



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Gallery@The J Presents: Westport Astronomical Society

(Courtesy of the JCC) Artists from the Westport Astronomical Society will be featured at the Gallery@The J's Wine & Art Opening Reception on Tuesday, June 14, at 7:00 pm at the Stamford JCC. The exhibition will run from June 13 to August 19, 2022.

"How Beautiful, the Universe" will consist of astrophotographs taken by members of the Westport Astronomical Society. The images show the depth of beauty that is just overhead. Over two dozen images of galaxies, nebulae, comets, the moon and planets will adorn the walls of the gallery.

All images were taken in or around Connecticut, and mostly at the observatory campus at 182 Bayberry Lane, Westport, on either the facility's own 14-inch Celestron telescope or members' own equipment. All the works on display will be for sale. Part of the



"When Worlds Collide - The Whirlpool Galaxy".
(CREDIT: STEVE LABKOFF)

proceeds will go to provide support for new observatories that are being planned for the campus.

The Westport Astronomical Society supports STEM research, internships in astronomy and astrophysics for high school and college students. There is an astrophotography team who can teach the complex techniques needed to take photos of these heavenly bodies; K1WAS, a ham radio group and a geophysics group supported by the US Geological Survey, are on the campus as well. The facility has been in existence since the early 1960s and resides on the campus of a former Cold War radar tower that was built in the 1950s in Westport. The observatory's telescope

is housed in the dome above the Bob Meadows Observatory Tower that used

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Answering the Call to Serve

(Courtesy of UJF) Mikhail Kalman, his wife Elena and daughter Nadia were able to escape the Soviet Union and came to the USA in the fall of 1979. They came from Kyiv, which at that time was the capital of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic but now is the capital of Ukraine.

The story of the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union is well known and was made possible by amazing support provided by the Jewish community in the US and Israel. In addition to that, economic pressure applied by the US government finally forced Soviet rulers to allow up to a million Jews to escape and settle primarily in the US and Israel during the period from 1974 to 1980.

Little did the Kalmans know that they would be called upon decades later to help refugees fleeing their homeland.

"We originally settled in West Hartford CT with the assistance of the local Jewish community. Elena's uncle arrived there in

1977. In 1985 our family, now with two children - our son Lev was born in 1982 - moved to Stamford for a new employment opportunity," said Mikhail.

"Over the years we were actively supporting activities to help free Soviet Jewry and supporting Israel as much as we were able to do. After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 our hopes were high that freedom may finally arrive in that part of the world. Unfortunately, with the rise of Vladimir Putin's dictatorship rule, Russia - the biggest part of what used to be the Soviet Union - is still not

free and continuously threatens its neighbors with occupation of parts of Moldova, Georgia and in 2014 annexation of Crimea and several parts of Eastern Ukraine known as Donbass," he continued.

This latest aggression by Russia came as a huge shock to the Kalmans, and seeing the scale of devastation in very familiar places

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Mikhail Kalman, a UJF Stamford Volunteer in Budapest.

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On Sunday May 15, hundreds of community members stepped out to support The Friendship Circle's programs for individuals with special needs and their families. For the first time since 2019, everyone was able to gather on the field at Westhill High School for the annual walk and family day. (See article on page 13)

From UJF's Chief Executive Officer An Inspiring Few Months

BY DIANE SLOYER

After traveling to Warsaw and the Ukrainian border this past April, I boarded a plane to lead a community leadership mission to Israel in early May. After being rescheduled three times due to COVID, we were off to learn!

Our community has raised over \$350k for Ukrainian emergency relief, including sponsoring three planes of Ukrainian Jews making Aliyah to Israel. Because of your generosity, we are able to bring Jewish refugees home. And, while in Israel, we had a chance to meet some of these new immigrants as part of our mission.

We traveled to Ramat Hadassah Youth Village in the north where we met teens who had just immigrated from Ukraine five days earlier. Some came alone, and some with their moms and siblings. The Na'ale program, part of the Jewish Agency for Israel, has long provided education, housing, and a "family" for youth immigrating on their own. These kids were grateful to be amongst friends and away from the war. They miss home, and some even want to return to Ukraine. But their love and appreciation of Israel was evident.

Seeing the process, and our dollars at work, coming full circle was validation for our ongoing life saving work.

We stood at the border with Gaza at Netiv HaSarah and at the Israel-Lebanese border of Kibbutz Hanita. We heard



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

about the geopolitics of the area with an expert from Alma, a non-profit independent research and education center specializing in Israel's security challenges on its northern border, which brought the complexities of our tiny homeland to light.

Our lunch and wine tasting at Tulip Winery, within a village that cares for people with disabilities 18 years and above, showed us how Israel cares for the vulnerable while we enjoyed beautiful scenery, great wine and a delicious lunch.

We had coffee in the home of Doris Hiffawi, a Christian Arab living in Jaffa. As a Christian with generational roots in the Adjeme neighborhood of Jaffa, Doris shared her story over coffee, brewed by her family, and Arabic sweets. She explained how Jewish, Muslim and Christian populations interact and live side by side. And while it is complicated, and not always perfect, she is appreciative of her life in the democratic State of Israel.

Missions always leave me uplifted and of course exhausted. But most of all, they leave me re-committed to the purpose and vision of Federation. The impact of your gift to Federation is unique. There is no one single gift you can make that will touch as many lives in a meaningful way. Together we can do more than anyone can do alone. Actually - together we can do just about anything.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

June 3	8:04 pm
June 10	8:08 pm
June 17	8:11 pm
June 24	8:12 pm
July 1	8:12 pm
July 8	8:11 pm

UPCOMING DEADLINES

July-August 2022 - Summer Issue

Deadline: Thursday, June 9, 2022

September 2022 - Rosh Hashanah Issue

Deadline: Monday, August 8, 2022

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

UJF President's Message It's Complicated

BY DAVID GORDON

How well do you know me? You may know that I belong to Congregation Agudath Sholom and may therefore assume that I am "Orthodox". If that is what you know about me, you might reconsider if I told you that I also belong to a Conservative synagogue



David Gordon, UJF President

and a Reform temple in Westchester County, as well as another Conservative synagogue in New Haven. When people hear that they often say: "You belong to four synagogues? Why?" And my response is: "It's complicated". But there are some things you also know about me which are straight-forward. If you have been reading my *New Jewish Voice* columns, you will know that I believe strongly in our Jewish community and the centrality of United Jewish Federation in the community. You will also know that I strongly believe that it is imperative that our Jewish community be as unified as possible and that UJF serve a critical role as a facilitator of that unity.

Recently, my wife Meryl and I returned from Israel after having spent eight days on UJF's leadership mission to Israel and another five days visiting family. The mission was exhilarating and tiring, and in this issue of the *New Jewish Voice*, you will read snippets from others who were on the unity mission with us. This was my tenth visit to Israel, and others in our group have been there many more times than I, and some less. But if any of us thought we knew all about Israel before this trip, I think we all discovered things we didn't previously know about at all. Indeed, from Israeli politics to social services to history, the mantra of our mission became, "It's complicated".

Israel is truly a complicated country and society. But in that complexity, there were some things that we saw and heard that were very evident. One of those things is that, contrary to the slanders of those who seek to delegitimize Israel, Israel is NOT an "apartheid" state in any

way, shape or form. How do I know? Because if you go to the Israeli Knesset building and find out who is in the ruling coalition as we did, you will find out that the United Arab List party is presently part of that ruling coalition. If you go to some of Israel's cities such as Tel Aviv/Jaffa and Haifa, and talk to Israeli Arabs as we did,

you will find Jews and Arabs (Moslem and Christian) living side by side in those cities. If you inquire about jobs that both Jewish and non-Jewish Israelis hold in Israel as we did, you will find out that Jewish and Arab Israelis are doctors, nurses, cab drivers, teachers, lawyers, etc., working side by side. If you inquire about the Israeli Supreme Court, you will find out that the Supreme Court includes an Israeli Arab. If you go to visit the university campuses as we did, you will see Arabs and Jews learning together. If you go to Israeli parks as we did, you will see both Arabs and Jews enjoying themselves together.

Now, if you want to argue that Israel isn't perfect, I won't disagree. Its Arab citizens are generally poorer than its Jewish citizens. There are Arab towns where there are no Jewish citizens, and there are Jewish towns where there are no Arab citizens. Israeli Arabs often choose to go to "Arab" schools, and Israeli Jews choose to go to "Jewish" schools. And there are plenty of other imperfections. But then again, I can make the same arguments about the United States. Our citizens of "color" tend to be less well off than our "white" citizens, and there are plenty of neighborhoods in our cities which are racially segregated. But those imperfections don't make the US an apartheid state. It just means that as a society we have more work to do. It's complicated here, and it's complicated there. But our mission participants saw with their own eyes the work that Israelis are doing to make Israel an even better society.

Gallery@The J Presents: Westport Astronomical Society

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The Gallery@The J Wine & Art Opening Reception is free and open to the general public. Registration is required at stamfordjcc.org. For further information contact Nancy Schiffman, Director of Arts & Culture at nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

BCHA Eighth Graders Travel to Israel after Two-Year Hiatus

(Courtesy of BCHA) This year's class of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy 8th graders, for the first time in two years due to COVID restrictions, have been able to go on the school's "Eighth Grade Israel Experience," a journey of three weeks which began on May 11. Their itinerary takes them throughout the country they have studied so intensively and learned about over so many years. Traveling with their classmates, beloved

on a page and ideas in their minds to a tangible reality. We could not be happier that this year we were able to again provide our students with this once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the *mitzvah* of *Yishuv Eretz Yisroel*, living in the land of Israel," said Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, Head of School.

While in the North, students spent time in the city of Afula, United Jewish Federation's partnership city.



BCHA 8th graders and chaperones prepare for their first Shabbat in the north of Israel.



Students from BCHA and Nir HaEmek get to know one another.



Pita baking.

teachers, and Israeli guides experienced in teaching young people about the Biblical significance, history and the modern day miracle of the State of Israel, students are immersed in the Israel experience.

During the course of this trip, the class stayed everywhere from Chispin to Eilat, and Rosh Hanikra to the Dead Sea. The trip includes religious, historical, Biblical, spiritual and geographical locations that are especially meaningful, along with exciting recreational activities such as kayaking in the Jordan River and rappelling in the Ramon Crater.

"The Israel Experience is the capstone experience to the education that our students received regarding Israel in their early education, elementary and middle school years. Everything they have learned about our Holy Land and its connection to the Jewish people, from Biblical to modern times, is transformed from words

Students from BCHA and Nir HaEmek Youth Village got to know each other virtually prior to the trip and finally met in person. Students participated in joint interactive games throughout the school and made pita bread which was baked on a Tabun (clay oven). Popsicles, school-made cheese, chocolate spread and lots of chats and photos made it even more fun!

The current group consists of 29 students, accompanied by school and community chaperones, including Iris Back, BCHA Hebrew Curriculum Director, Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld, Director of Judaics Pre-K through 12, Middle School Rabbi Tzachi Posner, Diane Cohen, Liat Karsch, and BCHA Alumnus Nathan Haron.

The students will broadcast a song and *Hatikva* from Mount Herzl to the attendees of the BCHA annual Gala on Monday May 30, 2022 during the portion of the program which celebrates Yom Yerushalayim.

Israel at Your Doorstep

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation once again teamed up with the Jewish Agency for Israel to bring "Israel at Your Doorstep" to the community. Yoav Yaron, who will be the community *Shaliach* (emissary) beginning in August, and Tal Gilboa, a former young emissary serving Eastern CT, visited Temple Sinai's 5th grade, enhancing their studies of Israel. The visit to Temple Sinai included participating in Mitzvah Day where Tal and Yoav displayed a *Kotel* (Western Wall) replica and collected prayers from participants which were taken back to the *Kotel* in Jerusalem Israel.

Tal and Yoav also held a session for the 4's and pre-K class at the Sara Walker Nursery School at the JCC in Stamford, enjoyed lunch and conversation with

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy High Schoolers and finished the afternoon with a casual wine and cheese and conversation with local women.

Later in the week they returned to Stamford to help host and bring *ruach* (spirit) to the county-wide Yom HaAtzmaut celebration (See page 14).



Sara Walker 4's and Pre-K classes have fun learning about Israel.



Temple Sinai 5th graders ask questions about life in Israel.



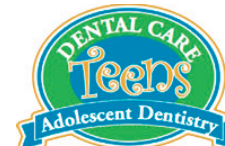
Mitzvah Day participants at Temple Sinai write prayers for peace.

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Creator of *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives* to Speak at JCC Book Series

(Courtesy of the JCC)

The Stamford JCC's Center for Arts & Culture and the Jewish Book Council are pleased to host David Page for an in-person Book & Author Conversation on Thursday, June 16, at 7:30 pm. Two-time Emmy winner David Page, creator of the television series *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, will speak about his book, *Food Americana: The Remarkable People and Incredible Stories behind America's Favorite Dishes*.

"This conversation promises to be both fascinating and very entertaining,"



David Page

said Connie Freeman, Director of Arts & Culture at The JCC.

Food Americana is the inside story of how Americans came to form national cuisines from a world of diverse flavors. From a lobster boat off the coast of Maine to the "Memphis in May" barbecue competition. From the century-old Russ & Daughters lox and bagels shop in lower Manhattan to the "Buffalo Chicken Wing Festival". From a thousand-dollar Chinese meal in San Francisco to birria tacos from a food truck in South Philly.

David Page changed the world of food television by creating, developing, and executive-producing the groundbreaking show *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*. Before that, as a network news producer based in London, Frankfurt, and Budapest, he traveled Europe, Africa, and the Middle East doing two things: covering some of the biggest stories in the world and developing a passion for some of the world's most incredible food.

Page walked through Checkpoint Charlie into East Berlin the night the Berlin wall opened, but his favorite memory of the eastern side before reunification remains the weisswurst

(Bavarian sausage) sold under the S-Bahn elevated train. He was first served couscous by Moammar Khaddafy's kitchen staff while waiting in a tent to interview the dictator in Libya. Blood oranges at a three o'clock breakfast with Yasser Arafat. Wild boar prosciutto in Rome. Bouillabaisse in Marseille. Cheese pies in Tbilisi. Venison in Salzburg. Nonstop caviar in Moscow.

Creating *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* and hands-on producing its first eleven seasons took him deep into the world

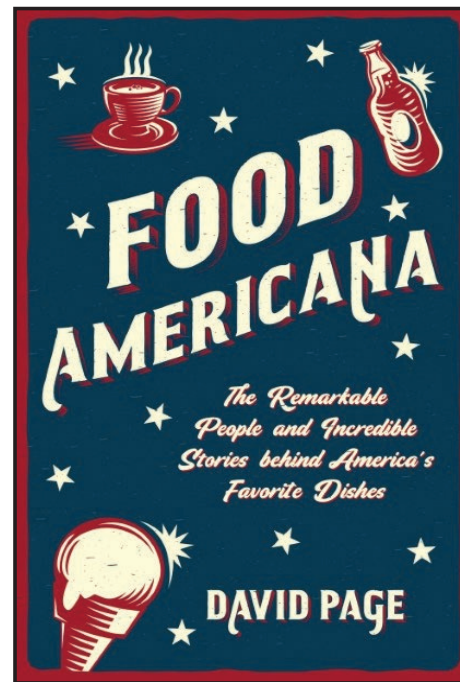
of American food. His next series, the syndicated *Beer Geeks*, dove deep into the intersection of great beer and great food. It is those experiences, that education, and the discovery of little-known stories and facts that led Page to dig even deeper and tie the strands together in *Food Americana*.

The conversation will be moderated by Ronnie Fein, a cookbook author, food writer, lecturer, and principal of Ronnie Fein School of Creative Cooking in Stamford. Ronnie writes for several newspapers including the *Connecticut Post*, *The Stamford Advocate* and *Greenwich Time*. "Kitchen Vignettes" is her popular food blog. A contributor to this United Jewish Federation newspaper *The New Jewish Voice*, her feature articles have appeared in *Newsday*, *Cook's Illustrated*, *Consumer's Digest*, *Consumer Guide*.

"The JCC has had the pleasure of hosting Ronnie for cooking demonstrations and talks, and we're so happy to have her moderate the conversation about *Food Americana*," said Nancy Schiffman, Director of Arts & Culture.

The program is free to JCC members and \$10 for community. Book Purchase is available.

For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman, Director Arts & Culture at nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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Schoke JFS Introduces New Social Group

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Rebuilding a life after the death of a spouse can seem terrifying. A person goes from having a built-in companion who can accompany them to dinners, the movies, and social events to navigating everything on their own. Loneliness is among the most frequently reported challenges of bereavement. The surviving spouse isolates out of fear of breaking down in front of others or feeling as though no one truly understands what they are

going through. Often, activities that used to be enjoyable no longer have meaning.

Initiating plans can seem daunting for a grieving widow or widower which is why Schoke JFS is introducing a new social group, Sunday Social Strolls, beginning on Sunday, June 12. The new group will bring together people who are grieving the loss of their spouse and trying to build the next chapter of their life. Each week the group will meet at

11:00 am on Sundays either for a lovely walk through one of Connecticut's many parks or for a fun activity such as a picnic, art class, or bowling.

The agency hopes that members will meet and connect outside of the scheduled Sunday group get-togethers. The new support group is partially funded by the Stamford Chevra Kadisha.

To register for the group, go to: www.ctjfs.org/socialstrolls.

Chabad of Stamford's Summer Soirée

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Please join Chabad of Stamford's Jewish Women Connected (JWC) as they celebrate their final event of the year, an end-of-year summer garden party at a private home in Stamford on Tuesday, July 12 at 6:30 pm. The annual summer soiree is a favorite on the JWC calendar. Women from all over Stamford take an evening

to hang out with friends, meet with new ones, sip a cocktail and enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres as they discover what the summer can hold for them in terms of personal growth, learning and connection. For more information and to sign up visit Chabad at www.stamfordchabad.org or contact programs@stamfordchabad.org for more details.



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An American Favorite

BY RONNIE FEIN

Shavuot is known as the “dairy” holiday. And for me, that’s perfect, because there are so many delicious dishes to make and enjoy. Sure, most people associate the holiday with cheesecake, but there’s so much more: cream soups enriched with milk or cream. Salads dotted with crumbled cheese. Blintzes and pierogies. Smoked salmon and cream cheese.

For me, one of the best choices for Shavuot is a grilled cheese sandwich.



Grilled Cheese

Someone should build a monument to the grilled cheese sandwich. I don’t think any other dish is as well-loved as this one. I don’t know many people who don’t like it.

It’s easy to think of grilled cheese as the classic American sandwich made with white bread and either American

regular grilled cheese sandwich or into a panini. It includes mozzarella cheese, sliced tomatoes, fresh basil and olive oil inside a crusty hunk of ciabatta, fried to a crisp in a little butter. It’s the perfect light lunch or supper, weekend brunch dish. Excellent choice for Shavuot.

CAPRESE SALAD GRILLED CHEESE

- ◆ ciabatta bread (or 2 slices sourdough bread)
- ◆ 2 teaspoons olive oil

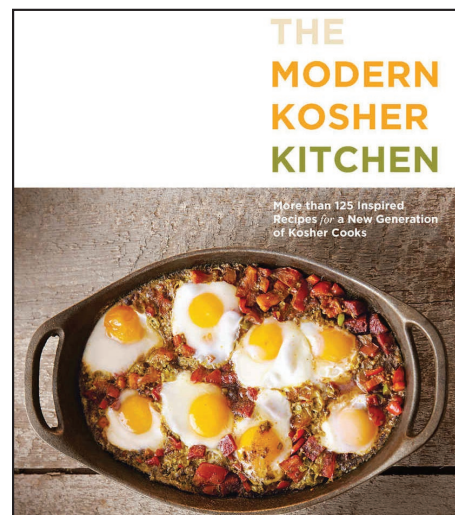
- ◆ 3-1/2 to 4 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, sliced
- ◆ 3-4 slices fresh tomato
- ◆ 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil
- ◆ 2 teaspoons butter

Cut the bread to make two sandwich size slices from the loaf. Brush or spoon one teaspoon olive oil on each bread slice. Place the cheese on one of the bread slices. Place the tomato slices on top of the cheese. Scatter the basil on top. Cover with the second bread slice. Melt half the butter in a saute pan over medium heat. When the butter has melted and looks foamy, place the sandwich in the pan. Weight down the sandwich (use a large pan with a saucepan or cans inside; or use a panini grill). Cook for 2-3 minutes or until the bottom slice of bread is crusty and brown. Lift the sandwich using a rigid spatula. Add the remaining butter to the pan.

When the butter has melted and looks foamy, add the sandwich, uncooked side down. Replace the weights. Cook for another 3 minutes or until the bottom is crusty and brown and the cheese is melted.

Makes one sandwich.

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



cheese or cheddar. But any meltable cheese will do. At our house, if someone wants a grilled cheese sandwich it’s going to be made with whatever cheese we have in the fridge. Suggestions: Swiss, Jarlsberg, Brie, Mozzarella, Havarti, Provolone and more.

We like it plain, but there are so many items you can put inside: sliced tomato, fried egg, olives, avocado, banana, and more.

This caprese salad grilled cheese is a favorite for us – you can make it as a

Shavuot Scholars-in-Residence

(Courtesy of Agudath Sholom) Congregation Agudath Sholom is excited to welcome Rabbi Daniel and Rachel Besser as Scholars in Residence this coming Shavuot, June 4, 5 and 6. Rachel Besser is the *Nach* (Prophets and Writings) Department Chair and Israel Guidance Counselor at the Frisch School. Rabbi Besser teaches Talmud and Jewish Law, serves as the Judaic Studies Enrichment Coordinator, and is Spiritual Guide at Mayanot Yeshiva High School, while also serving as a Rabbinical Judge for the RCA Beit Din of America.

The holiday will kick off with Tikkun Leil Shavuot, all night learning, on Saturday night, June 4 at 11:30 pm featuring presentations by the Bessers, Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Rabbi Moshe Kurtz and Rabbi Yossi Kamman. There will also be “chavruta” style learning (in pairs) in the Faye and Ben Manger Beit Midrash as well programming for middle school



Rochel Besser



Rabbi Daniel Besser

and high school students. The evening will culminate with a sunrise service and breakfast in addition to the regular service in the main sanctuary at 9:00 am on Sunday morning, June 5. The evening of learning is free and open to the entire community. The Bessers will also speak on the first day of Shavuot at the 9:00 am *minyan* and also Sunday and Tuesday afternoon prior to the afternoon service at 7:15 pm.

Rachel Besser is a graduate of Stern College for Women. Rachel received her master’s degree in English literature from

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Jewish Women Connect at Chabad Brunch

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Women from the Stamford community gathered together in May to celebrate an exceptional morning of learning about (and experiencing) “second chances” on *Pesach Sheini* (the second Passover - the day when someone who was unable to participate in the Passover offering in the proper time would observe the mitzvah exactly one month later.)

Expanding on the theme of second chances, everyone was encouraged to bring an item for a second-hand gift exchange ranging from toys, to handbags, jewelry, vases and other items. This year's Jewish Women Connected brunch had an international theme to it as women from the community

prepared and shared several recipes from around the world. Dishes from Morocco, Germany, France and Texas were enjoyed by all as the chefs shared not only the food but also childhood memories relating to them. During the brunch each table was encouraged to reflect and share their own childhood memories with each other.

Chabad of Stamford would like to thank event chairs Jessie Katz, Mouchka Heller and Sandy Speter as well as Rachel Azose-Licht for catering the event. Gratitude also extends to the women who shared their childhood dishes and all the women who joined them and set aside a few hours for nurturing, friendship and inspiration at their Jewish Women Connected brunch.



Miriam Lehrer, Mouchka Heller, Lisa Gavronsky and Rebecca Weiser Greenberg share their special childhood dishes and memories from around the world.

Jewish Senior Services Celebrates National Nursing Week

(Courtesy of Jewish Senior Services) Jewish Senior Services joined National Skilled Nursing Care Week, May 8-14, as it recognized the essential role of skilled nursing care communities in caring for America's elderly.

“It is a privilege and an honor to serve those in our trust, and all of that is made possible by the dedicated caregivers and other professionals who choose to work at Jewish Senior Services,” noted Andrew H. Banoff, Jewish Senior Services President and CEO.

The dedicated staff members were thanked with free lunches, an ice cream truck and other treats throughout the week.

The skilled nursing team, as well as the entire staff of Jewish Senior Services, continue their steadfast commitment to providing the highest level of care for the residents. This has never been more evident than the last two years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For further information about Jewish Senior Services, please call 203-365-6400 or visit jseniors.org.



Staff enjoyed a free lunch from the Super Duper Weenie truck, along with mascot Andrew H. Banoff, President and CEO.



The fun continued with sweet treats from Jim's Ice Cream Truck for the entire staff.

Temple Sinai Partners with UJF's Dignity Grows

(Courtesy of UJF) “When I learned about Dignity Grows, I reached out to Diane Sloyer, CEO of United Jewish Federation, to see if Temple Sinai could host a packing party. With great enthusiasm, Sinai raised over \$2,300. We used the first \$1,000 on May 19, when eighteen women packed 100 bags. Rabbi TelRav came to bless us as we finished our pack,” shared Betsy Stone, coordinator of Temple Sinai's recent Dignity Grows pack.

What is Dignity Grows? It is a charitable organization, run through United Jewish Federation and other Federations around North America, that provides hygiene

products to women, including menstrual pads, soap, wipes, toothpaste and toothbrush, and pantliners.

“Period poverty impacts as many as 30% of women in the United States. Sinai's impact is small but meaningful – to the women who receive the supplies and to the women who packed them,” continued Stone.

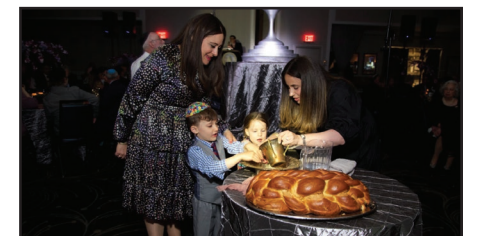
Dignity Grows packing parties are a wonderful way to mark a birthday celebration or bat mitzvah. For more information on how to get involved or to learn more about the program and future opportunities, contact Taly Farber at taly@ujf.org.



Temple Sinai volunteers display the packed bags for UJF Dignity Grows.

Chabad of Stamford Celebrates “Overflowing Blessings”

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) At its annual gala dinner and celebration in May, Chabad of Stamford celebrated with special guests, dignitaries and honorees at the Armon Hotel. Almost 300 individuals joined together in person (and many more virtually)! For Rabbi Moshe Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford, “The evening was an opportunity for everyone to come together as the Chabad of Stamford family and community to celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of Chabad and Gan Yeladim and be inspired and uplifted by an evening of friends, food, fun and inspiring messages”.



Leah Shemtov, Bodhi Soffer, Bara Katz and Hillary Isaacs lead Hamotzi (blessing over bread). (CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

lavish dessert buffet closing out the night.

This year's theme was celebrating “Overflowing Blessings” both literally and metaphorically, and Chabad was delighted to see so many new and familiar faces.

Together with the help and inspiration of conceptual artist Yitzchok Mouly, the guests and honorees created an art installation of an overflowing cup which will adorn Chabad of Stamford's building for many years to come.

Every year Chabad picks honorees who exemplify volunteerism and dedication for others in a way that makes a difference in the community. For Rabbi Moshe, “Our well-deserving honorees each truly shared from their hearts, and we wish a huge *mazal tov* and thank you to our Lamplighter Award recipients Taly and Trevor Farber, our Gan Family Award recipients Shushanah and Ari Yasgur, and our guest of honor and dear friend Joe Field.”



Alix Eben and her father, guest of honor Joe Field. All attendees were given the opportunity to add splashes of color to the inspirational art installation brought to life at the gala by conceptual artist Yitzchok Mouly. (CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

The evening started with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by dinner, awards and entertainment with a paddle raise and

Schoke JFS Offers Windows to the World

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service is pleased to announce the launch of a new initiative called Uniper. This grant-funded initiative is offered at no cost and available to older adults in the Fairfield County community. Uniper is a device that will be installed directly on a television and can also be used from computer, tablet or mobile device. It offers an easier “window to the world,” where a participant can connect with



Rimma Livshits participates in the new Uniper offering from her home.

peers all over the world. Uniper is brand-new cutting-edge technology, developed in Israel by founder Avi Price. Uniper is a separate device and will have no impact on TV or internet service. In fact, having internet service is not a requirement for this service, as an internet hotspot will be provided.

A participant can connect with friends,

family, and community as easily as clicking a button on the remote control provided through Uniper technology. Take a class, explore a new hobby, or join an exercise class; Uniper brings all of this to older adults from the comfort of their own home!

Schoke JFS and Uniper believe that everyone deserves access to the care, community and services they need to live a vibrant, healthy, and fulfilling life. Enrollment in the Uniper program requires very minimal effort on the part of the participant. In four easy steps, Schoke JFS can arrange for a setup and installation, enabling participants to discover everything Uniper has to offer, thus getting connected to the greater world around them.

There is a weekly schedule that allows participants to plan their participation for the day, week, or month. All classes are held in multiple languages, enabling access for a wide variety of backgrounds. There will be a variety of exercises and other classes, lectures, and group discussions. All the offerings are interactive; people can connect with others in the class and make new friends who share similar interests.

The Uniper program is generously funded by the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (NJHSA) and The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). For more

information and/or to be a Uniper participant, contact Director of Case Management, Rebekah

Kanefsky LPC rkanevsky@ctjfs.org or visit the website: www.ctjfs.org/uniper.

Answering the Call to Serve

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in and around Kyiv was almost unbearable. Mikhail and Elana participated in several events and fundraisers to help Ukraine as a whole and the Ukrainian Jewish community.

As the war raged on, the Federation system sprang into action and set up volunteer opportunities for Russian speakers to help. Mikhail, grateful for the generosity afforded him and his family, was eager to give back in this time of crisis.

Mikhail saw the request sent by United Jewish Federation for Russian speakers to volunteer in border countries to Ukraine, and he registered to volunteer. Mikhail said, “I was not sure it would lead to anything as they asked for people with medical or counseling training. To my surprise I was contacted by representatives of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and after an interview on Monday, May 16, I was told that there is a need for volunteers in Budapest, Hungary.”

With two days’ notice, on Wednesday, May 18, Mikhail boarded a plane to Budapest to



Artem, a volunteer from Israel, answering a question about Israel and immigration process.

spend two weeks working with JAFI, Federation’s overseas partner. During his time there, he worked with refugees taking shelter at the Jewish Agency hotel and assisting with translating and paperwork to aid in their Aliyah process.

From Budapest, Mikhail shared, “We have a very nice group of volunteers (four from the USA and two from Israel) and our team leader is the JAFI representative from Israel coordinating our activities. We currently have about 100 refugees staying in the hotel with us, ranging from young teenagers traveling by themselves looking to be placed at school in Israel, a single mother with six children, a couple in their late 70’s, and everyone in between. We are trying to be helpful as much as possible.”

JCRC NEWS

Nonprofit Security Grant Applications Deadline

(Courtesy of UJF) The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) has worked closely with Michael Shanbrom, the community’s Regional Security Advisor, to update the numerous Jewish organizations and synagogues about the Federal and State Nonprofit Security Grant Programs (NSGP). UJF, along with Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and federations from across the country advocated for and were successful in obtaining an increase of \$70 million in funding for fiscal year 2022 compared to 2021. The total amount of funds available in 2022 is about \$250 million. Advocacy work is well underway for increasing that amount for the 2023 budget. Applications under the Federal NSGP are due on May 27. After that, there will be a separate application cycle under the Connecticut NSGP. The 2022 Nonprofit Security Grant Program is one of three grant programs that support the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency’s focus on enhancing the ability of state, local, tribal and territorial governments, as well as nonprofit organizations, to prevent, prepare for, protect

against, and respond to terrorist attacks. These grant programs are part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by DHS to help strengthen the nation’s communities against potential terrorist attacks. The NSGP provides funding to nonprofit organizations at high risk of a terrorist attack for facility hardening and other physical security enhancements and activities.

The application process is a bit tricky in terms of what can be covered and how the application has to be completed. However, the JCRC and Michael Shanbrom have kept local organizations informed about deadlines and webinars to assist in the application process.

“I am grateful to both the National Federation and JFACT (Jewish Federation Association of CT) for their efforts in securing additional funding to keep our community safe. Guiding our greater community through the application process is extremely useful. Our community was overall very successful in receiving grants last year and I hope this proactive approach will bring even greater success,” shared JCRC director Sharon Lewis.

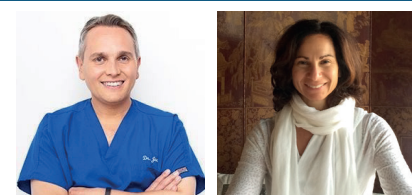
SAVE THE DATE



Join United Jewish Federation’s Chapter Two for:

“LIVING WELL”

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

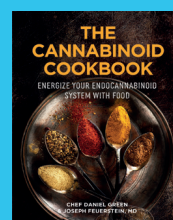


TUESDAY, JULY 12TH • 2:00PM

350 Roxbury Road, Stamford (Temple Beth El)

\$18 per person

Sign up at: www.ujf.org/wellness



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



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

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

Deepening Connections to Israel

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation is excited to be bringing a community *shaliach* (emissary) to the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community this fall. "Our Federation values our relationship with Israel, and after speaking with community leaders, the decision to fund this position and bring an infusion of Israel to our community was a commitment Federation had to make," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.



Yoav Yaron

Israel", a gap year program in Jerusalem. He currently works for the Jewish Agency in the Summer Camp Unit, where he hires and trains summer emissaries selected to bring Israel to the diaspora.

Yoav has a B.A. from Hebrew University in Comparative Literature and Jewish Studies, a teaching certificate from Kerem Institute in Literature and Israeli Culture, and an M.A. from Haifa University in American Jewish Studies (The Ruderman Program).

In his spare time Yoav loves baking, birdwatching, brewing beer, playing video games, bowling, reading, learning Torah and Halacha, and studying new ideas and cultures.

Yoav's roles and responsibilities in the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community are under development with local leadership. On a visit in May, Yoav had the opportunity to meet with leadership and looks forward to matching his talents with community needs.

Federation is looking for a used car (a tax letter will be provided for this donation) for Yoav's use, host families to help with the transition, and donors to help fund the program. Please contact Diane Sloyer at Diansloyer@ujf.org if you can help or to learn more.

During a trip to Israel in February, Sloyer was able to interview prospective candidates in person. These candidates were the result of a rigorous selection and interview process from the Jewish Agency for Israel, based upon community needs. Yoav Yaron, born in Gush-Katif and now a resident of Jerusalem, was chosen by Sloyer to join our community for a two-year commitment beginning in August.

After graduating from high school, Yoav joined a pre-army academy in the Golan Heights for a year, then joined the Givaati Brigade. Upon completing his service, he was part of an IDF delegation to a Jewish summer camp in Milwaukee. He worked at Camp Interlaken for two summers.

Yoav worked with "Onward Israel" programs for two summers, after starting university. He has also taught for "Aardvark

Combining Nature, Torah and Experiential Learning at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) This spring the teachers at Gan Yeladim brought together nature, hands-on experiential learning and Torah studies as they celebrated the traditional Jewish blessing on budding fruit trees (*Birkat Ha'ilanot*) with all the children.

Each year in the month of *Nissan*, it is customary to say this blessing over fruit trees, and each child was able to share in the joys of spring in this special way.



Luca Siegel, Bodhi Soffer and Shane Fischel recite a blessing over blossoming fruit trees at Gan Yeladim.

Shavuot Scholars-in-Residence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Hunter College. Rachel taught the book of Jeremiah and the book of Ezra to over 5,000 women worldwide through The Women's Initiative of the OU (Orthodox Union) and also served as their Counting Toward Sinai Scholar-in-Residence.

Rabbi Daniel Besser joined the Ma'ayanot faculty in 2005, prior to which he practiced law for six years. He earned his J.D. from Columbia Law School and received *semicha*

(ordination) from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Besser was involved in editing the *Masoret HaRav* Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah High Holiday prayer books and a new *Birkon* (Grace After Meals text), whose commentaries incorporate insights of Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik. The Bessers live in Clifton, NJ and are blessed with six children.

For more information on specific topics and timing, visit www.cas-stamford.org.

UJF Gets Down to Business with Rothschild Program

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Rothschild group held a program on May 9 featuring David Weitzner speaking about his book *Connected Capitalism* and using Jewish wisdom and spirituality to transform work. Weitzner started his career as a music

the program. "As a relatively new Stamford resident it was great to have some time to talk to and meet some new people outside of my usual circle. It turns out one of the attendees is a distant cousin of my grandmother!"

Claudia Kraut, the moderator for the evening, commented, "I found Professor

Weitzer's discussion fascinating, and the evening provided a terrific discussion about the intersection between capitalism and Jewish teachings, and the value of meaning, connection, and awe. Professor Weitzner had some fascinating twists on fundamental Jewish concepts which really made his listeners stop and consider how we can infuse more spirituality in our work lives."

"Nights like this with UJF's Rothschild Society are amongst my favorites. Here is a room full of leaders and leaders-in-training who center their Jewish identity, are committed to a social mission in their professional lives and not afraid of hard work. The talk is fun because we can get straight to



Lauri Vorm, Nate Pava, Jonathan Miller, and Joshua Goldberg enjoy networking.



Cynthia Lyon, Heidi Ganz, Allison Greenbaum and Liz Rolle connect over dinner.

thinking about tactics for achieving our shared big-picture vision of a more spiritual, productive, and connected future," Weitzner commented following the program.

Nate Pava, a co-chair of the event, had an interesting discovery while mingling at

industry executive and has since spent nearly two decades teaching in business schools. He is currently a Professor of Management at York University and has spoken around the world on the topic discussed. Guests from the business community gathered to network and enjoy dinner and drinks at the event, which was held at the Waterstone on High Ridge Road, a new senior living facility in Stamford.

Thank you to the event committee, Jonathan Ostroff, Nate Pava, Laurie Vorm, and Greg Waldstreicher. For more information about UJF's Rothschild business group, or UJF's other professional networking groups, Cardozo Law Society and Maimonides Medical Society, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



Ami Soifer and Alexander Abramov chat with young professional Matthew Greenbaum.



Nathan Maidenbaum and Greg Waldstreicher enjoy dinner, mingling, and drinks.

UConn Hillel House Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

(Courtesy of UConn Hillel) On Sunday, May 1, UConn Hillel celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Trachten-Zachs Hillel House. One hundred guests joined in honoring Lawrence "Larry" Handler, UConn Class of '67, and Dori Jacobs, Class of '22, for their outstanding contributions to UConn Hillel.



(l-r) Edina Oestreicher, Henry M. Zachs, David Trachten, Dori Jacobs, '22, Lawrence Handler, '67, and Dr. Radenka Maric, UConn Interim President.

Larry is a cum laude graduate of UConn where he was the recipient of the Senior Accounting Award and Business Law Award and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society. He also received an MBA from NYU where as a research assistant he won the Outstanding Faculty Member award. His career has encompassed public accounting, private industry and academia, including ten years on the adjunct faculty of the University of Connecticut. He has been inducted into the UConn School of Business Hall of Fame and was selected as the Accountant of the Year by the Accounting Department. He has served on six national and local boards of directors, including the National Council of the American Institute of CPAs.

Dori Jacobs graduated from UConn on May 8 with a major in psychology and minors in mathematics and statistics. She came to Storrs, CT, from Santa Clarita, CA, and immediately immersed herself in UConn Hillel. Her passion for the Hillel community and Jewish leadership led her to serve one term as treasurer and two terms as president of the Hillel student

board. As president, she also served as Hillel's first ex-officio senator to the Undergraduate Student Government. As a student leader, she guided the student board toward successful programs and outreach; facilitated relationships with UConn administration, other Jewish organizations, and the campus at large; and worked to fight antisemitism on campus. Going forward into the working world, she knows the leadership development and Jewish values instilled by UConn Hillel will be everlasting.

Guests received a keynote address from Dr. Radenka Maric, UConn Interim President, who highlighted her vision for a thriving Jewish life on campus. Edina Oestreicher, Executive Director, shared

the importance of having a strong and vibrant Hillel at the University of Connecticut. In her remarks, Edina spoke about how UConn Hillel inspires Jewish students to build deep connections, explore Judaism on their own terms and hone their leadership skills; all of which ensure a strong Jewish future. The program concluded with a student-produced video that highlighted Hillel's growth.

This celebration was chaired by Henry M. Zachs and David Trachten. Henry, together with Trachten's father, Morris z"l, had committed the funds to renovate UConn's Hillel building in 2010.

While the last couple of years have been challenging, the mission of UConn Hillel has not changed. UConn Hillel continues to enrich the lives of students through innovative approaches to student engagement which empowers them to be leaders in their own Jewish lives, on campus and beyond. Together, Hillel can inspire thousands of Jewish young adults to create strong connections and continue the meaningful work of building Jewish community for generations to come.

Teacher Appreciation Week at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Teachers at Gan Yeladim were treated to a jam-packed week of gifts, treats and tokens of appreciation from all the families and children at Gan. Each day the *morahs* (teachers) were surprised with something different and unique. The week kicked off with coffee and danishes as each child also brought in flowers from home for the teachers. Every class made beautiful personalized frames celebrating the

teachers. In turn, the teachers were able to personalize their own wooden creations as the parents sponsored a wonderful night out at Board & Brush Creative Studio in Norwalk. The week culminated with a special Loaves of Love Shabbat package for each teacher with challah of their choice. Thanks to all the parents who sponsored the gifts and experiences and helped the *morahs* go into the weekend feeling loved, nurtured and appreciated.



Gan Yeladim teachers enjoy a fun night out at Board & Brush Creative Studio.

Remembering The Family Store

Downtown Stamford circa 1940-1965



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Susan Kostin displays the art project she made with one of the children at the Jewish Agency's Youth Futures program.



Another view of the Peace Wall at Netiv HaAsara.



Havdalah on the rooftop of the group's hotel in Jerusalem.

BY DIANE SLOYER, UJF CEO

In early May, United Jewish Federation set out for a leadership and community mission to Israel. Rescheduled for the third time due to COVID restrictions, participants arrived just as the festivities of Israel Independence Day, Yom HaAtzmaut, were winding down.

The eight-day mission was filled with 12-plus hour days of agency site visits, museums, long bus rides with animated discussion and, most importantly, conversations with the human mosaic that makes Israel the diverse and democratic country it is. Both JDC (Joint Distribution Committee) and Jewish Agency site-visits provided meaningful context for the work UJF does in Israel and overseas.

Activities fell into three broad categories: (1) understanding the social needs of Israel's most vulnerable and the impact of programs supported by Federation; (2) exploring Israel's borders with Gaza, Lebanon, and Jordan and the associated military history and challenges; and finally (3) visiting a few of Israel's world class museums, focusing on its ancient history, life in the diaspora, the Holocaust, and modern-day Israel, the "start-up nation."

The first category produced the strongest memories for many in the group. Susan Kostin appreciated gaining first-hand insight into the programs and agencies supported by United Jewish Federation through its partners in Israel. "In Sderot, we visited the Jewish Agency's Youth Futures program that provides mentors and positive intervention to young children and their families who may be struggling with the psychological impacts of divorce, COVID isolation or the fear of violence that comes with living so close to the

border with Gaza. We enjoyed a joint art project with the children where we each created a cut-out leaf on a paper tree, adding our own word or two of inspiration and aspiration for our futures. The ten-year-old girl I worked with wants to become a singer or an actor, and she was thrilled to meet me and share with me her dreams."

Linda G. Spilka, after many years working with JDC and many trips to Israel, was "touched to her core" by Susan's House, a JDC program she had not previously encountered. "Susan's House assists at-risk teens and young adults by involving them in the creation and sale of art and additional creative mediums. We were greeted with smiles and an eagerness to share. This program is a constant they know is available to them as often as they need it. Having welcoming, sensitive, reliable, and loving staff offers them new beginnings to what is possible in their lives. It is where they have a safe environment, a communal meal, a sense of self and empowerment. It is where their humanity is finally embraced."

Monica Smyth was impressed by Israel's lessons learned and responses in absorbing immigrants from all parts of the diaspora. "Immigrants and refugees have been making Aliyah to Israel for over a century. The challenges that accompany this -- how to integrate and support different people to become productive members of Israeli society -- are long-standing. During our mission, I saw first-hand the Jewish Agency programs that help Ethiopian families and Ukrainian youth. We heard from teenage boys who had just arrived from Ukraine and heroic mothers from Ethiopia who brought their families to a safe life in Israel. Having personal



The mission meets with new immigrant teens from Ukraine at Ramat Hadassah Youth Village.



The Peace Wall at moshav Netiv HaAsara on the border with Gaza.

A Purpose

experience with administering similar programs in Fairfield County, I was in awe of what I saw.”

Geo-political conversation and struggle were prominently featured in daily bus conversations moderated by our exceptional guide, Uri Feinberg. The bus rides were long (for Israel) as the mission visited Israel’s northern and southern borders. Uri prides himself on educating visitors across the political spectrum on the underlying facts, objectively and in all their nuance.

One opportunity for reflection occurred at the moshav Netiv HaAsara, just across the border from Gaza. Edith Samers and Ed Smith, long-time Stamford residents and supporters of UJF and Israel, had tears in their eyes as they listened to a beautiful woman artist, Tsamaret Zamir, talk about her daily life there.

“Optimistic and creative about living with her family there, she exuded a strength that was remarkable. She reflected this creativity and strength by having visitors decorate a strategic ‘peace wall’ with individual painted tiles. Each of us in the group placed a tile on the protective wall that joined hundreds of thousands of other colorful tiles already displayed there. Doing this simple task seemed symbolic of a secure future for the people of Netiv HaAsara. She also produced a touching film about her everyday existence that we bought to remember this inspiring woman and her story.”

On the first day of the mission, Uri recalled a Jerry Seinfeld quip to the effect that Israelis met every proposition with one of two responses: either “it is no problem” or “it is impossible” (said in his thickest Israeli accent). There’s no middle ground. Michael R. Schlessinger observed that our own

geo-political discussions over the course of the week came to be punctuated with a different, but just as deeply Israeli refrain – “it is complicated.” Michael’s conclusion: “what a remarkable, inspiring and, yes, nuanced and complicated place Israel is.”

“Telling Our Story” was the overall theme of the mission. Our story is one of history, tragedy balanced against exhilarating achievements -- all were explored during the eight days together. Spending time in Stamford’s partnership region, Afula-Gilboa, the group met with Ethiopian immigrants, experienced a traditional Ethiopian Buna coffee ceremony, and saw the computer tablets donated by Federation during COVID in action, assisting with virtual learning. Afula, a town which was once mostly immigrants, in the periphery, is booming. A high-speed train and an abundance of new and affordable housing is attracting all socio-economic ranges. Participants who had been to Afula 10-plus years ago could not get over the growth. Through our partnership, schools, community centers and social service agencies are helping bridge the gap and affording new opportunities for the next generation.

So, what is different about mission travel to Israel? If you ask any participant, the answer would be the same. Missions are exhausting. Missions are travel with a purpose. They leave you with more questions than answers. But hopefully they inspire you to be ambassadors, ready to engage in conversation and share the wonderful impact of your Federation donations at work!

For more information on future Jewish travel with UJF, contact Diane Sloyer, dianesloyer@ujf.org.



Visiting Connecticut Blvd. in Afula.



Coffee and Conversations with Doris, a Christian Arab living in Jaffa.



Tulip Winery in Kfar Tikvah (Village of Hope), an inclusive kibbutz-like community and “home for life” for hundreds of adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities.



At the Kotel.



Security briefing on issues at the Lebanon border.



Mission participants pictured with members of Kibbutz Harduf’s Project TEN community, where young people from all over the world live together and teach English to children in local Arab villages in the Galilee.

Bits & Pieces

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Betsy Blumberg & Doug Watson

on the birth of their grandson, Zachary Machowsky.

Margaret & Erik Blumenkranz on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, **Claire & Joe Greenberg**; and to the great grandparents, **Sue & Ed Greenberg**.

Heather & Coby Greif on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandmother **Rhonda Greif**.

Devorah & Ari Hertzberg on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandmother, **Shery Hertzberg**.

Nava Jacknis & Natanel Fuchs on the birth of a daughter.

Victoria & Jeffrey Levene on the birth of a daughter, **Hudson-Rose MacKenzie Levene**; and to the grandparents, **Jane & Philip Levene** and **Kimberly Moynihan**.

Naomi Michelson on the birth of a great-grandson, and to grandparents **Shelley & Barry Michelson**.

Marina Sapir & Alex Podelko on the birth of a granddaughter.

Gila & Menachem Rapoport on the birth of a daughter and to the grandmother, **Bracha Rapoport**.

MAZEL TOV ON THE MARRIAGE/ENGAGEMENTS TO:

Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen on the marriage of their daughter, **Elisheva Cohen** to **Moshe Yaakov Shmidman**.

Lynne & Steven Frenkel on the engagement of their son, **Jared Frenkel** to **Amelia Meora Bitton**, daughter of **Estee Bass** and **Solomon Bitton**.

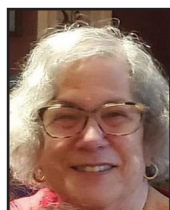
Wendy & David Lewis on the marriage of their daughter, **Alexandra Lewis** to **Michael Tringali**.

Liba & Steven Steinmetz on the engagement of their daughter, **Jennifer Steinmetz** to **Ronen Weinstein**, son of **Hilary & Baruch Weinstein**.

Cathy & Steve Zales, on the marriage of their son **Greg Zalesto Mackenzie Garrity**

Cathy & Steve Zales, on the marriage of their son **Scott Zales** to **Diana Vasel**.

Shira & Mitchell Zucker on the engagement of their daughter, **Ellie Zucker** to **Nick Morales**.



Sandy Golove

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Alex Bowbeer: son of **Michelle Poris & Lee Bowbeer**.

Olivia Breiner: daughter of **Sarah & Justin Breiner**; and to the grandparents, **Mona & Mark Breiner**.

Colin Cronk: son of **Sheri & Steve Cronk**.

Zoe Freyberg: granddaughter of **Joyce & Larry Haber**.

Rivkah Gamzeh: granddaughter of **Toby Schaffer** and **Hyman Schaffer**.

Sara Gamzeh: granddaughter of **Toby Schaffer** and **Hyman Schaffer**.

Cooper Gendason: son of **Helaine & Ari Gendason**.

Nina Griffith: daughter of **Rebecca & Jason Griffith**.

Jonah Heirshberg: son of **RoseAnn & Jay Heirshberg**.

Xavier Marks: son of **Naomi Marks** and **Jonathan Marks**.

Sadie Palker: daughter of **Stacey & Todd Palker**.

Jacob Silver: son of **Lisa & Jason Silver**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Lorna Adelman: mother of **Roslyn Perlson**.

Mort Bauman: husband of **Loraine Bauman**; father of **Joel Bauman**, **Risa Goldblum** and **Ellen Kennedy**; and brother of **Doreen Spires**.

Jim Beldotti: brother of **Chris Beldotti** and **Mike Beldotti**.

Judith Bragin: mother of **Bart Ehrenkranz**, **Laura Ehrenkranz**, **Bina Fendel** and **Doris Friedenberg**.

Nancy Elliot: sister of **David Rauch**.

Richard Fierstein: husband of **Alice Fierstein**.

Sonia Goldberg: mother of **Devorah Aranoff**, **Henry Goldberg** and **Jonathan Goldberg**.

Edwen Goldstein: wife of **Fred Goldstein**.

Sharon Green: sister-in-law of **Sheldon Green**.

Eileen Dombroff Katz: grandmother of **Wendy Lewis**.

Sheila Newman: wife of **Marty Newman**.

Raisa Rogova: mother of **Galina Landress** and **Irina Nikiforovich**.

Dr. Michael Rosen: father of **Becky Neumeier**, **Gila Ogle**, **Shalom Rosen**, **Tzvi Rosen** and **Miri Rosen**.

Rosalyn Rubin: sister of **Irving Friedman**, aunt of **Marc Friedman** & **Donna Wise**.

Scott Sharinn: brother of **Todd Sharinn**.

Elaine Silver: aunt of **Beth Peters**.

Marvin Wolff: father of **Glenn Wolff**.

The Hebrew Corner

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

Shabbat Shalom. Have a wonderful Shabbat. But it really means we're wishing our friends and family a peaceful Shabbat.

As you know the word SHah-LohM translates into hello, goodbye, and peace, and arises from the three root letters of SHin, Lah-med, and Mem. So, it makes sense that we wish one another a Shabbat SHah-LohM. But could there be an underlying meaning to this greeting?

When are we at peace? When we



Robert Abrams

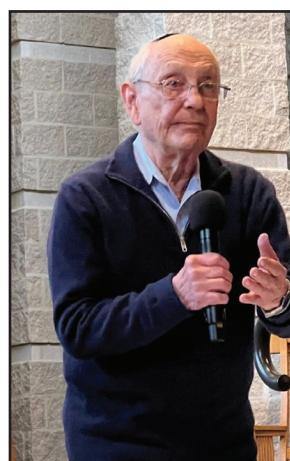
have all we need - not all we want - but all we need, we then feel complete, whole, full. When we use the three letters SHin, Lah-med, and Mem and use different vowels, we find the word SHah-LayM. The word SHah-LayM means complete. And there we have the connection. When we wish one another Shabbat

SHah-LohM, we are wishing our friends and family a complete Shabbat, a whole Shabbat, and the feeling and reality of peace.

Remembering as a Community

(Courtesy of UJf) The community-wide Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration was marked by a joint program with United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien and UJA-JCC of Greenwich. The program was both in-person and live-streamed at Temple Shalom in Greenwich. Local

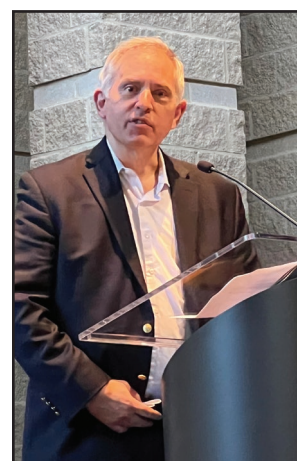
rabbis and cantors led memorial prayers, songs and readings and Holocaust survivor and guest speaker, Endre Sarkany, shared his story. Temple Beth-El teens, part of the Mitzvah Maker program, funded by a Federation grant, were on hand to escort survivors and second and third generation participants in a candle lighting ceremony.



Holocaust survivor Endre Sarkany shares his story.



Rabbi Joshua Hammerman of Temple Beth El of Stamford offers a memorial prayer.



UJF President David Gordon introduces the guest speaker.

Friendship Day and Walk Returns

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) On Sunday May 15, hundreds of friends stepped out to support individuals with special needs and their families. For the first time since 2019, everyone was able to gather on the field at Westhill for the annual walk and Family Day. Attendees included individuals with special needs and their families, as well as the community who came out to support them.

Several weeks before Friendship Day, teen volunteers and others set up web pages to fundraise for the walk. Through their work, the fundraising goal for the day was far exceeded. Well over \$100,000 was raised to allow the Friendship Circle to provide activities and support services for Friendship Circle participants and their families.

Over 100 teen and adult volunteers helped to make sure the day ran smoothly from start to finish. From set-up to clean-up, and running the booths in between, the volunteers made sure the day was a success. Included in the free day was a

barbeque lunch, an interactive science show with Dr. Schnitzel, a continuous children's science experiment booth with Inventor Mentor, and many craft and activities booths. Participants also enjoyed laser tag and face painting. The booths offered families the opportunity to create a mezuzah, give charity, and many other crafts. Throughout the day the Friendship Circle Mascot spread good cheer and excitement.

Teens Solomon Green and Ryland Noorily cut the ribbon to begin the walk. The honor was given to them as two of the top fundraisers. As everyone began the walk, festive music accompanied the walkers to energize the crowd. After the walk, people continued to enjoy the food and activities. Volunteer Brian Roitman said, "It was a beautiful day and a great treasure. By the looks and activities of all the attendees, it was quite likely the most fun Friendship Circle Day!"

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



Families, teams and organizations all walk for Friendship.



Teen Volunteers strike a pose.



A good time was had by all.

Grandparents and Special Persons Day at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) The theme of this year's "Gan Yeladim Grandparents and Special Persons Day" was Shabbat. The celebration, set in a beautiful outdoor area at Chabad of Stamford, was attended by over 120 people. Each class invited their special guests to join in their Shabbat parties with music, singing, braiding challah for Shabbat and various fun activities. The morning culminated in a brunch, and each guest took home a special Shabbat package



Morah Nancy collects "Tzedakah" coins for charity from each child.

of challah, grape juice and candles and some matzah to celebrate Pesach Sheni (second Passover).

The Power of Women

(Courtesy of UJF) Gathering as a community of caring and committed women is an important component of United Jewish Federation's annual Women's Philanthropy Spring Dinner. With a robust event committee led by event chairs Heidi Ganz and Caroline Marciano, and auction chairs Allison Greenbaum, Pam Horne and Toby Lazarus, this beautiful evening

provided a much-needed opportunity to connect for the over 100 women in attendance. Floral arranging by Christine Bloom of Hedge Floral, craft cocktails by Litchfield Distillery, a beautiful tent by Temple Beth-El, delicious food by W Kosher Events, music by Arielle Eden, and photography by Aviva Maller rounded out a wonderful evening.



Leah Miller, Caroline Marciano, Stacy Miller, Becky Kevelson, and Shira Gilboa.



Arielle Eden (aka Arielle Freedberg Prager).



Event chairs Heidi Ganz and Caroline Marciano.



Amanda Shapiro, Stephanie Belinker, and Rhoda Freedberg.



Mother-daughter and UJF board members, Robin Fischel and Ellen Weber, Campaign Chair.



Auction Chairs Pam Horne, Allison Greenbaum and Toby Lazarus.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 19

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebrated in a County-Wide Event

(Courtesy of UJF) Israel's 74th birthday was celebrated with music, food, games, arts & crafts and more on Thursday, May 5 at the Stamford JCC. This event marked the first time that the three federations of Fairfield County—United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, UJA-JCC Greenwich and Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield—collaborated on an event for the Fairfield County Jewish community. Many community organizations were co-sponsors of the event, namely: American Jewish Committee of Connecticut, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Hadassah of Connecticut, Stamford Jewish Community

Center, and Jewish National Fund.

More than 250 people streamed into the outdoor campus of the JCC on an exceptionally beautiful evening. Attendees ate, schmoozed and danced as they listened to TLV band performing Israeli cultural and pop favorites. KosherEats2Go provided the food and snacks. Participants also had an opportunity to interact with co-sponsors at their tables and participate in activities specifically designed by each sponsor.

Many people took the opportunity to photograph themselves in front of the "Kotel" and wrote prayers that will be inserted in the real Kotel (Western Wall) by the community's



new Israeli emissary (*shaliach*), Yoav Yaron. Yoav and Tal Gilboa were part of a special Jewish Agency mission to help the community and others celebrate Israel and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Yoav will be back in Stamford in August as he begins his two years of service to the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community thanks to funding from United Jewish Federation. The event served as a great way for Yoav to meet many members of the community.

Diane Sloyer, CEO of UJF of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, Pamela Ehrenkranz, CEO of UJA-JCC Greenwich, and Stacy Kamisar, Director of Programming and Partnerships of Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, addressed the crowd early in the evening and led a prayer for the State of Israel. Parents of Lone Soldiers (serving in the Israel Defense Force without parents in the country), past and current, were invited to lead the prayer for the Israel Defense Forces.

Attendees expressed happiness that people could finally gather together at an event. Shara Israel said, "It was great to see so many people, young and older, singing and dancing to the



wonderful Israeli live band, and celebrating Israel's 74th birthday!" Liatte Lasher who brought her three young daughters to the event commented, "We loved having an event to celebrate Israel with friends and community members from all circles and institutions! Events like these are crucial for Jewish education and Israel pride!"

The Federations are already planning the Yom Ha'Atzmaut event for next year when Israel celebrates its 75th Birthday. If you are interested in working on the event committee, please be in touch with Sharon Lewis, Director, JCRC, slewis@ujf.org.

"NextGen'ers" Come Together to Celebrate Israel

BY MELANIE VORM,
DIRECTOR, NEXTGEN

It was a night of pure blue-and-white joy for the NextGen community last month with over 100 young Jewish leaders gathering together to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut and Israel's 74th birthday.

While the evening was met with heavy winds and rain, the planned backyard BBQ moved indoors into the private home of Micky and Tova Reich for a night that couldn't be dampened!

Drinks were flowing, Israeli food including falafel, kabobs, hummus and pita were a-plenty, Israeli music was sounding, groups of friends intermingled, and the overall atmosphere was vibrant, noisy and full of joy.

"In these sensitive times, showing our support to our beloved homeland Israel has never been more important. And what a great way to do it, surrounded by so many friends both new and old at a really fun party," said Rachel Kaimowitz, an attendee of the evening who lives in Stamford.

The Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration was the fourth event that has taken place in the newly relaunched NextGen program and there are

others planned over the next few months, including the Challah Prince coming to town, as well as a Casino Night. Next up, however, is a charity basketball tournament and family fun day on July 10, aimed at raising money to help Ukrainian refugees resettle to Israel.



Alyssa Frager, Michelle Kutas, Tamar Levine.



Yitzi and Rosalie Wexler, Danielle and Robbie Schrag, Molly Schrag.



Jason Rubinfeld, Sara Rubinfeld, James Marcus, Daniela Fisch, Lorraine Hutzler, Eve Weiner, Phil Steinmetz.



Ari Frager, Micky Reich, Jon Miller, Laurie Vorm, Mark Svartz, Jason Fischel, Ari Yasgur, Ed Rosenfeld, Adam Kelson.



Debra Faizakoff, Wendy Siegel, Stacy Miller.



Caroline Marciano, Melanie Vorm, Shushannah Yasgur, Becky Kelson, Robin Fischel.



Elie Herman, Theresa Linsner, David Tepper, Stephanie Tepper, Ron Kutas.

Celebrating Leadership at JHSFC

(Courtesy of JHSFC)
At its annual meeting in March, The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) bestowed its leadership award on Dr. Elissa Kaplan of Stamford, who served as the organization's board president from 2016 to 2021.

Current JHSFC president Peter Lilienthal presented his predecessor with the George J. Goldberg Award (named for the Society's third president). "From the earliest years of her career, Elissa has dedicated herself to Jewish education, innovation and leadership in communities from Georgia to Colorado to Maryland and New Jersey, and even in Germany," said Lilienthal. "She and her husband, David, are in their 15th home, and no matter



Elissa Kaplan

where they've lived, they have had an enormous impact on their communities. We're incredibly fortunate to have them in ours today."

Dr. Kaplan's multiple advanced degrees include a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from George Washington University. Among the many accomplishments during her tenure as JHSFC president was

her doubling of the oral history interviews (to more than 250) in the organization's archives, thanks to a project she first spearheaded at Westport's Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. She plays a key role in the burgeoning Intergenerational Oral History project, mentoring students in area middle schools as they conduct and film interviews with grandparents

or other elders in their families. For this she received a second recognition, the "Idor V'Dor Award," along with her team of Rhonda Ginsberg, Leslie Heyison and Leah Tillman.

Under Dr. Kaplan, a number of key grants were secured, enabling the JHSFC to begin digitizing its archives and to continue presenting lectures, book talks and other high-quality programming, including the feature-length documentary *Remembering the Family Store*, which will debut in Stamford in June.

One of the greatest challenges during Dr. Kaplan's presidency was that of pivoting the JHSFC to all online programming and Zoom meetings due to COVID-19. "It was also one her greatest successes," said Peter Lilienthal, "thanks to her skilled leadership and endless positivity, as well as the invaluable tech support provided across the board by her husband, David Kaplan."

Mr. Kaplan was also presented with a JHSFC "Outstanding Service Award" at the meeting.

Another honor bestowed that evening was the "Birkat Ha'Makom" ("Blessing of the Place") Award, to board member Gail G. Trell and her committee for their dedicated steering of the documentary film project, *Remembering the Family Store*, one of the most ambitious and exciting community projects ever undertaken by the organization based on the vision of Lester Sharlach z"l, the Society's second president.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a non-profit, secular, educational organization established in Stamford in 1983, whose mission is to "preserve and archive the past, and tell its story." To learn more about JHSFC, please visit our website <http://jhsfc-ct.org/> or call 203-359-2196.

The Return of the Retreats

BY CANTOR MICAH MORGOVSKY
AND RABBI JAY TELRAV

Temple Sinai members love moments of gathering together as one large community, but they also know that sometimes the most impactful and meaningful moments happen in smaller, more intimate settings. The participants of the Women's and Men's

another and nature. These retreats provided the chance to explore spirituality outside of the walls of the synagogue and shed light and depth on Temple relationships.

It is said around Temple Sinai, "What happens at the Women's Retreat, stays at the Women's Retreat." (Hence, no pictures). However, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID, it was a welcome reunion worth talking about. The 30 women in attendance enjoyed Shabbat services, Torah Study and engaged in social action projects. They went on shopping outings, played mahjong, practiced meditation and



The attendees of Temple Sinai's 6th Annual Men's Retreat.

Retreats understand this completely.

Sinai men and women retreaters recently gathered for their respective weekends – the women in March and the men in May – to socialize and play, to pray and meditate, to eat and drink, and to connect with one

Zentangle, and went for walks.

The 20 men, at their retreat, played and prayed, trading mahjong for poker, and while the rain kept them from the planned hike, it dried out in time for the traditional Saturday night bonfire. They, unlike the women, have no issue with being photographed! (Hence, two pictures).

Egalitarian Judaism does not overlook the importance of being in single-gender groups, and the conversations that emerge each year as a result of these activities prove that there are some things you just don't discuss the same way when in a mixed group.



First, the Sinai men prayed in the sanctuary, then they played around the poker table.

Every participant comes away from these experiences having made new friends and feeling refreshed and renewed.

Assuming the pandemic allows it, next year will be the women's 12th retreat and the men's 7th, and plans are already underway.



SAVE
THE
DATE

NextGen Presents
A Charity Basketball Tournament
Date: July 10, 2022
Time: 2:30pm-6:00pm

Cause: To support those making aliyah from Ukraine/Russia as a result of the war

Basketball Tournament Chairs:
David Gilboa; Ari Goldstein;
Joshua Esses; Jacob Goldberg.

Cost for tournament:
\$360/team or \$120 per individual player

Details to follow including more information on a corresponding Family Funday!

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

New Around Town - Schoke Jewish Family Service

Adolfo Rodriguez, Food Operations Assistant

Adolfo Rodriguez joins Schoke JFS as the Food Operations Assistant. Adolfo was excited to take his next steps with Schoke JFS because he understands the agency's goals to help the community firsthand. He can relate to that because of his own family experience which is what truly inspired him to work



Adolfo Rodriguez

at Schoke JFS. Adolfo has a background in food insecurity and a mother who fled civil war in El Salvador and came to America at age 17, then struggled with English and getting the help she needed. As a bilingual Spanish speaker, Adolfo helps many clients that come to the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry.

Jen Bernstein, Food Programs Coordinator

Jen Bernstein joins Schoke JFS as the Food Programs Coordinator, overseeing the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry, Hirsch Kosher Home-Delivered Meal and Shabbat Meal Delivery Programs, and essentially all things food-related at Schoke JFS. Having recently moved to Stamford with her husband



Jen Bernstein

and two children, Jen is eager to put her experience in the non-profit, special events and hospitality sectors to work helping and serving others. Jen says, "I am humbled to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others in our community and honored to be a part of the dedicated Schoke JFS family."

Anne Birchenough, Kuriansky Counseling Program

Anne Birchenough, LCSW, joins the Schoke JFS Kuriansky Counseling Program as a Psychotherapist, after previously having been an intern at the agency a few years back. She utilizes an eclectic psychotherapeutic approach in her practice, using a variety of tools from different modalities to create an ideal and personal approach. Anne has experience working with clients who are in crisis, have relationship issues, have pre- and post-divorce issues, and are making



Anne Birchenough

career changes. Anne also has experience working with clients who suffer from trauma, PTSD, anxiety and depression as well as other mental health related issues. Anne is certified as a counselor in domestic violence. She has completed trainings in trauma and trauma informed care, trauma focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Emotion-Focused Therapy, anxiety, confronting anger and fear, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy. Anne shared, "I am excited to be back at Schoke JFS!"

Brooke Davidson, Director of Clinical and Family Life Services

Brooke Davidson, LCSW, joins Schoke JFS as the Director of Clinical and Family Life Services. She received her master's degree from Hunter College in 2015 and then moved to Philadelphia, where she had been residing for the past 6 years. While in Philadelphia, Brooke worked as a clinical social worker at a psychiatric hospital in the child and adolescent unit and then



Brooke Davidson

directed a mobile crisis program for children and adolescents. For the past year and a half, Brooke has been working privately as a therapist specializing in depression, anxiety, trauma, and mood dysregulation. Brooke is very excited to be joining the Schoke JFS team and looks forward to becoming more connected to this wonderful community.

Hannah Pollack, Case Manager and Clinical Therapist

Hannah Pollack, MSW, is a recent graduate of Fordham University's Master of Social Work program. She is passionate about helping people in all aspects of their life and was drawn to Schoke JFS because the agency offers so many different avenues of support for community members. Hannah currently lives in Stamford with her dog, Puddin', and they



Hannah Pollack

can be found most weekends playing fetch or wandering along hiking trails searching for waterfalls.

Gan Yeladim

Of Stamford

Where Children Blossom

Where the success stories of tomorrow begin to blossom.

A school where warmth and sensitivity are the foundation for learning and growing.

A school that weaves rigorous curriculum, nurturing relationships and the joy of Jewish life into a seamless fabric that fits today's young Jewish families.

That school is Gan Yeladim of Stamford

To tour our beautiful facility email:
wendy@stamfordchabad.org

Do you love children?

The Gan is growing, and has opportunities for teaching, subbing and afternoon hours. For details contact:
morahleah@stamfordchabad.org
or call (203) 324-2223 ext #102

www.ganyeladim.org

LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll

United Jewish Federation is proud to partner with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to bring the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community the Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY Program. Through 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 (16)	Sharon and Bruce Goldstein
Adrienne and Michael Alexander	Meryl and David Gordon
Jeri Appel	Nan and Paul Gordon
Mark Appel	Linda B. Gornitsky
Erica Snow Arbron	Loaralee and Philip Granowitz
Suelyn Bache	Sharon and Larry Greenberg
Monica Becker and Edieal Pinker	Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg
Rachel Tyd and Robert Beldock	Grecia and Ron* Gross
Gayle and Mitchell Bell	Jeremy I Hager
Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz and Parry Berkowitz	Scott Handelman
Berkun Family	Jacqueline Herman
Darona and Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein	Dr. Shara and Rabbi David Israel
Melody and Claude Bernstein	Sari and Alan Jaffe
Bruce Blasnik	Meryl and Ron Japha
Judith B. Block	Judith and Grant Kallen
Jodi and Richard Boxer	Helene and Harvey Kaminski
Marcia Braunstein	Chanie Kamman
Amy and Henry Bubel	Dr. Jan Kaplowitz
Drs. Judy and Jeff Cahn	Jason Kaplowitz
Alan Cohen	Roni Kaplowitz
Andrea and David M. Cohen	Jessica and Ilan Katz
Diane and Rabbi Daniel Cohen	Joy Katz
Malerie Yolen-Cohen and Jeff Cohen	Judith and Sheldon Katz
Judy and David S.* Cohen	Larry Katz
Mimi Cohen	Betsy and Peter Kempner
Rachel and Ephraim Cohen	Liz and Marc Kitay
Roberta Cohen	Elissa and Philip Klapper
Saul Cohen*	Harris Kligman
Arthur Cramer*	Susan Kostin
Janice Steinberg and Stephen Davidson	Arthur Kramer*
Elayne Dener	Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher
Helen and Marty Donner	Elizabeth and Scott Krowitz
Fran and Bob Dorf	Jackie and Marshall Kurland
Shoshana Dweck	Lorraine and David Kveskin
Debra and Daniel Faizakoff	Helen and Ed Kveskin
Michelle Fanwick	Lieba and Steve Lander
Esta and Jay Feinsod	Hannah and Ilan Lastoff
Sharon and Michael Feldstein	Shelley Leibowitz
Peggy and Jerry Fensterstock	Lois D. Stark and Gary P.Lessen
Stephanie and Howard Fogel	Elizabeth Libner
Lenore and Dr. Ilan Fogel	R. and J. Licht
Miriam Lavinsky and Morton Folb*	Vered and Mark Links
Sharon Franklin	Pamela Feldstein and David Loewenberg
Connie and Alan Freeman	Eleanor and Mark Lowenthal
Susan Frieden	Stu Madison
Rachel and Keith Friedman	Lisa and Jeff Manheim
Marc Friedman	Norma and Milton Mann*
Donna and Edward Fuhrman	Susan and Len Mark
Nancy and Mark Funt	Chris Maroc
Lesley and Dennis Gehr	Melanie Massell
Carole Gladstone	Michal and Rabbi Levi Mendelow
Herbert Gladstone*	Bennet J Moskowitz
Sylvia and Herb Gladstone*	Marguerite and Kenneth Neuhaus
Leslie Glenn	Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun
Robin Frederick and Michael Gold	Marsha and Louis Panzer
Cyndy and Eric Goldberg	Leah and Doni Perl
Alicia and Jason Goldstein	Dr. Robin Evans and Dr. Jeffrey Perry
Caryl Goldstein*	

Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser
Enid Randall*
Bonita and Stephen Rappoport
Judith Raymond
Lisa and Harry Rich
Judy and Adam Rin
Betty and Dan* Roberts
Sonia and Brian Roitman
Arlene and Carl Rosen
Arlene Rosen
Julie and Remi Rosenberg
Irma Ross
Sandra Ross
Sally and Jim Rothkopf
Ruth Rothseid
Linda and Leonard Russ
Bonnie Russo
Edith Samers
Sharyn and Richard Sarner
Hilde Scheraga*
Jayne and Bud Schiff
Carol Ruth and Herman Shepherd*
Nancy Schiffman
Monica Smyth and Michael Schlessinger
Elayne and James Schoke*
Chaya and Levi Segal
Myrna and George Sessa
Jessica and Laurence Sheinman
Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
Stephanie and Bob Sherman
Malya Shmotkin
Ronnie Ness Sichel
Dr. Steven Sichel
Paula Simon
Marty Skrelunas
Diane Sloyer
Diane and Elliot Sloyer

Ed Smith
Greta Solomon
Miriam and Steve Sosnick
Sandy and Moshe Speter
Ed Spilka
Eileen and Fred Springer
Beverly and David Stein
Betsy and Michael Stone
Gladys and Greg Teitel
Dr. Julie and Rabbi Jay TelRav
The Estate of Sheila Carmine*
The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin*
The Estate of Ronald Gross*
Gail and Steven Trell
Annie and Jeremy Watman
David Wayne
Ellen and Richard Weber
Linda B. Gornitsky and Harvey Weber
Dana and Carl Weinberg
Leon Weisburgh
Janet Welkovich
Leigh Wilson
Robyn and Mark Winarksy
Neda Khaghan and Robert Yaghoubian
Rita and Abe Yellen
Sheryl and Dan Young
Lauren and Joe Zalis
Joan Zinbarg*
Renee Zinn

**Of Blessed Memory*

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

LIFE & LEGACY Testimonial

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

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

RABBI JAY AND DR. JULIE TELRAV TESTIMONIAL

Our family arrived in Stamford for a job. Our son was young, our daughter not yet born and honestly, we did not think we'd be here more than 5 to 7 years. We had moved around a lot and didn't assume that this would be our last stop. But, as the strength and the authenticity of this community became more evident, we asked and answered the question for ourselves, 'what are we waiting for?' Once we settled into that emotional space (particularly after a significant health event in our



Rabbi Jay and Dr. Julie TelRav

family), we wanted to sink roots. Making a legacy commitment was an easy decision for us but what we didn't expect was the immediate sense of peace we received from doing so. As soon as we'd changed our wills, it was as though *this* community became *our* community. It would make us so happy to know that others came to enjoy this same sense of investment in the future of Stamford's Jewish community.

PJ Library Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

• PJ Library partners up with Temple Beth El's Bagel Babies on Sunday morning (time TBD), June 26. Stop by to meet other moms, enjoy coffee and bagels, and hear a story. 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford.

• Looking to meet new people? PJ Library can help you connect with other young families in the community, whether you have a baby or an eight-year-old! For more information about our PJ Library Parent Ambassador groups, contact Sharon Franklin at 203-321-1373 ext. 109 or sharon@ujf.org.

• Books for every child! 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 kids ages birth to 8 years old.

• Free monthly Jewish Chapter books for kids 9-12 with PJ Our Way. Tweens can choose from a selection of four high-quality titles that have been reviewed by a panel of PJ educators, kids, and parents. To sign up go to www.pjourway.org.

• Join UJF's PJ Library Facebook group: PJ Library of Stamford, New Canaan & Darien.

• Summer Recipe- Breakfast Taco Foil Packs: Make-ahead foil packet meals are perfect for camping trips as well as a quick and easy breakfast on the go. Your kids can help prep!

Ingredients: (makes 6)

2 bell peppers thinly sliced

1 medium zucchini sliced into thick half moons

1 small red onion, thinly sliced

2 medium jalapeños, seeded, thinly sliced (optional)

1 14-ounce can black beans, drained, rinsed

1 cup defrosted frozen corn

6 tablespoons salsa

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste and ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more to taste.

12 soft taco-size corn or flour tortillas

6 large eggs

Optional: ½ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese, 2 medium jalapeños, seeded, thinly, ¼ cup cilantro leaves and tender stems.

Step 1: Cut 12, 12" x 16" pieces of heavy-duty foil. Layer 2 pieces of foil on top of each other to create 6 stacks. Line top pieces of foil with parchment paper cut to the same size.



Sharon Franklin

Step 2: Toss peppers, zucchini, onion, jalapeños (if using), beans, corn, salsa, oil, salt, and pepper in a large bowl. Divide and place mixture in the center of each piece of parchment. Bring edges of foil together to enclose each pack, covering completely, then crimp to seal packs closed.

Step 3: Prepare a campfire or grill for medium, indirect heat and let coals burn until covered with ash and glowing red with no black remaining.

Step 4: Place packs side by side directly onto hot coals or grill and cook, rotating with tongs occasionally, about 5 minutes. Carefully remove 1 pack from heat and check if ingredients are steaming hot. If necessary, return pack to coals and continue to cook, 5-10 minutes more.

Step 5: Meanwhile, wrap tortillas in foil and heat close to the coals until warm, 5-10 minutes.

Step 6: Transfer packs with tongs to a flat surface and carefully open them (they will be full of hot steam). Crack 1 egg into the center of each pack and season with salt and pepper. Reseal, return to coals, and cook until egg whites are opaque, but yolks are still runny, 4-5 minutes.

Step 7: Carefully remove packs from coals, open, and sprinkle evenly with cheese and cilantro, if using. Serve each pack immediately with 2 warm tortillas.

Note: Packs can be prepared in an oven. Preheat to 450°F and place packs on rimmed baking sheets. Bake until steaming hot, about 15 minutes if packs are refrigerated.



Make these tasty breakfast taco foil packs in your oven, on the grill, or on a campfire.

Baby and Toddler Group Connects New Moms

A Note from a PJ Library Parent Ambassador

BY LIELLE SUGAR

This month, United Jewish Federation's PJ Library worked to help facilitate the gathering of sixteen pregnant and new moms, most of whom have never met. These women have

pretty taxing stage of life. Fast forward to today, and this group is still going strong, with one flaw - even though the members live in the same community, many of the mothers and moms-to-be still had never met in person.



been supporting each other during this challenging stage of life through the use of a neighborhood WhatsApp group.

Towards the beginning of COVID, many of us felt isolated. From this isolation was born the need for a new social medium and connection. That is how WhatsApp became a refuge in the Stamford community. It was a place where people could connect based on their interests in an intimate and accessible way.

One such group was created specifically for women who were pregnant or had new babies. Having given birth in 2021, I joined this WhatsApp myself. This group became a place of support and friendship which has helped many of its members through what is typically a

As a UJF PJ Library Parent Ambassador for the baby to toddler group, I plan gatherings for parents in Stamford several times a month. For my PJ parent event in May, I chose to help this group finally meet in person. With our cheese and wine event in the Zarbiv-Kilstein home. The face-to-face gathering was rewarding and allowed the women to bond on a whole new level.

Thanks to Talia Zarbiv for hosting the gathering, and to Eliane Dreyfuss and Lisa Gavronsky who helped coordinate the event with me and UJF's PJ Library. If you would like to join UJF's baby and toddler parent group, or if you have an idea for a get-together, contact me, Lielle Sugar, at lsugar102@gmail.com.

3G
NY Descendants of
Holocaust Survivors

VOICES
of HOPE

Let's get together!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8 | 7 PM

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE THE
GRANDCHILD OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS?

DO OTHER GRANDCHILDREN
HAVE SIMILAR EXPERIENCES?

IS THERE A RESPONSIBILITY IN
BEING THE LAST LIVING LINK TO SURVIVORS?

COME MEET OTHER 3G'S

Stamford JCC Cafe
1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford, CT

Register: <https://bit.ly/3lDINws>

WHY I CARE...

Focus on: Alisa and Jeremy Weisser

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."
- Booker T. Washington

Alisa and Jeremy Weisser are long-time Stamford residents who are very active in their community. According to Alisa, they met as freshmen at Binghamton University. They have three boys: Yoni (11), Eli, (8), and Noah (4) who constantly keep them on their toes. Alisa loves to cook (but does not like doing dishes), plays tennis, and is an avid puzzle doer. Jeremy loves spending his free time with his family, and he particularly enjoys photography and travel whenever he gets the chance to take a break from his day-to-day job as a partner in a NYC-based technology consulting firm.

This is why they care...

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

Since moving to Stamford in 2012, Jeremy and I have always given to United Jewish Federation. Recently though, we've become more directly involved. Jeremy served on the Allocations Committee where he was able to see more clearly the impact of UJF's grants. I serve as the Chesed Coordinator for Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA), which is a position that is also funded by UJF. In this role, I have partnered with UJF's PJ Library.



Jeremy and Alisa Weisser with their three sons.

Have you been involved with other Jewish organizations?

Yes! We have been involved in many of the local Jewish organizations. We've both served on the board of the Young Israel of Stamford, where I am currently one of the youth co-chairs. I am also a co-chair of the Chesed Committee at Congregation Agudath

Sholom. We actively contribute and work to support the important work of Schoke JFS.

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

Growing up, we were both raised in environments where chesed and giving were a part of our everyday lives so involvement in our community comes naturally. Jeremy's mom worked to support various Jewish philanthropic organizations and I grew up with two parents who were both involved teachers and community minded.

As a young couple, can you comment on how those in your age group can be inspired too?

When living and participating in the community, there are so many outlets to contribute to. You don't have to search hard to find areas to help with, all you need is a willingness to offer your time or talents. Whether that be in your synagogue, your kid's school or helping seniors, opportunities abound.

TEEN VOICES

The Importance of Connecting with Holocaust Survivors

BY IZZY KANEFSKY

As a 10th grader at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, I worked on an assignment earlier this year that led to both a meaningful experience and my view on of the importance of Holocaust education. In European History class, we learned about World War Two and the Holocaust. We had to write a research paper on one of the important elements of the war. While my classmates chose topics such as battles and bombings, I decided to focus on the dehumanization of Jews during their experiences in concentration camps. I figured this was the perfect opportunity to get to know a bit more about the Holocaust survivors in our own community.

I ended up interviewing Elizabeth "Betty" Deutsch from Fairfield and Judith Altmann from Stamford, whom I already knew. I never really understood the full extent of their stories, and while interviewing them, I was overcome with sadness and emotion. Both had been transported to Auschwitz, sent on death marches, and dealt with the murder of their families. The tragedy was simply unimaginable. Speaking with such amazing people who were vulnerable enough to share their stories made a huge impact on me. I ended up finishing the research paper having been brought to tears multiple times. Besides working on the essay, I learned multiple lessons that will stay with me for a lifetime and motivate me to share the stories I heard with others in the future.

Each time I met with Judy, she would provide insight into my life that no other person could because of her experiences. She taught me messages of resilience, hope, belief, and courage. I care about her deeply, and she considers me like a granddaughter. I felt in awe every time Betty and I met. Hearing her story of survival at Auschwitz to being saved by US soldiers moved me beyond



Betty Deutsch shared her Holocaust experiences with Izzy Kanefsky.



Izzy Kanefsky met regularly with survivor Judy Altmann.

words. I met with Betty and Judy multiple times in person, even during COVID. Seeing them in person, and not just on the phone, had a greater impact. I have learned commitment and value the importance of visiting the vulnerable elderly, who can teach me more from their life lessons than classroom learning, at times.

Because of the lessons I learned, there are important messages I wish to share. I hope everyone will take the time to speak to a Holocaust survivor while they are still alive and hear their story directly. There aren't many left and taking the time to meet has the potential to make a lifelong impact on both you and them. Each survivor has an important lesson to share, and even the smallest detail can be extremely important for modern-day youth.

I hope you take the time to call a survivor and hear their story and grow in ways that you cannot imagine. I promise that it is worth your time.

Izzy Kanefsky, a 10th grader at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, enjoys reading, writing, and running two school clubs - debate club and book club. She is a strong believer in Holocaust education and climate change and intends to always advocate for both.

The Power of Women

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13



Christine Bloom of Hedge Floral.



Carol Brewer, Lisa Manheim, Dana Horowitz, Stephne Behrend.



Jerry Appel and Liz Kitay.



Monica Smyth and Nan Gordon.



Edith Samers, Diane Sloyer, Malerie Yolen-Cohen and Wendy Handler.



Linda Gornitsky and Beverly Stein. (PHOTOS COURTESY OF AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

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YOU HAVE HELPED SPONSOR 3 PLANES TAKING NEW IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL!



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An Evening of Gratitude and Thanks

THURSDAY, JUNE 16TH AT 7:30PM

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION CAN BE FOUND AT www.ujf.org/thankyou