabbat service beginning at 7:30 pm will be held on the lawn adjacent to the sanctuary led by Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, Cantor Katie Kaplan and special musical guests.

Reservations are encouraged, but not required. To reserve, call the Temple office at 203-322-6901, ext. 301.

Torah and Twilight Zone

(Courtesy of Agudath Sholom) Congregation Agudath Sholom (CAS) is planning a four-week *Twilight Zone* series beginning on July 11. The evening series will include viewings of the 1959-1964 television show *The Twilight Zone*, followed

by discussion led by Rabbi Moshe Kurtz, CAS Assistant Rabbi, on the religious messages or overtones in the episodes. For more information, visit www.congregationagudathsholom.org.

Gan Yeladim of Stamford's Pre-Shavuot Farmer's Market

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Just before the holiday of Shavuot, the children at Gan Yeladim ran a farmer's market and invited the parents and the wider community to purchase their goods and produce for the holiday. The farmer's market was a culmination of a year-long study project in one of the classes that was widened to include input from the entire school. What began as a project for children to plant seedlings turned into something far bigger as the children grew their plants and then decided to sell them. With the help of donations from local stores, the children also sold fruits and vegetables at their stall as well as flowers for the holiday. For Mother's Day, the children created various organic salt scrubs using essential oils and other natural products. The remaining bottles were also included in the farmer's market as

well as drinks and baked goods.

The farmer's market included important elements of Judaic studies too. The children at Gan wanted to incorporate as many *tefillot* (prayers) as they could into this project. For example, they baked lavender muffins so the prayer of *mezonot* (blessing on grains) could be recited before eating them. Freshly made lemonade was prepared so that those drinking it could recite the prayer of *shehakol* (blessing on other foods), and the fruits and vegetables sold allowed those having them to recite the blessings of produce from the trees and from the earth.

The farmer's market was more than a one-off sale. It was a combination of many aspects of their learning both in secular and Judaic studies with all the funds raised going to *tzedakah* (charity).



Lindsay Goldberg and Cecile Minkoff buy flowers, baked goods, and produce from the Gan Yeladim Farmer's Market.

Securing Our Community

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Chabad of New Canaan and Darien, as well as community organizations such as the Jewish Community Center, Schoke Jewish Family Service (SJFS), local law enforcement in Stamford and Darien, the CT Intelligence Center, and the local FBI field office to ensure that we are collaborating and sharing information in order to reduce the risk of violence and terrorism.

I have provided guidance to community agencies on nonprofit security grants and have conducted threat vulnerability and risk Assessments at Agudath Sholom, BCHA, Temple Sinai, the JCC, Temple Beth El, and SJFS.

Active shooter trainings have been provided at Agudath Sholom, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, BCHA, Schoke Jewish Family Service, and the JCC in furtherance of approximately 50 trainings in total I will host across the region throughout the year.

This same training had been provided at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, contributing to the survival of those in the synagogue.

I have worked closely with Federation Executive Committee member and Security Committee Chair Caryn Halbrecht to form and convene a regional security working group comprised of security-minded community members who meet quarterly to discuss security-related topics of interest, share concerns and best practices. In addition, I have built a one-stop online Jewish community security website for security-related information and resources (www.securejewishct.org).

It is my pleasure to serve as the region's first Jewish community Regional Security Advisor thanks to the financial commitment and support of Federation. I look forward to working with each of you to make our community as safe and secure as it can be.

JCC Sara Walker Nursery School Graduation

(Courtesy of JCC) Students, families, and friends gathered at the Stamford Jewish Community Center (JCC) to celebrate "The 4's" on their completion of

The JCC Sara Walker Nursery School. The Stamford JCC wishes its young alumni and future leaders the very best in their very bright futures.



Friends and families celebrate the graduates. (CREDIT: FRANCISCO COSTA)



The JCC Sara Walker Nursery School students eagerly await the ceremony. (CREDIT: FRANCISCO COSTA)

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Culmination of a Year of Learning

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural) On June 9, *Kitah Dalet* (fourth grade) finished learning *Sefer Bereishit* (the Book of Genesis) and invited their parents to join them in Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Behrend Auditorium for a *siyum* (completion ceremony). After the students

shared words of Torah, they received their own personal copy of *Sefer Shemot* (Book of Exodus). And, as no *siyum* is complete without a celebratory meal, the kids ended the morning with a waffle bar, filled with chocolate, whipped cream, sprinkles, and chocolate chips.



BCCHA fourth graders sing during their *Sefer Bereishit* ceremony.

Schoke JFS Celebrates Community Members

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service (JFS) held its annual gala "An Evening with Schoke JFS" on May 22 and had its biggest turnout yet. The evening was hosted by Mayor Caroline Simmons and celebrated the agency's work across Fairfield County and honored the Jewish Sportsmen's League, the 42nd Annual Mitzvah Award recipients, and Stacy Kamisar, Julia Marx,

and Sheri Warshaw, the 3rd Annual Volunteer of the Year Award recipients. Schoke JFS extends its warmest thanks and appreciation to all the elected officials, community leaders, rabbis, sponsors, donors, board members, event committee, staff, and volunteers who helped make the evening a great success and contributed to helping those in the community who need it most.



The Jewish Sportsmen's League. (l-r, front row) Paul Sabbah, Ed Kweskin, Bruce Blasnik, Paul Gordon, Carl Rosen, (l-r, back row) Bob Dorf, Marty Donner, David Swerdloff, David Lewis, Henry Bubel.



Stacy Kamisar, Sheri Warshaw, and Julia Marx.



Liz Kitay and Meryl Japha, Event Chairs.

Defending Free Speech for All

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

United Jewish Federation's Cardozo Society met on June 1 for a program focused on "Freedom of Speech". The Cardozo Society for law professionals is one of several UJF affinity groups providing educational and networking opportunities for local professionals in greater Stamford and beyond.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Suzanne Nossel, a lawyer and CEO of Pen America, a 100-year-old nonprofit dedicated

"Hearing Suzanne Nossel's presentation gave me insight into how difficult it is to balance the demands of today's culture with established free speech jurisprudence. It was refreshing to be able to attend an in-person panel and interact with colleagues and friends in real time," said event guest, Benjamin Folkinshteyn.

A special thank you to Jennie Woltz, the moderator for the program, and event co-chairs Daniel Faizakoff, Adam Furmansky, and Shari Goodstein. Law



(l-r) Paul Michalski, Gabriela Wainshtok, Andrew Zeitlin, Herb Rosen, Shari Goodstein, Brad Berman, Marc Esterman, and Jeffrey Cunningham.



Jeremy Watman, Becky Neumeier, and Saryah Sober.



Rob Hoff, Shari Goodstein, Jennie Woltz, Suzanne Nossel, and Dan Faizakoff.

to protecting free expression in the United States and worldwide. Ms. Nossel discussed the first amendment as well as court cases found in her book, *Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All*. Her messages promote freedom of speech for all while creating a more inclusive culture.

professionals received a CLE credit, sponsored by Rob Hoff and the law firm Wiggin and Dana.

For more information about UJF's Cardozo law group, or other Federation affinity groups, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

History Comes Alive at Bi-Cultural

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural) After an extensive study of Colonial America, fifth-grade students at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) worked to bring history to life. After selecting a colonial name consistent with the time, they arrived in full costume reminiscent of the time period. With classrooms filled with colonial music, children worked on creating authentic quill pen letters to their families, as well as worked in a blacksmith shop and used the tools of the trade to create lanterns. The BCHA students held a meeting at the town green, learned to quilt, and engaged in other types of manual labor from colonial times.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy fifth-grader Nate Katchko enjoyed Colonial Day at the school.

Outdoor Learning at the Gan

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan Yeladim of Stamford is a Reggio-inspired Jewish preschool serving the local community for over 25 years. The Reggio approach values the belief that children are strong, competent and capable, and are full of wonder and curiosity to learn. At Gan, the curriculum is driven in part by what most inspires the children, and outdoor learning (in all weathers and all conditions) is encouraged. One of their guiding principles is to follow the interests of the children and to use as much of nature as possible in everyday learning and play.

With this in mind, the teachers in last year's 3-year-old program (Morah Belana Warmflash and Morah Amanda Kelley) noticed that their class developed a keen interest in outdoor learning. They made this a priority for the children who loved being in nature as their imaginations grew and developed exponentially. Using binoculars and other science equipment, the class was allowed to explore the outdoors without conventional toys. This resulted in



Gan Yeladim creates a dedicated outdoor classroom.



(l-r) Shai Kutas, Coby Soffer and Netanel Zweiter enjoy the new outdoor classroom at Gan Yeladim of Stamford.

their imaginations soaring to new heights, and the positive benefits of this outdoor time laid the foundation for the dedicated outdoor classroom.

What began as a vision of two teachers and their class came to fruition thanks to the dedication and support of the whole Gan community, especially two dads, Joe Speter and Jeremy Watman. These parents helped build and bring the vision to life.

With their assistance, tables were made out of repurposed large wooden electric spools and chairs were made out of wood stumps. In the outdoor classroom, a garden was created where the children were able to plant, play and collaborate together. A sensory place with balancing beams, a teepee for climbing and other equipment was created. The outdoor classroom is now used by all the classes to develop their gross motor skills, balance and climbing skills on the equipment. During Lag B'Omer, the Gan held a special sponsored Trike-a-thon where all money raised will be used to enhance and weatherize the equipment.

Lag B'Omer at Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) The day of Lag B'Omer is about unity, friendship, Torah study and connection, and the Lag B'Omer BBQ and celebration at Chabad of Stamford was just that and more! In May, over 250 people joined

together for a celebration which included a fire juggling act, a bonfire, singing, roasting marshmallows and a delicious barbeque, as well as the annual "Under 5's Charity Trike-a-thon", which this year raised money for the playground.



Fire juggling at the Lag B'Omer celebration at Chabad of Stamford.

Bi-Cultural Culminates Year with Two Graduations



Rabbi Shimmy Trencher, principal at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School, addresses the 12 graduates during their commencement ceremony. The class of 2022 graduates are Avi Gordon, Jake Rosner, Joshua Marcus, Jaime Zaritsky, Alison Mandel, Daniel Janush, Julianna Katz, Shira Haron, Ally Benjamin, Yehidit Hochman, Emily Seligson and Noam Bellin-Schonfeld.

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural) It was time for celebration at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA), as both the middle and upper schools hosted their annual commencement exercises. On June 7, twelve graduating seniors received their diplomas and on June 12, thirty-three eighth-graders graduated. For the upper school graduation, there was an extra reason for celebration, as students who have been a part of the school from pre-K and kindergarten through senior year graduated.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy celebrated its 33 eighth graders during their commencement exercises.

Bi-Cultural Honors Student Athletes

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural) Athletic teams throughout Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy were celebrated on June 8, as the school hosted its first-ever sports banquet. Coaches Stefan Driehuisen and Brandon Yarbrough honored the accomplishments of the athletes, teams, coaches and the athletic programs as a whole. Everybody gathered in the gym for an evening to celebrate and recognize all the Bobcat teams, flag football, volleyball, basketball, girls' tennis, boys' tennis, and cross-country, followed by an awards ceremony honoring the student-athletes.



Members of the Bobcats 5th and 6th grade flag football team were among those recognized at Bi-Cultural's sports banquet. (l-r) Max Vollen, Charlie Lastoff, Ehud Avraham, Nate Katchko, Eli Hoff, Max Brand, Mason Dulitz, and Boaz Moreen.



Bagel Babies

Sunday, July 24, 10:00am

350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT
(Meet at Emmet's Playground)

Join Temple Beth El and UJF's PJ Library
for coffee and bagels.

For moms, dads, and babies 0-2.
Sign up at www.ujf.org/bagel

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



Celebrating the Magic



Jeff Maron, Judy & Howie Goldstein, Elissa & Phillip Klapper, Dan Faizakoff and Rhoda Schaffer-Maroon.



Mike Stone, Arlene Rosen, Monica Smyth, UJF CEO Diane Sloyer and Michael Schlessinger.



Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Rabbi David Israel & Shara Israel.



National Director, LIFE & LEGACY, Arlene Shiff, Andrew Kostin, Susan Kostin and Diane Sloyer.



UJF President David Gordon, Arlene Rosen, Ellen Weber and Meryl Gordon.

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF AVIVA MALLER)

BY LENORE FOGEL

In early June, approximately one hundred legacy donors gathered to celebrate the highly successful conclusion of the second year of participation in the United Jewish Federation and Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY® program. The year-end celebration took place at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center and included a festive dinner and magical evening with magician David Rosenfeld. Participants had time to catch up with old friends, meet new ones and learn of the success of the past year.

United Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation partner with eleven community organizations to share the importance of turning legacy giving into a cultural norm to help secure the future

of the Jewish community. These organizations include Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Chabad of New Canaan, Chabad of Stamford, Friendship Circle of Fairfield County, Stamford Jewish Community Center, Schoke Jewish Family Service, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, United Jewish Federation, and Young Israel of Stamford. The Legacy Teams at each organization work with their community to secure "Letters of Intent" to ensure the Jewish future of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien.

Event chairs Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser and Elissa and Philip Klapper shared their legacy stories. Both Caryl and Elissa grew up in Stamford and both valued the diverse and unique community to settle here and raise their families. Each couple described why



Rachel Cohen and Leiba Lander.



Stuart & Joan Madison.



Linda Hurwitz & Richard Fine.



Nancy Mimoun, Magician David Bernstein and Jeff Maron.



Alan & Carol Krim.



Edith Samers & Ed Smith and Brenda Smith.

of LIFE & LEGACY

legacy giving is so important to them to sustain their community and the organizations they love. As native and long-term members of the community their ties are deep and wide.

Arlene Schiff, National Director of the Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY program, also traveled from out of town to join in the celebration. Arlene said, "I applaud you for your commitment to the wonderful institutions that contribute to a strong and vibrant Jewish life here in Greater Stamford New Canaan and Darien...as a result, collectively, your community has secured 401 legacy commitments with an estimated value of more than 11 million dollars."

The Grinspoon Foundation has rolled out a new program called "Each One Reach One". Those in

attendance, committed legacy donors, were tasked with reaching out to one other person, to share their personal story and explain why legacy giving is crucial for the community's future.

As the community enters the third year of the program, legacy teams will continue increasing legacy commitments, while also formalizing those of the past two years. There is a place for everyone in the LIFE & LEGACY program. If you would like to become a legacy donor, or a member of your organization's team, contact LIFE & LEGACY Coordinator Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org or Federation CEO, Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org.



Harvey Weber & Linda Gornitsky, George Sessa and magician David Bernstein.



Marsha & Louis Panzer and Jerry & Peggy Fensterstock.



Liz Kitay, Ronnie & Steve Sichel and Lisa Rich.



Elissa Klapper, Dana and Carl Weinberg.



Carl Weinberg, Grant Kallen, Jeff Maron, Joy Katz and Ilan Fogel.

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF AVIVA MALLER)



Greg Teitel and Dan Faizakoff.



Gladys Teitel and Lenore Fogel.



Mort Lowenthal, David & Beverly Stein.



Connie and Alan Freeman.



Peter & Caryl Poser.



Madelyne Kirch and John Reese.

Bits & Pieces

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Zoe & Harry Chiel on the birth of a son.

Ruchail & David Feldman on the birth of a daughter.

Lesley & Dennis Gehr on the birth of their great-grandson, Ariel Yochanan Twit.

Shari & Allen Glucksman on the birth of a grandson, Jack Emmet Glucksman.

Shoshana & Doniel Levie on the birth of a daughter and to the grandparents Diane Indyk and Robert Indyk and Esther & Warren Levie.

Rabbi Levi and Michal Mendelow on the birth of a daughter.

Lauren & Daniel Phan on the birth of a daughter, Mackenzie Margot Phan; and to the grandparents, Vicki & John Mackenzie and Holly & Hai Phan; and to the great grandmother, Evelyn Karen.

Nora Kurtz & David Pianin on the birth of a son, Ezra Ruvin Pianin.

Tova & Micky Reich on the birth of a son.

Stacey & Rob Schlissel on the birth of a daughter.

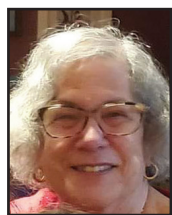
Nancy & Brad Spaulding on the birth of their granddaughter, Esmé Julia Carty.

Maryam Samaram & Andrew Wind on the birth of a daughter.

MAZEL TOV ON THE MARRIAGE/ENGAGEMENTS TO:

David Bessaleli on the marriage of his granddaughter, Temima Jasper to Yinon Segev.

Sharon & Jeff Lewis on the marriage of their son, Peter Lewis to Deborah Guterman.



Sandy Golove

Dinah Miller-Marlowe & Seth Marlowe on the marriage of their daughter, Sarah Marlowe to Arielle Snow.

Jayne & Bud Schiff on the engagement of their son, Matthew to Nancy Goodman.

Eileen & Fred Springer on the marriage of their daughter, Ilana Springer to Daniel Borkenstein.

MAZEL TOV OTHER:

Eric Sigman for receiving the designation of Stamford Public Schools Spotlight Award Winner at the Excellence in Education Awards.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Yakira Hochman: daughter of Sarah & David Hochman.

Eliav Netzer: grandson of Lieba & Steven Lander.

Benjamin Winarsky: son of Robin & Mark Winarsky.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Dr. Howard Berg: father of Michael Berg.

Sheila Brody: mother of Erica Brody and Kimberlee Stern.

Robert Cohen: husband of Claire Cohen; father of Sheryl Schwartz, Karen Cohen, Steven Cohen, and Paula Gordon.

Betty Milchman: mother of Marian Brown and Laura Gallant.

Edward Neiss: husband of Riv Neiss; and father of David Neiss, Gary Neiss, Heidi Ivy, Marc Neiss, Shelly Kramm and Woodie Neiss.

Enid Offenbach: mother of Nancy Spaulding.

Esther Shklover: mother of Gene Shklover.

Dorothy (Dottie) Vogel: mother of Karen Neems.

Murray (Murph) Weingrad: father of Deborah Weingrad, brother of Pauline Ladds, and grandfather of Lori Baden, Randi Price and Marc Leferman.

Friendship Circle Celebrates Its Volunteers

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) On a Tuesday night in May, Friendship Circle held its annual "Volunteer Evening of Appreciation" at Congregation Agudath Sholom. This year's event included volunteers from the Mitzvah Volunteer Program (MVP) for bar/bat mitzvah-age children, Friends at Home and Children's Circle volunteers, as well as families of children with special needs and donors. Close to 100 people participated.

The evening kicked off with a dessert buffet. Teens had the opportunity to create memory boards of their time volunteering for the Friendship Circle. Everyone also had the chance to socialize before the official program began.

Ruthie Price, senior teen volunteer, was the MC for the evening. Jed Schweber gave the *D'var Torah* (words of Torah) as the Friendship Circle Teen Board Representative. He also spoke about what the Friendship Circle has meant to him as a volunteer. "Friendship Circle has taught me the importance of volunteering my time to make other people smile. I have

been involved in the Friendship Circle for the last five years, and it has been such a positive experience. Friendship Circle has taught me that everyone deserves someone in their life. It has helped me realize how important it

is to have a trusted friend. I am glad to have made many life friends because of Friendship Circle."

Teens then heard from Sadie Palker, who graduated from the MVP program this past year, as well as from the mother of a Friendship Circle participant. Sabrina

Knoll, a Friends at Home Volunteer, handed out the MVP Certificates. Malya Shmotkin, Friendship Circle

Director, thanked all the volunteers and congratulated the graduating seniors. All the senior volunteers received a *mezuzah* to place on their doors, as they leave home next year. In appreciation for their service all teens also received a

Friendship Circle towel or Contigo water bottle.

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



Teen Board Member Charlie Schwartz and MC for the evening teen volunteer Ruthie Price.



Sabrina Knoll and her mother Silvina Knoll.

Bi-Cultural Engineers Bring Home the Gold

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) upper school engineers entered four projects in the Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE) Innovation Day, and four projects won first place! BCHA took home the gold in the categories of Engineering for Transportation, Engineering for Children, Best Video Presentation and Exemplary Pitch. More than 1,000 students in over 400 teams from across the country entered the CIJE Innovation

Day competition. This was the best BCHA has achieved in a single Innovation Day.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy upper school engineers Andrew Jaffe-Berkowitz, Ben Steiner, Ciro Jacobowicz, Erez Fass, Harry Cohen, Isaac Reicin, Jake Brenner, Max Ferits and Noah Doft pose with their awards.

The Hebrew Corner

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

Think about the word "president." When we use the word "president" we understand that it means there is a person who presides over others. And this illustrates how we think about the leader of the United States and many other places in the world.

Now, let's take a look at the Hebrew word "Nasi" and where it is used in Biblical Hebrew. The Bible uses this word for a leader of the Jewish people.

Further, the root of this word in Hebrew means "to carry." And this illustrates how the Bible thinks about Jewish leadership: The leaders of the Jewish people are obligated to support and "carry" the people, and not to preside over them.

And that difference gives us a fundamentally different understanding of the leadership that the Jewish people expect.



Robert Abrams

New Around Town

Paul Silverfarb, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Director of Communications

Paul Silverfarb is the new Director of Communications at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut. Previously Mr. Silverfarb was the director of social media for Hunt Scanlon, where he managed all aspects of the company's publicity content on various social media platforms, including LinkedIn and Twitter, where Hunt Scanlon maintains a large following. In his capacity, he also promoted the company's general news and editorial, market intelligence and trade publications and its conferences and events. In addition, Paul was with *The Greenwich Sentinel*, first as sports editor and, more recently, as overall editor. Prior to joining *The Sentinel*, he served as sports editor of the *Greenwich Post*. Paul is a graduate of Keene State College and currently resides in Fairfield, CT.



Paul Silverfarb

Rabbi Amy E. Goodman, Schoke JFS Chief Advancement Officer

Rabbi Amy E. Goodman joins Schoke Jewish Family Service as Chief Advancement Officer. She will support developing and implementing the strategic direction of Schoke JFS, in order to help the organization, leadership, and key community partners take the agency from where it is to where it wants to be. Previously, Amy served as Executive Director of Temple Sinai in Sharon, MA, as Rabbinic Director for Hebrew SeniorLife Hospice Care in Dedham, MA, and as Associate Director of Development for MJHS Health Systems in New York. Rabbi Goodman graduated with distinction from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and received her rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. "I am thrilled to join Schoke JFS, an organization with a long history of providing invaluable social services to promote the well-being of all families in our community," says Goodman.



Rabbi Amy E. Goodman

Mark Katz, Schoke JFS Development and Administrative Assistant

Mark Katz received his Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations from Quinnipiac University in 2021. Above all else, Mark believes in service to those in need, as evidenced by his time working as a mortician assistant for five years and as an orientation leader at Quinnipiac University for two years. Mark wanted to continue his path of service in whatever way possible and felt that the Schoke JFS mission fit perfectly with his personal goals. Mark will be assisting in all aspects of development, from planning events such as "An Evening with Schoke JFS", data entry and management, donor relations, and much more. "I'm extremely excited to be part of the Schoke JFS team, and I hope to get to know those in the community soon!"



Mark Katz

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israeli Robots to be Care Companions for 800 New York Seniors

AI-powered ElliQ initiates conversations, checks on wellbeing, sends text messages and even tells jokes.

BY JOHN JEFFAY/ISRAEL21C

Desktop robots developed by an Israeli startup are to become care companions for 800 seniors in New York.

ElliQ, who takes her name from the Norse goddess of old age, actively initiates conversations, remembers what she's been told and uses artificial intelligence (AI) to inform follow-up conversations.

Amazon's Alexa is passive, ElliQ is active. She plays trivia games, encourages the user to exercise, reminds them to take their medicine, makes sure they're eating properly, keeps them in touch with family and friends, selects music tracks and even tells jokes.

She'll also raise an alert with clinical

teams if she notices anything of concern in the user's routine. And she has a "face" that lights up and swivels towards the user.



Dor Skuler, CEO and co-founder at Intuition Robotics. (PHOTO COURTESY OF INTUITION ROBOTICS)

The technology has been developed by Intuition Robotics, based in Ramat Gan, which pioneers social companion technologies. It says it's on a mission to empower older adults to live happier, healthier, and more independent lives at home.

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) has recognized the benefits of ElliQ and is delivering the voice-operated robots to 800 older people who live alone, as part of its effort to battle social isolation.

older people who live alone, as part of its effort to battle social isolation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

TEMPLE BETH EL STAMFORD AND
CONGREGATION BETH EL NORWALK PROUDLY
PRESENT:

BETH EL JEWISH LEARNING CENTER



K'tanim
A monthly Jewish
learning drop-off
program for 3-4 year
olds
10 sessions on Sunday
mornings
\$100 for the year!

Learning Center
K-7
Sunday mornings in
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Monthly kids' choice
electives
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celebrations
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learning in small
groups



For more information,
contact Lisa
Gittelman-Udi at
eddir@tbe.org
203-322-6901

Temple Beth El 350 Roxbury Road Stamford, CT
Congregation Beth El 109 East Avenue Norwalk, CT

An Evening of Gratitude

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation brought the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish community together to say “thank you” for their generosity in raising over \$375,000 for Ukraine relief. The June event also included an update to donors on the impact of their contributions. The evening was organized (and photographed) by Aviva Maller. Over 50 people gathered to hear from Kerrin Behrend, who traveled to the border with Federation CEO Diane Sloyer in late March and Howard Rothman, who flew to Israel with new immigrants on a plane he and his wife Gayle helped to sponsor. Susan Kostin, a Federation Executive Committee member, shared what it was like meeting Ukrainian youth on a recent UJF mission to Israel. UJF President David Gordon rounded out the evening by sharing the importance of the “collective” and what the overall efforts, topping 60 million from the Federation

system, has done to impact those in need.

CEO Diane Sloyer shared, “Federation is about building and sustaining communities both locally and around the globe. Being part of a collective, or network, enabled us to jump right in and make a difference when the war broke out.

Our annual campaign provides much needed funds locally and around the world and sustains communities like Ukraine year-round, not just during a crisis.

The Federation movement often says, “we were built for this moment”. And we are. We are here for the day- to-day...Keeping our community strong, connected, and empowered...and we are here to mobilize in times of crises.”

To learn more about the work of Federation both locally and around the globe, contact Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org.



Kerrin Behrend, Howard and Gayle Rothman, and Jerry Silber.



Event attendees enjoy a beautiful and informative evening in the Temple Beth El tent.



Bernard and Sheila Teig, Nancy and Mark Funt.



Bob, Lily, Jocelyn, and Margie Abrams.



Suzanne Horn, Meryl Gordon, and Sari Jaffe.



Ami Soifer, Howard, and Gayle Rothman.



Front: Seth Marlowe and Dinah Miller-Marlowe.
Back: David and Lorraine Kweskin.



Lynn Lowin, Edith Samers, and David Gordon.

Ben

Boomer Engagement Network

Join United Jewish Federation's BEN for a

Backyard Summer Social

Thursday, July 21 (rain date July 28th)
6:45pm to 8:45pm

Outdoors at a private home in Stamford.

**Drinks, light fare, lawn games, music,
and plenty of schmoozing!**

\$18. Sign up at www.ujf.org/summer

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

**BEN = Boomer Engagement Network and is for Jewish
singles 45-ish and up throughout Fairfield County and beyond.**

Stars of HOPE for Uvalde

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural) Students from the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) of Connecticut came together to support all the people affected by the horrific events that took place in Uvalde, Texas. BCHA students displayed their empathy and decorated stars to send to Texas and provide some bright moments during extremely dark times for the Uvalde community. Stars of HOPE is a non-profit community arts and disaster relief initiative that offers therapeutic art to communities impacted by natural or human-caused disasters.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy student Rebecca Ostroff designs a star to send to Uvalde, Texas.

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 LIFE & LEGACY Program. The following individuals have made a commitment to one or more Jewish communal institutions to secure our Jewish future.

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

Anonymous (31)
Adrienne & Michael Alexander
David Amsellem
Alice & David Andersen
Jeri Appel
Mark Appel
Ricky Snow Arbron
Suellyn Bache
Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
Rachel Tyd & Robert Beldock
Gayle & Mitchell Bell
Debra & Michael Berg
Dina & Paul Berger
Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz
Berkun Family
Darona & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
Melody & Claude Bernstein
Bruce Blasnik
Judith Block
Jodi & Richard Boxer
Amy & Henry Bubel
Blake & Daniel Bueckman
Judy & Jeff Cahn
Kate & Peretz Cik
Roberta & Alan Cohen
Andrea & David M. Cohen
Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen
Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeff Cohen
Judy & David S.* Cohen
Mimi & Saul* Cohen
Rachel & Ephraim Cohen
Tracy & Nahum Daniels
Janice Steinberg & Stephen Davidson
Andrea Dener
Elayne Dener
Helen & Marty Donner
Fran* & Bob Dorf
Shoshana Dweck
Debra & Dan Faizakoff
Michelle Fanwick
Esta & Jay Feinsod
Sharon & Michael Feldstein
Peggy & Jerry Fensterstock
Linda Hurwitz & Richard Fine
Robin & Jason Fischel
Gail Berman & David Fogel
Stephanie & Howard Fogel
Lenore & Ilan Fogel
Miriam Lavinsky & Morton Folb*
Sharon Franklin
Connie & Alan Freeman
Susan Frieden
Rachel & Keith Friedman
Marc Friedman
Donna & Edward Fuhrman
Nancy & Mark Funt
Lesley & Dennis Gehr
Gary Gepner
Carole Gladstone
Herbert Gladstone*
Sylvia & Herb Gladstone*
Leslie Glenn
Robin Frederick & Michael Gold
Abby Goldberg
Cyndy & Eric Goldberg
Marilyn & Irving Goldblum
Alicia & Jason Goldstein
Caryl & Melvin Goldstein*
Sharon & Bruce Goldstein

Meryl & David Gordon
Nan & Paul Gordon
Linda Gornitsky
Shira & Ethan Green
Sharon & Larry Greenberg
Susan & Edward Greenberg
Pam Ehrenkranz & Matt Greenberg
Rhonda Greif
Grecia & Ron* Gross
Jeremy Hager
Scott Handelman
Jacqueline Herman
Shara & Rabbi David Israel
Sari & Alan Jaffe
Meryl & Ron Japha
Anne Liss Johnson
Sadae & Michael Kadish
Judith & Grant Kallen
Peggy Kalter
Helene & Harvey Kaminski
Chanie Kamman
Roni & Jan Kaplowitz
Jason Kaplowitz
Lisa & Arnold Karp
Jeannie Kasindorf
Jessica & Ilan Katz
Joy & Larry Katz
Judith and Sheldon Katz
Betsy & Peter Kempner
Madelyne Kirch
Liz & Marc Kitay
Elissa & Philip Klapper
Harris Kligman
Susan Kostin
Arthur Kramer*
Claudia Kraut
Norma Kraut
Jeannie & Brian Kriftcher
Carol & Allen Krim
Elizabeth & Scott Krowitz
Svetlana Kunin
Jackie & Marshall Kurland
Lorraine & David Kveskin
Helen & Ed Kveskin
Lieba & Steve Lander
Shelley Leibowitz
Lois Stark & Gary Lessen
Elizabeth Libner
R. & J. Licht
Ronnie & Gary Lilien
Vered & Mark Links
Lisa & Seth Linzer
Pamela Feldstein & David Loewenberg
Eleanor & Mort Lowenthal
Stu Madison
Lisa & Jeff Manheim
Norma & Milton Mann*
Susan & Len Mark
Chris Maroc
Melanie Massell
Michal & Rabbi Levi Mendelow
Janice & Jake Meyer
Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun
Marguerite & Kenneth Neuhaus
Becky & Omer Neumeier
Rose* & Bruce Newman
Marsha & Louis Panzer
Leah & Doni Perl
Robin Evans & Jeffrey Perry

Michele & Scott Piskin
Caryl Ferber Poser & Peter Poser
Enid Randall*
Bonita & Stephen Rappoport
Judith & Robert Raymond
Lisa & Harry Rich
Judy & Adam Rin
Jamie & Toby Ring
Betty & Dan* Roberts
Sonia & Brian Roitman
Romanowitz Family
Arlene & Carl Rosen
Julie & Remi Rosenberg
Natalie & Mark Rosovsky
Irma Ross
Sandra Ross
Sally & Jim Rothkopf
Ruth Rothseid
Terry Newman & David Rubin
Linda & Leonard Russ
Bonnie Russo
Edith Samers
Renee Samson*
Sharyn & Richard Sarner
Leah Schechter
Hilde Scheraga*
Jayne & Bud Schiff
Judy Schneiderman
Debbie Katz Shapiro & Leon Shapiro
Carol Ruth & Herman Shepherd*
Nancy Schiffman
Monica Smyth & Michael Schlessinger
Elayne & James Schoke*
Daniel Schwartz
Chaya & Levi Segal
Betsey & Arthur Selkowitz
Myrna & George Sessa
Diane & Steve Shaby
Jessica & Laurence Sheinman
Leah & Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
Marsha Kaiser Shendell
Stephanie & Bob Sherman
Malya Shmotkin
Ronnie Ness Sichel & Steven Sichel
Miriam Landsberg-Silverman & Eliezer Silverman

Paula Simon
Diane & Elliot Sloyer
Brenda & Bruce* Smith
Ed Smith
Greta Solomon
Miriam & Steve Sosnick
Sandy & Moshe Speter
Ed Spilka
Cantor Micah Morgovsky
& Rabbi Benjamin Spratt
Eileen & Fred Springer
Beverly & David Stein
Betsy & Michael Stone
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The Estate of Sheila Carmine*
The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin*
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Annie & Jeremy Watman
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Ellen & Richard Weber
Linda Gornitsky & Harvey Weber
Dana & Carl Weinberg
Marian Weinberg
Leon Weisburgh
Janet Welkovich
Robyn & Mark Winarsky
Neda Khaghan & Robert Yaghoubian
Rita & Abe Yellen
Marcia Gordon & Seth Young
Sheryl & Dan Young
Lauren & Joe Zalis
Joan Zinbarg*
Renee Zinn
Navah & David Zizmor

**Of Blessed Memory*

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

LIFE & LEGACY Testimonial

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

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

JULIE AND REMI ROSENBERG TESTIMONIAL

While Remi and I both had Jewish upbringings, neither one of us grew up in a community where we had multiple Jewish institutions that truly shaped lives. When we moved to Stamford in 2003, we found exactly that. As a young married couple, we found fitness and connection at the JCC, which continued to serve us as a family of young children and beyond. Chabad wrapped us in their warmth as they nurtured our children in pre-school and full-daycare. Temple Beth El became and remains our spiritual home and a place where we have found the best of friends. Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy educated our children holistically with secular



Julie and Remi Rosenberg

and religious studies that have strengthened their identity, confidence, and character and given them deep roots from which to flourish. Friendship Circle is an organization that has touched us all. The list of institutions that have spurred our personal and spiritual growth goes on. How can we not give so that others have similar experiences now and in the future? To ensure that Stamford remains a city with vast opportunities for a varied and rich Jewish experience for future generations, we have committed to giving back in our estate planning through LIFE & LEGACY. We were proud to explain our priorities and plans to our children, and they were proud of us!

PJ Library Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

As we head into summer, PJ Library parent ambassadors and committee members are looking to bring the community together.



Sharon Franklin

With everyone's busy camp schedule and vacations, they hope low key events like "Popsicles in the Park" will provide a welcoming place to connect throughout the summer.

♦ **Join us for Popsicles in the Park with United Jewish Federation's PJ Library, 4:30pm**

■ **Thursday, July 14** (Chestnut Hill Park, 364 Chestnut Hill Rd., Stamford).

■ **Thursday, August 4** (Barrett Park, Burdick St., Stamford).

Kids can play and enjoy a cold treat at the playground while parents socialize. All ages welcome, RSVP is required. Sign up at www.ujf.org/park. For more information contact Sharon@ujf.org.

♦ **Books for all!** Did you know, families are eligible to receive "One Book Per Child." It's easy to sign up! Just go to www.pjlibrary.org and fill out the online form, and books will arrive within a month or two. For children ages birth to 8 years old.

♦ **PJ Our Way** offers kids 9 to 12 a free chapter book each month. Tweens can choose from a selection of four high-quality titles that have been reviewed by a panel of PJ educators, kids, and parents. To sign up go to www.pjourway.org.

♦ **Keep connected to PJ by joining UJF's**

PJ Library Facebook group.

Go to: PJ Library of Stamford, New Canaan & Darien.

CRAFT AND SCIENCE PROJECT IN ONE!

Star-Spangled Slime! Red, white, and blue slime- perfect for the fourth of July holiday.

Supplies- for each color you make you will need:

- ½ cup Elmer's glue
- 4 Tablespoons of liquid starch for each color made.
- Food coloring- 2 tablespoons per color.
- Optional: Glitter- 1 Tablespoon per color, and/or red, white, and blue stars. Shake the liquid starch first (with the cap on!) because it can settle.

• Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl. Start out by stirring it with a craft stick or plastic spoon, and then move to mixing it with your hands. It's going to seem very stringy at first – just keep mixing. It usually takes 3-4 minutes of stirring and kneading the slime before it comes together.

- Add glitter and/or stars to each color and stir separately. 2 tablespoons of glitter/and or stars for each color.

• You'll know the slime is ready to play with when it all comes together as one piece, and it's no longer stringy or sticky.

• Repeat for each color in separate cups, add 2 Tablespoons of food dye for the red, then the blue. Store in plastic containers with a lid.

• When ready to use, braid all three colors together and knead again for some star-spangled fun! Store in a sealed container for up to 4 months.



Braid the colors together and knead.

Partnerships Matter



(l-r) Bob Marmor, Mel Vorm, Lielle Sugar, Sharon Franklin (UJF's PJ Library Director), Stacey Palker, and Judith Bernstein.

(Courtesy of UJF) Bob Marmor, of PJ Library and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, visited Stamford on June 16th to meet with Federation's PJ Library Parent Ambassadors and committee members. The Grinspoon Foundation

is invested in understanding each community they partner with and by meeting with PJ leadership at 613 for dinner and conversation, they were able to get a pulse of our growing and wonderful community.

PJ Library Feature Family: Nadav Shachmon, Aylee Schneider and Aviv

(Courtesy of UJF)

Nadav Shachmon and Aylee Schneider moved to Stamford from White Plains in July of 2021. Nadav works on the Route One initiative for the Jewish Education Project, and Aylee works in global sales for Avaya, a telemarketing and communications company. Their daughter Aviv is two and a half years old, and attends KinderPlace at the Stamford JCC.

As a relative newcomer to town, tell us about your experience in the community.

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



Aylee Schneider (left) and Nadav Shachmon (right) pose with their daughter Aviv (center).

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

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

Why is PJ Library important in your home?

PJ Library is such a wonderful program, and we think it's important to teach our children Jewish stories and values that will hopefully instill

a sense of pride.

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

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

Israeli Robots to be Care Companions for 800 New York Seniors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

"We are so pleased to partner with Intuition Robotics and make ElliQ available to older adults in New York," said NYSOFA director Greg Olsen. "This product does so many things to improve health, combat isolation, and improve overall well-being and independence."

NYSOFA will work with local offices for the aging and partners to identify those who will benefit most from having ElliQ in their home.

"Despite misconceptions and generalizations, older adults embrace new technology, especially when they see it is designed by older adults to meet their needs," said Olsen.

"For those who experience some form of isolation and wish to age in place, ElliQ is a powerful complement to traditional forms of social interaction and support from professional or family caregivers."

ElliQ launched commercially in March of this year, after more than five years of cutting-edge research and beta testing. Users so far are averaging 20 interactions a day.

Dor Skuler, CEO and co-founder

at Intuition Robotics, said: "We've long believed that connecting older adults with local communities via ElliQ will add an important element in providing holistic

support to older adults aging in place.

"This partnership with NYSOFA helps us further that mission through an innovative initiative that we are incredibly proud to be part of.

"We're thrilled to be working with New York State as our first state government partner and believe

ElliQ will be able to effectively engage and encourage older adults in New York to be more independent, healthy and happy."

ElliQ is designed to foster independence through daily check-ins and she can exchange text messages, conduct video calls and display photos.

She's designed to be emotive, autonomous and easily understood. She uses machine learning to acquire knowledge of the preferences, behavior and personality of her owner, and proactively recommends activities based on that history and on recommendations by family.



800 ElliQ robots will be delivered to older people in the New York area.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF INTUITION ROBOTICS)

WHY I CARE...

Focus on: Bob Abrams

"All dreams are fulfilled according to how they are interpreted." - The Talmud

After growing up in Stamford and living in Chicago and New York, Bob Abrams moved back to Stamford with a growing family, residing locally for over 32 years. Initially working as a CPA, Bob became a Jewish educator, worked at Bi-Cultural and the Stamford JCC, led many trips to Israel, and continues to teach classes in Jewish topics to adults and children.

Bob is married to Margie and has four daughters: two from his first marriage and two with Margie. His oldest daughter, Dorothy, is married with two children and lives in Astoria, New York. Isabelle, his second oldest, is also married with two children, and lives

in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Bob's third child, Jocelyn, is working on a master's degree in modern Jewish Studies at JTS, and his youngest, Lily, is a rising sophomore at Clark University. They also have a beloved poodle named Taffy.

THIS IS WHY HE CARES: Bob Abrams with his grandson.

What is your current and past involvement with Federation?

In addition to financially supporting United Jewish Federation in the past, I have just begun a two-year term on UJF's Board and



am happily and earnestly serving on Federation's Education Committee as co-chairperson with Nan Gordon.

What is your involvement with other Jewish organizations in the community and elsewhere?

I attended Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, as did all four of my children. In addition to leading nine BCHA Eighth Grade Israel trips, I have also led a few of the school's family trips.

I've also been involved with Congregation Agudath Sholom. I began my teaching career at 15 when Rabbi Ehrenkranz asked me to teach bar mitzvah students during the summer. I have been teaching Jewish studies for different organizations (in Stamford, Greenwich, and Chicago) and on my own ever since.

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

I grew up in a household where one of my parents came from a Reform background and

the other an Orthodox background. I think that atmosphere provided the foundation of my understanding that we are always strongest when we join together and support one another, regardless of practice or background. And the only other way to help ensure our values and our future is to prepare the next generations for that future as best we can.

As someone who grew up in Stamford, how have you seen it grow and change?

I remember moving back to Stamford after grad school and being wowed by the city's growth. No longer did it take five minutes to drive from North Stamford to downtown. Agudath Sholom and BCHA witnessed significant change. My entire eighth grade had 22 students. Now, BCHA can have three sections in each grade. Congregation Agudath Sholom recently underwent a significant refurbishment to its building and added so many members. Young Israel has also seen tremendous growth, as have Temple Beth El and Temple Sinai. The one thing that has remained consistent is that the Stamford Jewish community has remained welcoming to all.

TEEN VOICES

My BCHA Israel Experience

BY ELISSA TOBIN

For me, and so many others, the eighth grade Israel trip was quite the compelling experience. This trip is one every student looks forward to from the time they start Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA). As a four-year-old, I remember thinking how far off the trip was, but unbeknownst to me, the ten years flew by like a whirlwind.

When we arrived at Ben Gurion Airport after a tiring ten-hour flight, the serotonin was running high, and we were thrilled to finally be in the country we had learned so much about. This was the place where everyone was united by religion - we were all Jews, something to be proud of. Our education had prepared us to be conversant in Hebrew and to be informed of the traditions that awaited us in this foreign yet familiar place.

We immediately began to adjust to our new way of living, waking up excited each morning to visit important and historical locations and spending the days with our friends and chaperones. One of my favorite experiences was staying at the Masada Hotel. We woke up at four a.m. to hike up the mountain before the heat became unbearable. The uphill journey was difficult, but once at the top, the view was incredible. We ended up praying and the spirituality never failed to linger. I felt the significance of being in the place where so many Jews committed suicide, saving themselves from the torture of the Romans. This is a controversial topic, and we got to hear both sides of the argument,



Elissa Tobin

which I found interesting.

Other notable experiences were the trip to the Blind Museum, where our only sense of direction was the voice of a blind woman who instructed us where to go. Jerusalem was also incredible! Our nightly adventures to Ben Yehuda Street were something we looked forward to. Another favorite experience was touring Yad Vashem and learning more in depth about the Holocaust and what happened to our ancestors. We also heard a variety of opinions and learned about the supporting people who assisted the Jews so that today we have the ability to live our lives without fear.

Although there were a couple of bumps in the road on the trip, it's safe to say that everyone came back feeling like they got closer to at least one person they didn't know well. We hiked, ate Israeli delicacies, learned about historical sites, prayed, and socialized constantly. We will never forget the memories we share and the happiness we felt.

Personally, I was relieved to be back home in my comfortable bed with a working shower, but most of the grade wanted to be back in Israel- back to the place where everyone hung out daily, where the activities were endless, and where the food was delicious and unique. Israel was definitely a trip I will never forget, and a beautiful and meaningful way to end my ten-year adventure at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy.

Elissa Tobin is a recent graduate of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's eighth grade class.

Join United Jewish Federation for:

PJ Library's Popsicles in the Park

Thursday, July 14th

(Chestnut Hill Park, 364 Chestnut Hill Rd., Stamford)

Thursday, August 4th

(Barrett Park, Burdick St., Stamford)

4:30pm-5:15pm

Kids can play and enjoy a cold treat at the playground while parents socialize. All ages welcome. RSVP is required.



Sign up at www.ujf.org/park
For more information contact Sharon@ujf.org.



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Please RSVP to **Taly@ujf.org**



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