



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Jewish Film Festival of Fairfield County Celebrates 20 Years

(Courtesy of The JCC)
The Jewish Film Festival of Fairfield County celebrates 20 years of convening community around powerful and compelling film and conversation. Scheduled from Thursday, October 14 to Sunday, November 21, the Festival will offer one film per week over 6 weeks, following a hybrid model. Each week a film will be scheduled for an in-person screening or patrons can opt to stream online during the weekend. Audiences will enjoy a mix of Q&As via Zoom and in-person, featuring filmmakers, producers and expert speakers.



Emmy award-winning actor Ed Asner as a Holocaust survivor in the film, *Tiger Within*. (Photo courtesy of Menemsha Films)

are excited to give them one," reported Jennifer Kaufman, Festival co-chair.

All in-person screenings will take place at Bow Tie Cinemas Landmark 8 in Stamford, where audiences will enjoy luxurious viewing in spacious, oversized reclining seats. "There is nothing like seeing a film on the big screen and I think we all look forward to being together as a community in-person, but we know that it might not suit everyone, and we wanted to make sure that each person can continue to enjoy our award-winning films wherever they are comfortable. Watching online is as easy as clicking a link," says Debbie Lee, Festival co-chair.

The opening night film, *Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin* will prove to be a very special night for the Stamford community as its very own Rabbi Daniel Cohen and

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Local Federations Form Regional Security Partnership

(Courtesy of UJF)
United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien has joined with the UJA-JCC Greenwich, Jewish Federation of New Haven and Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut to form a regional security partnership. This partnership, in association with Secure Community Network (SCN) will help to better protect members of the Jewish communities who attend area synagogues, day schools and other facilities in the area. SCN is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America.



Michael Shambrom

To lead the effort, Michael Shambrom has been hired as the first Regional Security Advisory (RSA) for the area. Mr. Shambrom is a twenty-year veteran of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),

recently, Mr. Shambrom served as a Senior Administrator for Research Compliance for the University of Connecticut.

serving in a variety of national security leadership roles within the organization. He currently serves as Police Commissioner for the Town of Woodbridge and sits on the board of multiple Jewish organizations in the greater New Haven area. Most recently, Mr. Shambrom served as a Senior Administrator for Research Compliance for the University of Connecticut.

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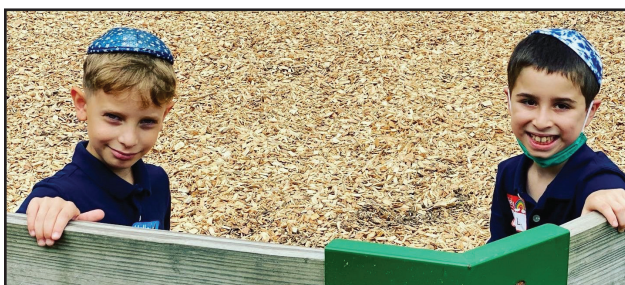
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Back to School!

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy welcomes back smiling students for the 2021-2022 academic year.





From UJF's Chief Executive Officer

I Choose To Be Jewish

BY DIANE SLOYER

I was born to two Jewish parents and four Jewish grandparents. Being Jewish has always been part of my identity. From honey cakes to homemade gefilte fish, we were always surrounded by culture, religion, spirituality, holiday celebrations, philanthropy and acts of kindness.



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

But is being born Jewish enough? Or for those of us born Jewish, do we also need

to be Jews by choice?

Judaism is a religion and a culture and for me, it is my identity. I live my life based on my Jewish beliefs. I was always involved in Jewish youth groups, traveled on Jewish summer programs, and even chose a career working in Jewish non-profits. It has shaped my

love of Israel, my cooking, my spirituality, my religious practice and more.

I was in a coffee shop in Westport a few Sundays ago and a young woman was waiting for her coffee. She was wearing a necklace in Hebrew and her name was Leah. I smiled and said, "I like your necklace, Leah." She smiled back and said "thanks" and there was this two second acknowledgement that she and I are connected.

As a community concerned about our future, we cannot assume the vast majority of those born into Jewish families will identify as Jews, whether or not they

observe the mitzvot (commandments) and/or belong to a synagogue. Birthright is only meaningful and impactful on our Jewish future if we choose to be Jewish. Our religion, culture, and history are dependent on each of us making that choice.

How we each choose being Jewish is personal. But, given the rise in antisemitism, we must all unite as Jews, no matter what our individual definition might be, and stand together as One!

The decision is yours.

UJF President's Message

Rest Assured

BY DAVID GORDON

As reported recently by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, according to the FBI, the number of anti-Jewish hate crimes in the U.S. dropped from 953 in 2019 to 676 in 2020, whereas according to the Anti-Defamation League, the number of incidents of antisemitism decreased slightly to more than 2,000 incidents. The discrepancy between the numbers is due to differences in methodology. For the FBI to count an incident, it must rise to the level of a crime, while the ADL includes a broader range of allegations. I suppose that if the numbers have decreased, even somewhat, that is good news. However, for some reason that "good news" doesn't make me sleep better at night. The numbers are still high and somehow, I don't feel that they are going to drop precipitously any time soon.



UJF President David Gordon

training of our entire community regarding how to counteract terrorism including actions to take to avoid loss of life; and grant-writing expertise in helping our institutions obtain additional government grants for increasing our security beyond what our Federation has already helped obtain. SCN also shares information with the

FBI regarding information the national SCN network gleans from the "dark-web", and is able to benefit from FBI alerts regarding terrorist threats. Our Federation will be forming a Security Committee made up of representatives of our institutions so that security can be coordinated and best practices implemented. And, importantly, going forward there will be a central address for security concerns for our community.

All in all, I consider the hiring of an SCN professional to be wonderful news for our community. Of course, the SCN professional will not make us safer all by himself; implementing security best practices is a large undertaking, and will require the involvement and cooperation of all our community institutions. But if we all work together, with the gift that Federation has given our community of the SCN professional, I can rest assured that we will be on the road to doing all we can to keep our community as safe as we can. And with that knowledge, I will sleep better.

What will have me sleeping better however, is the news that our UJF has just announced the hiring of a full-time security professional who is being trained by and connected to the Secure Community Network (SCN) – the security network orchestrated by the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). This professional will be shared by four Federations in Connecticut. As you may have seen in a recent UJF press release, the SCN professional is a retiree from the FBI and has other police and security experience.

By bringing the SCN to Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, our Federation is bringing best practices for security to all of our institutions. The best practices will include among other things: assessments of the physical plants where our Jewish community prays, plays and learns;

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES	
October 1	6:18 pm
October 8	6:06 pm
October 15	5:55 pm
October 22	5:45 pm
October 29	5:35 pm
November 5	5:27 pm

Strategizing for a Stronger Future

(Courtesy of UJF) Earlier this summer, with the full support of its Board of Directors, United Jewish Federation assembled a Task Force to work on a Strategic Plan whose goal is to provide a blueprint for the future direction of UJF. Members of the Task force, chaired by UJF Executive Committee member Beverly Stein, represent the diverse community that makes Stamford, New Canaan and Darien so special, and include Kerrin Behrend, Henry Bubel, UJF President David Gordon, Linda Gornitsky, Chris Maroc, Michael Schlessinger, Seth Tobin, Rhonda Schaffer Maron, Susan Kostin, Risa Raich, Chair Beverly Stein, and UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.

Joy Goldstein of Joy Goldstein Consulting has been engaged to facilitate the efforts of the task force and provide direction for this undertaking. "Joy is an accomplished, innovative leader and problem-solver with demonstrated success in diverse nonprofit environments. She has consulted with dozens of Jewish Federations in the areas of strategic planning, grantmaking, evaluation, program integration, and human services. I have worked with her in her former position as Vice President of Planning and Allocations

at Jewish Federations of North America," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.

The initial accomplishment completed by the Task Force and approved by the Board are a new Mission and Vision Statements. A communal survey has been designed and will be released to the entire community in mid-September.

"There is so much excitement about the possibilities for growth and impact. If you have taken the survey, thank you! If you haven't completed it yet, please do it now. It takes just 5 minutes to complete and have your voice heard. Every opinion is critical in helping to build a strong strategic plan to lead UJF into the future," said Task Force Chair Beverly Stein.

If you have not received the survey link, it is not too late to be heard. Visit www.ujf.org to find the survey or call (203) 321-1373.

The next steps include focus groups and interviews. With the timeline progressing as scheduled, the task force looks forward to sharing the 3- to 5-year plan for United Jewish Federation in early 2022.

For more information, please contact Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373, ext. 105. Dianesloyer@ujf.org.

The Call of the Shofar



Rabbi Moshe Shemtov blows the shofar at the school-wide Shabbat party held at Gan Yeladim to celebrate the last day of camp.

Panim Journal “Faces” Critical Jewish Issues of the Day

BY CYNTHIA MINDELL

It was a little over a year ago that Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy expanded its reach beyond the classroom with the launch of the Center for Community Education (CCE), co-chaired by Stamford Jewish community member Michael Feldstein and BCHA Head of School, Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein. Created as a vehicle to inspire thoughtful conversation related to the spectrum of important issues facing the Jewish community, CCE brings together local, national, and international Jewish educators in an effort to establish Stamford as an educational center for Modern Orthodoxy.

Over the past year, CCE has continued to engage the Jewish community, both local and remote, bringing together scholars to discuss the theological responses to COVID-19 and to address questions relating to Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, and Tisha B'Av.

With a successful pilot year coming to a close, the committee turned its attention to a new way to reach the community. The brainchild of CCE member David Pitkoff, former chair of the BCHA Board of Trustees, a journal seemed like a

natural next step: the publication would showcase Jewish educators both within and outside the Stamford community, and continue to fulfill the CCE mission by sharing relevant information to a Jewish audience. Pitkoff and his wife, Cindy, are sponsors of the inaugural issue, which was just published last month.

CCE chose the title Panim, a Hebrew word commonly translated as “faces,” and a reference to the renowned phrase in Bamidbar Rabah, a 12th-century midrash on the Book of Numbers: “Shiv'im panim l'Torah,” or “70 modes of expounding on the Torah.” Feldstein added, “We also felt that with many of our faces being hidden by masks over the past 18 months, and with our faces now finally emerging, Panim would be a timely name for our journal.”

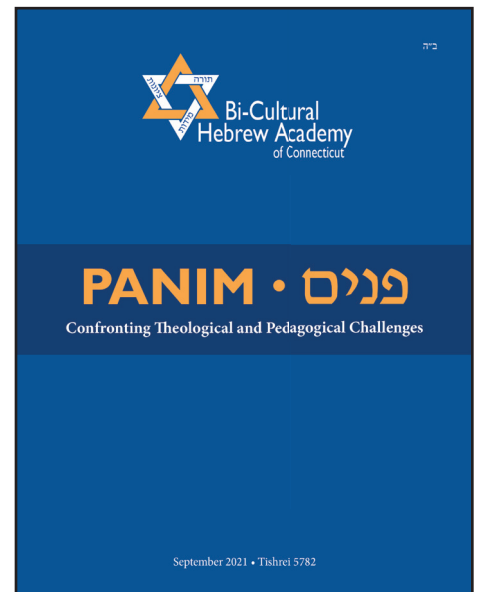
The journal is co-edited by Feldstein and fellow CCE members Dr. Jay Jubas and Dr. Joseph Angel, associate professor of Jewish history at Yeshiva University. Contributors to the inaugural issue comprise a mix of Stamford-area educators and rabbis (Rachel Haron, Rabbi Moshe Kurtz, Rabbi Joshua Rosenfeld), and educators

from outside the community (Rabbi Dr. Yitz Greenberg, Rabbi Tully Harcsztark, Malka Simkovich, and Rabbi Dr. Gil Perl). Addressing the theme, “Confronting Theological and Pedagogical Challenges,” the issue is available as a print edition and as an online edition. The committee plans to provide copies to all BCHA families and hopes to make the journal available in Stamford-area synagogues.

Panim can also be translated as “facets,” perhaps a more accurate definition and an apt description of modern Jewish life – one the journal aims to take on via its breadth of perspectives.

“Being Jewish in the 21st century is certainly multi-faceted and intensely complicated,” Feldstein said. “We are a race, a religion, a nationality, an ethnic group, and a culture ... but we cannot be defined singularly by any one of these definitions. A better and more accurate way to describe the Jewish people is that we are a family, with the many gifts and the many foibles that are always present in any family. And families, of course, are multi-faceted as well.”

“We hope this will become an annual publication and that it will help



establish BCHA and the Stamford Jewish community as places that take the issues relating to Jewish education seriously,” he added.

For all inquiries about Panim, contact co-editor Michael Feldstein at michaelfeldstein@gmail.com. To access the publication online, please visit bcha-cce.org

Mazal Tov to Cantor Katie Kaplan

(Courtesy of TBE) Temple Beth El is delighted to announce that Cantorial Soloist Katie Kaplan has officially earned the title of “Cantor” after completing her course of study as a Cantorial Intern of the Cantors Assembly (CICA). Affiliated with the Conservative/Masorti movement, the Cantors Assembly promotes the profession of the Cantorate in North America and supports its members in their roles as vibrant, engaging vital clergy and musical leaders.



Cantor Katie Kaplan

milestone. Passing all these comprehensive exams is not an easy task. Most of our colleagues do it over several years. Katie took just over a year. Her commitment to Judaism, her passion for spiritual journeys, and absolute dedication to her permanent improvement have left an impression not only on me but also on those colleagues who proctored her exams, which she passed with flying colors. There is no doubt in my mind that Katie will be a valuable addition to the Cantors Assembly and to the American cantorate.”

Katie’s training began decades ago when she frequently led services for her family congregation in Rutland, Vermont, under the tutelage of Rabbi Solomon Goldberg. Building on a strong Jewish foundation, Katie went to New York University where she majored in Music (Vocal Performance) and minored in Art History. She then went on to earn an MS in Education from the University of Bridgeport.

Over the years, her music career has included many different roles: soprano soloist, choral director, music director, private voice teacher, song leader, Middle-School Music Department Chair at St. Luke’s School and cantorial soloist. She also took courses at the Academy for Jewish Religion in NY and Jewish

Hazzan Cattan, who also serves as president of the Cantors Assembly, added “I am pleased to have worked with Katie on achieving this

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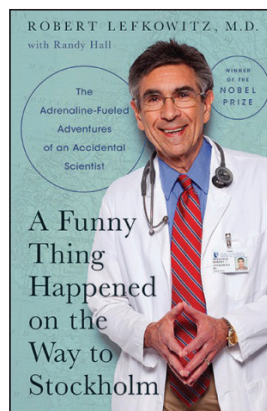
UJF's Maimonides Society to Feature Nobel Prize Winner

(Courtesy of UJF) On Wednesday, October 13th at 7:00 pm, United Jewish Federation's Maimonides Society will host Robert Lefkowitz, MD who will talk about his memoir "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Stockholm: The Adrenaline-Fueled Adventures of an Accidental Scientist."

His rollicking memoir revels in the joy of science and discovery. According to Publishers Weekly, "This vivid tale shines with personality. Rarely has science been treated with such a winning blend of humor and humanity."

Dr. Lefkowitz is an American internist, cardiologist and biochemist. His story is a

spirited account of his path from growing up in the Bronx in the 1950s to winning the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 2012. A self-described "accidental scientist," Lefkowitz was inspired to study medicine at age 12 when his father suffered a heart attack; by age 19, he had graduated from college and begun medical school. He is currently an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute as well as a James B. Duke Professor of Medicine and



Nobel Prize winner
Dr. Robert Lefkowitz

Professor of Biochemistry and Chemistry at Duke University.

Dr. Ilan Fogel will moderate the program and Dr. Lefkowitz will present with his past post-doctoral trainee, Randy Hall, who is currently a professor in the Emory University School of Medicine.

The Maimonides Society is an affinity group of United Jewish Federation providing educational, leadership and networking opportunities

with the objective of benefiting both the local and global Jewish communities. It is named for Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (also known as Maimonides or Rambam, perhaps the most famous Jewish physician of all time) and is the place for physicians, surgeons, dentists, and other healthcare professionals — people dedicated to healing the sick and committed to the notion of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), to come together.

Register for this free virtual program at www.ujf.org/science. For more information, contact sharon@ujf.org.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

"The New Jewish Voice" (USPS #184) is published by the United Jewish Federation Inc.
1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT 06905-2521.

www.ujf.org for updates and donations

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The New Jewish Voice welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number. The editor may withhold the name upon request.

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HOW TO REACH THE EDITOR:

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

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

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Phone: (203) 321-1373, ext. 105
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Author Crusades Against the Death Penalty

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Cardozo Society fall event will feature attorney Marc Bookman, who will discuss his book, "A Descending Spiral: Exposing the Death Penalty in 12 Essays."

Bookman is a veteran capital defense lawyer and seven-time Best American Essays "notable" author. He has dedicated his career to fighting the death penalty, first in the Defenders Association of Philadelphia and



Author Marc Bookman

then, for the past 11 years, by running the nonprofit Atlantic Center for Capital Representation, with the mission to shrink the number of statewide death sentences and help get prisoners off death row. His book, published by The New Press, collects Bookman's stories detailing criminal justice abuses of defendants on trial for their lives.

The program will be held at a Stamford location on Wednesday, October 27th at

7:00 pm. The hope is the event will be in person but CDC guidelines will continue to be monitored. The cost to attend is \$25 per person which includes dinner and networking opportunities.

The Cardozo Society is a UJF affinity group comprised of members of the legal community, including lawyers, professors, judges, and others and provides educational, leadership, and networking opportunities with the objective of benefiting both the local and global Jewish communities.

Register at www.ujf.org/law.

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

Inside Facebook, the Real Story

(Courtesy of UJF) On Monday, October 25th, United Jewish Federation's Rothschild Society will hold a program featuring Steven Levy, author of *Facebook: The Inside Story*. The program will give you a front row seat to the definitive history of the giant, and is packed with untold stories of one of America's most controversial and powerful companies.

Facebook is the product of over three years of study and tells the story of the social network from its founding to present day. Levy had unprecedented access to Facebook's employees and executives, including Mark Zuckerberg, Sheryl Sandberg, top lieutenants, and other employees. The result is a revealing look at the history of the company.

Levy is currently editor-at-large at *Wired* magazine. He was previously the editor-in-chief at Backchannel, and



Author Steven Levy

chief technology writer and a senior editor for Newsweek. Levy has written eight books and has published in Harper's, Macworld, The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, Premiere, and Rolling Stone. Levy has also won several awards during his 30-plus years of writing about technology,

including *Hackers: Heroes of the Computer Revolution*, which PC Magazine named the best Sci-Tech book written in the last twenty years, and his book on Google was named the Best Business Book of 2011 on both Amazon and Audible.

"It is our hope to have this event in person to allow for networking and socializing which is such an important part of all affinity groups. At the time of publication, we are not able to make that call. The registration page will be updated as we get closer," shared Sharon Franklin.

UJF's Rothschild affinity group provides educational, leadership, and networking opportunities for those in the field of business, with the objective of benefiting both the local and global Jewish communities. This cost of the program is \$25 and will include dinner from Six Thirteen whether in person or virtual. For more information and to register visit www.ujf.org/facebook or contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

November Issue

Deadline: Friday, October 1, 2021

December-January Issue

Deadline: Friday, November 5, 2021

Email submissions to
sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

Gallery@The J Presents: Robert Selkowitz

(Courtesy of The JCC) The JCC invites the community to the newly updated Gallery@The J for its first in-person Wine & Art Opening of the season. Featured on Thursday, October 7 at 6:30 pm will be prominent artist and Stamford native son Robert Selkowitz's *L'Chaim: To Life!* exhibit.

"It's not a matter of painting life, it's a matter of giving life to painting" said Post-Impressionist French painter Pierre Bonnard in 1946.

Robert says "I have poured my life into painting, and that life has emanated from those paintings into the world and to the hearts of

viewers. Pierre Bonnard's quote came after World War II when many millions of precious lives were lost.

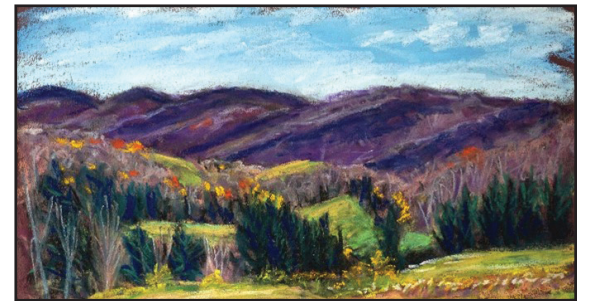
"This exhibition at the Jewish Community Center comes after our COVID pandemic which closed my *Contemplative Landscapes* exhibition last year and brought mourning and anxiety throughout our land. This opportunity to reopen the new galleries at JCC allows me to reflect on my life through my paintings. I turned 70 this September, and, as a member of the first class at Bi-Cultural Day School, I feel a different perspective for this exhibition is warranted.

"Plein Air painting is working from life in nature, painting life from what the artist sees. I paint what instills a feeling of beauty in my heart. I feel engendering love is a blessing that artists give to humanity.

"Giving life to painting is an aspiration. Each is a window into a life experience shared with you. I hope these works bring you enjoyment"

Registration is required at stamfordjcc.org. Free to all.

For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Arts



Painting by Robert Selkowitz.
(Photo courtesy of Robert Selkowitz)

& Culture and Seniors at 203-940-3890 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Brain Fitness at the JCC

(Courtesy of The JCC) Want to stimulate your brain power? Brain Fitness offers games and puzzles in a casual setting to inspire confidence and exercise your brain. Topics covered include: memory, attention, organization, language, and more. All sessions have new material. Come join us and explore playful ways to reach your personal goals.

Sessions are led by Dr. Toby Lazarus, Director, Schoke Jewish Family Service

Brain Fitness Program, on Wednesdays, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Series #1 will have 3 sessions, on Oct 6, Oct 13, and Oct 20.

JCC Members \$20 / Community \$25 for all three sessions.

JCC Members \$8 / Community \$10 for one session.

To register and more information please contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org or 203-940-3890.

Taste of Torah – Featuring the Parsha of the Week

(Courtesy of The JCC) Join the Stamford JCC every Friday for a discussion on the Torah portion. Conversation will focus on the timeless life-lessons of our tradition, gleaned from both traditional and modern commentaries. Knowledge of Hebrew is not required.

Discussions will be led by Jonathan Fass, Managing Director, Educational Technology

and Strategy at The Jewish Education Project. Feel free to bring a bag lunch. Sessions will be held on Fridays, from 12:00 pm- 1:00 pm. JCC Members - No charge / Community - \$5 per session or \$75 for the fall semester.

To register and for more information please contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org or 203-940-3890.

Youth Programming Opens Under Chabad's Tent

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's youth programming has something for everyone, with classes starting in the first week of October and running weekly throughout the year.

For its birth to three age group, "Tiny Treasures Mommy & Me" classes will be offered on Thursdays at 9:30am starting on October 7th. Spend quality time with your child in a nurturing and warm Jewish atmosphere and connect with other moms. These classes will be held outdoors in their tent. Bring your little one to feel, touch, see and experience a hands-on Jewish experience with singing, creative movement, rhythm, snack, story-telling, cooking, baking and much more. Caregivers are welcome

For children in Kindergarten to 7th grade, Chabad offers its CKC (Chabad Kids Club) program, an after-school program including Hebrew school, Judaic homework help, fun

lessons and awesome games and prizes on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm starting October 5th. CKC this year will also include it's P.O.G.S. (Parsha and Other Great Stuff) class. P.O.G.S is a weekly science and cooking class for kids in Kindergarten to 2nd grade. Once a month, starting on October 12th, Chabad's Chai Five Club (grades 3 through 7) meets to find exciting ways to help people's lives in the community. A monthly Bat Mitzvah Club is also offered which incorporates a fun, interactive and thought-provoking experience for girls in 6th to 8th grade starting on Sunday 10th October. Finally, Chabad of Stamford will run a teen program for high schoolers which meets several times a year. It's popular "Sushi in the Sukkah" event will be held on Sunday, September 26th at 6:30 pm.

For more information and to sign up contact youth@stamfordchabad.org.

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Schoke JFS Presents Workshop on Healthcare Literacy

On Tuesday, October 12th at noon on Zoom, Schoke JFS will present Maria Millan, CCHW, Outreach Coordinator for the City of Stamford Social Services Department, who will lead a workshop entitled "Help me Understand! Healthcare Literacy". The seminar will help participants understand basic healthcare terms and healthcare plan options, as well as what they should know before choosing a health insurance plan. They will also learn ways to save on healthcare

costs. The objective of the virtual workshop is to educate the consumer to be able to make informed decisions regarding their health insurance. The Schoke JFS Grow You Financial Education Program is funded in part by Southwestern CT Agency on Aging.

For more information, contact Rebekah Kanefsky, Schoke JFS Case Management at 203-921-4161 or email rkanevsky@ctjfs.org. To register for the seminar, visit www.ctjfs.org/growyou

Annual Saul Cohen-Schoke JFS Lecture

Save the date for the 10th Annual Saul Cohen-Schoke JFS Lecture on Thursday, November 11th at 7:30 pm on Zoom. The lecture is a gift, offered free to the community through the generosity of Mimi Cohen, and Saul Cohen, z"l. The JCC will be a co-sponsor of the event. The keynote speaker will be Rabbi Steve Leder, Senior

Rabbi at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles, CA, prominent author of four best-selling titles, thought leader and a lecturer in high demand.

For more information about the lecture, please call Leah Schechter, Chief Program Officer at Schoke JFS, at 203-921-4161 or visit www.ctjfs.org.

JCC Virtual Book & Author Conversation Kicks Off

(Courtesy of UJF) The JCC invites the community to its first Book & Author Conversation of the season featuring Daniel Sokatch, Chief Executive Officer of the New Israel Fund, on Tuesday, October 12th at 7:30 pm. Sokatch will discuss his book, *Can We Talk About Israel? A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted*.

"Can't you just explain the Israel situation to me? In, like, 10 minutes or less?"

This is the question Daniel Sokatch is used to answering on an almost daily basis.

A prominent advocate and head of the New Israel Fund, Sokatch is well-versed on the Israeli conflict. The New Israel Fund is dedicated to equality and democracy for all Israelis.

Sokatch thinks that many people don't actually understand the conflict very well at all.

A primer on Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the book is an attempt to grapple with a century-long struggle between two peoples who both perceive themselves as, and indeed are, victims. And it's an attempt to explain why Israel, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict inspires such extreme feelings, and why it seems like Israel is the answer to "what is wrong with the world" for half the people in it, and "what is right with the world" for the other half.

His conversation, much like the conflict, promises to be enlightening and will likely generate both consensus and controversy.

Free to JCC members, \$10 for community. For more information or to register, please contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org or 203.940.3890.

Mazal Tov to Cantor Katie Kaplan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Theological Seminary; participated in the Davennan Leadership Training Institute; and was coached privately by several outstanding cantors and rabbis. Today, she weaves meditation, chant, guided imagery, music, and liturgy together to create meaningful and spiritually uplifting *tefilah* (prayer).

Rabbi Hammerman commented, "As remarkable as this accomplishment is, I'm not at all surprised. No challenge is too great for Cantor Katie. As one whose father was a cantor and who has known Katie for twenty years, I can say that she was born to be a cantor. It is a true calling for her and a labor of love. She already is a remarkable spiritual leader – and now she has the title to prove it."

Jewish Film Festival of Fairfield County Celebrates 20 Years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

resident Judith Lupatkin Bernstein will be recognized by the executive producer for their contributions to the making of the film, and will answer audience questions directly following the in-person screening on Thursday, October 14.

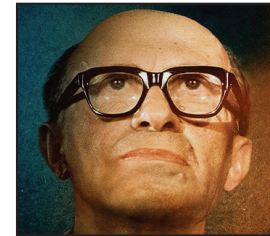
"Each film in the line-up is powerful, contemporary and relevant," relays Lisa Popper Festival co-chair. "Whether addressing leadership, family relationships, triumph over struggles, or anti-Semitism, the Festival films are a catalyst for important conversation, contemplation, and inspiration. Besides, who doesn't love a film starring Ed Asner."

"The Stamford JCC is grateful to all the benefactors of the Jewish Film Festival of Fairfield County, both individuals and organizations, who recognize the importance of film and the

significant impact it can have. It is because of their steadfast support and generosity that

the Festival has evolved, expanded, and convened the community over the past 20 years," says Nancy Schiffman, JCC Director of Arts & Culture. "Although no longer at their theaters, Garden Homes Management and the Freedman family have continued to support the Festival since its inception. A special thank you to AJC Westchester/Fairfield, partners on two films, who will be facilitating engaging conversations with AJC expert speakers during the Q&As."

For full Festival and film details, to purchase film tickets, or support the Festival, visit www.stamfordjcc.org/filmfestival.



Menachem Begin, a pillar of the State of Israel from the film, *Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin*.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE:

Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin

In-Person Film Screening: Thursday, October 14, 7:30 pm

Virtual Film Screening: Friday, October 15 - Sunday, October 17

A bold and compelling documentary detailing the life of Menachem Begin, a pillar of the State of Israel and a tireless fighter for the Jewish people.

In partnership with Congregation Agudath Sholom and co-sponsored by JCC Tzahal Shalom.

Here We Are

In-Person Film Screening: Thursday, October 21, 7:30 pm

Virtual Film Screening: Friday, October 22 - Sunday, October 24

A touching and relevant story of family, love, and letting go.

Co-sponsored by JCC JumpStart & Inclusion programs, Abilis, The Stamford Chapter of Hadassah, and Young Israel.

White Right: Meeting the Enemy

In-Person Film Screening: Thursday, October 28, 7:30 pm

Virtual Film Screening: Friday, October 29 - Sunday October 31

Powerful interviews with prominent neo-Nazis and white supremacist leaders to understand the personal and political reasons behind the apparent resurgence of far-right extremism in America.

In partnership with AJC Westchester/Fairfield.

A Starry Sky Above Roman Ghetto

In-Person Film Screening: Wednesday, November 3, 7:30 pm

Virtual Film Screening: Friday, November 5 - Sunday, November 7

Based on a true story, the discovery of a puzzling photograph sparks a teenage girl and her friends to probe the history of Rome's Jewish ghetto and the fate of a little girl, in this Italian drama interlacing past and present.

In partnership with AJC Westchester/Fairfield.

Iirmi

In-Person Film Screening: Tuesday, November 9, 7:30 pm

Virtual Film Screening: Friday, November 12 - Sunday, November 14

Based on her memoirs, this documentary portrait of German Jewish émigrée Iirmi Selver (1906–2004) takes us on a unique journey through a life marked by love, unimaginable loss, and strength of spirit.

In partnership with the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County in commemoration of Kristallnacht.

Tiger Within

In-Person Film Screening: Thursday, November 18, 7:30 pm

Virtual Film Screening: Friday, November 19 - Sunday, November 21

Emmy award-winning actor Ed Asner portrays a Holocaust survivor who develops a life-changing friendship with a troubled, homeless, anti-Semitic teen.

Co-sponsored by Temple Beth El and Temple Sinai.

The Great (and Less Great) Jewish Ideas of the Past Half Century

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) This 20-session class, taught by Rabbi Joshua Hammerman on selected Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm beginning on October 5th, is based on the new collection, "The New Jewish Canon: Ideas and Debates 1980-2015."

The class will read and discuss excerpts from such classic works as Harold Kushner's "When Bad Things Happen to Good People," Elie Wiesel's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, Abraham Joshua Heschel's "Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity," Jonathan Sacks' "The Dignity

of Difference," and many more. We'll read from a wide variety of thinkers reflecting a vast spectrum ranging from Meir Kahane to Irving (Yitz) Greenberg to Peter Beinart.

It's recommended that participants purchase the textbook (\$39.00 paperback), but PDF files of assigned texts will also be available. Please register at www.tinyurl.com/greatideas21-22

The class will begin on Zoom, subject to change to hybrid when the COVID situation improves.

For information, contact the TBE Office at 203-322-6901, ext 300.

COMMUNITY NEWS

A Night Out for Jewish Single Boomers



(l-r) Michal Smart, Sima Broza, Lou Haber, and Cecile Minkoff.



(l-r) Julie Tolkin, Susan Armstrong, Carl Klorman, Roberta Bensaid, Sid Nachman, and Rob Lesser.

(Courtesy of UJF) Boomer Engagement Network (BEN), United Jewish Federation's newest affinity group, gathered for its premier event on Monday, August 23rd in the tent at Six Thirteen restaurant.

BEN provides opportunities for Jewish singles ages late 40's to early 70's to see old friends, meet new people, and perhaps meet that someone special in a casual and social setting. Guests enjoyed cocktails, appetizers, and schmoozing with fellow boomers from Stamford, Westport, Norwalk, and as far away as New Haven and Westchester.

The affinity group came about after local community members came forward asking for programming for their demographic. "While not specifically a dating group, BEN gatherings allow men and women to come together for a variety of meetups and activities in a safe and fun environment. Many of our guests commented to me that this age group is underserved and how they were happy to

join this new UJF affinity group. We look forward to planning our next get together sometime this fall," stated UJF Director of Campaign and Community Engagement, Sharon Franklin.

Newly appointed BEN chair and event guest, Elise Lerner, commented: "I'm so excited to be a part of this new group! I was inspired by the great energy at our first UJF BEN event and agreed to be chairperson that night. People were so friendly, the conversations were lively, and everyone was genuinely glad to meet, network and just come together as a new community. I have lived in the area for about a year, and the group provides a great opportunity to meet other boomer singles in my new town and beyond."

If you would like more information about UJF's new BEN group, or you know someone who might like to be a part of this initiative, please contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org/ 203-321-1373 ext. 109.

Fall Classes at Temple Beth El

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El)

MEDITATION AND GUIDED IMAGERY

Join Cantor Katie Kaplan in using breath, chant, and visualization to carve out a moment of peace in our lives. This class returns Tuesday, October 12 at 7:00 pm.

TBE HEBREW READING CRASH COURSE

Learn to Read Hebrew in 8 Sessions, with Susan Shapiro on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00pm. Classes will be held on October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10, 17, and December 1.

INTRODUCTION TO TALMUD

This class, with Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg, begins Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 pm.

This four-session class may be held in person, on Zoom or both.

For information on all of the above classes, contact the TBE Office at 203-322-6901, ext 300.

More Classes at the J

(Courtesy of The JCC)

LEARN TO PLAY MAH JONGG

Learn to play this classic game from the JCC's resident mah jongg masters. All levels are welcome. Participants need to bring a 2021 National Mah Jongg League card. Classes will be held on Tuesdays or Thursdays, 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm. Dates TBD. JCC Members - \$40/ Community - \$55 (5 lessons).

LEARN TO CROCHET

Always wanted to learn how to crochet? Now in only three sessions you can learn how to crochet a scarf or hat. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. Dates TBD. JCC Members - \$24 / Community - \$35 (3 lessons), plus cost of materials (purchased separately).

To register and more information, please contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org or 203-940-3890.

United Jewish Federation's Cardozo Law Society Invites You To:

A Descending Spiral: Exposing the Death Penalty in 12 Essays



with Attorney Marc Bookman

Executive director of the Atlantic Center for Capital Representation, a nonprofit that provides services for those facing possible execution.

Wednesday, October 27th at 7:00pm

At a Location in Stamford, CT

Marc Bookman is a veteran capital defense lawyer and seven-time *Best American Essays* "notable" author, who exposes the dark absurdities and fatal insanities that undermine the logic of the death penalty wherever it exists.

1 CLE credit available - sponsored by Wiggin & Dana

Sign up at www.ujf.org/law

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



United Jewish Federation



CARDOZO SOCIETY



WIGGIN
WIGGIN AND DANA

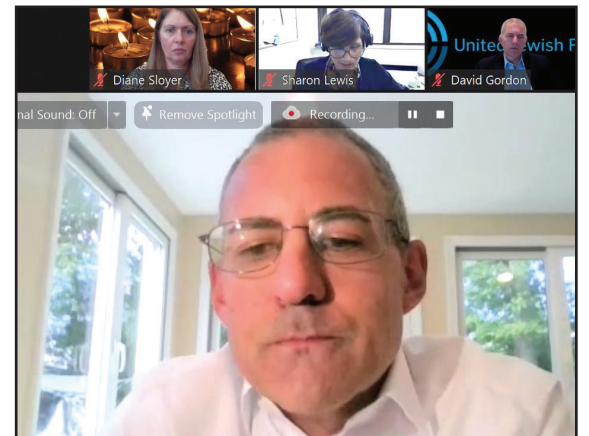
Finding Your Style



Chabad of Stamford's Jewish Women Connected had some fun with color and style at a special evening with Sharleen Herz, a social media influencer, life coach and stylist. (l-r) Jodi Maxner, Chaya Segal, Netanya Ostrovsky, Fraidel Zucker, Michelle Weintraub and Sharleen Herz.

Jewish Community 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony

(Courtesy of UJF) On Friday, September 10th, the Jewish Community marked a solemn 20 years since the attacks of September 11, 2001 with a virtual commemoration ceremony. This year, the anniversary fell on Saturday, so the community came together on Friday so that everyone could participate.



The commemoration ceremony included remarks from area-resident Aaron Levenson who was traveling to work through the World Trade Center that fateful morning. Aaron's powerful recollections brought those old enough to remember it back to that day and provided a personal glimpse into history for the younger people in attendance. Eric Fingerhut, CEO of the Jewish

Community member Aaron Levenson shares his memories of being in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Federation of North America, reflected on the importance of community in recovering from that tragedy. Rabbis from the community offered prayers for peace, memorial prayers and prayers for the first responders. The Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy choir lent their voices to this commemorative occasion.

Local Federations Form Regional Security Partnership

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our Jewish community and institutions, we are pleased to be working with SCN and neighboring Federations in the hiring of our first Regional Security Advisor, Mike Shanbrom. UJF is grateful to our generous funder and to SCN for making this collaborative security effort possible."

Mr. Shanbrom will serve as an expert advisor to Jewish institutions such as synagogues and day schools and establish a system of collaboration, coordination, and communication among organizations. He will also serve as a liaison to local, state, and federal law enforcement and represent the Federation and the Jewish community in public security forums.

"I am excited to hit the ground running and contribute to the safety and security of the greater Southern/Western Connecticut Jewish community," Shanbrom noted. "I hope to use my extensive law enforcement and security background to protect the community from all forms of threats."

Following an intensive onboarding process, to include immersive community visits to introduce Mr. Shanbrom to the Federation system, existing security programs, and security issues and concerns specific to the Jewish community, as well as training related to security assessments and active threat response, Mr. Shanbrom

will be onsite in Connecticut for the launch of the community security program in mid-October.

With the launch of this partnership, Southern/Western Connecticut Federations joins the growing network of Federations and communities partnering with SCN to launch community-based security initiatives designed around an "All Threats, All Hazards" approach to preparedness, safety, security, and resiliency across the community. The program will be connected to SCN's national network, providing direct access to the National Jewish Security Operations Command Center, SCN's Duty Gest and Intelligence Analysts, as well as best practice security resources and support related to policies, procedures, physical security, facility assessments, training and incident response.

Michael Masters, CEO of SCN, said, "It's critical to strengthen the safety and security of the Jewish community given the threats we regularly face. This unprecedented regional partnership provides a professional security operation to the Jewish community that is rooted in best practice and keenly aware of and responsive to the needs of the community. We are honored to collaborate with our CT Federation partners and look forward to working with them on enhancing the safety and security of the places attended by the Jewish community."



United Jewish Federation



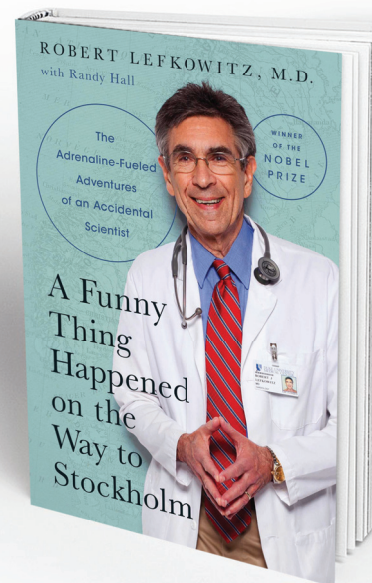
MAIMONIDES SOCIETY

UJF's Maimonides Society presents:

A Discussion with Robert Lefkowitz, MD and Randy Hall

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Stockholm: The Adrenaline-Fueled Adventures of a Doctor and Accidental Scientist"

Wednesday, October 13th at 7:00pm



Dr. Lefkowitz is the James B. Duke Professor of Medicine at Duke University Medical School, and an author, cardiologist and legendary scientist and Nobel Prize winner.

This virtual program is free but not without cost.

Register at www.ujf.org/science.

For more info contact Sharon@ujf.org.

"This vivid tale shines with personality. Rarely has science been treated with such a winning blend of humor and humanity."

— Publishers Weekly

"Lefkowitz is an avid and inveterate storyteller. Told with humor and humility, what shines through most is his love of stories. His passion for science and discovery, for helping people, and for celebrating stories is infectious."

— Booklist

UJF Launches Campaign with Sell Out Crowd



David Kweskin, Co-Chair Lorraine Kweskin, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, Campaign Chair Ellen Weber, Linda Hurwitz, Co-Chair and Richard Fine. (All photos courtesy of Aviva Maller Photography)

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign Launch, chaired by Linda Hurwitz and Lorraine Kweskin, honored community emerging leaders and treated guests to speaker Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. The event was held at the Darien Community Association and featured an outdoor, pre-packaged dinner in the beautiful gardens. Close to 150 guests, in person and on

Zoom, walked away with inspiration from Rabbi Telushkin's talk on "Words That Hurt, Words That Heal: How To Be Civil in an Increasingly Uncivil World". Campaign chair Ellen Weber shared the importance and impact of Federation on the local community and beyond, and Diane Sloyer provided remarks about the community's success with the LIFE & LEGACY program.



The Baer/Hadge family with Rabbi Joseph Telushkin.



Len and Susan Mark with Lorraine and David Kweskin.



Mort and Eleanor Lowenthal with Rabbi Joseph Telushkin.



Richard and Tara Shapiro with Dinah Miller-Marlowe and Seth Marlowe.



Ari Yasger, Rabbi Daniel Cohen and Eytan Sosnovitch.



Susan Kostin, Michael Schelssinger and Monica Smyth.



Chris Maroc, Tommy Haendler and Caryn Halbrecht.



Danielle Bregman and Annie Watman.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 19

Emerging Leaders Honored at Federation Campaign Launch

REMARKS BY LINDA HURWITZ, UJF CAMPAIGN KICKOFF CO-CHAIR

Jerome Taillard of Babson College said "With good leadership, you can create a vision and you can motivate people to make it a reality." A good leader can inspire others in an organization to achieve their very best. ... Good leadership listens, attracts, inspires, provides direction, identifies a common goal to aspire to, and ultimately retains as much talent as possible.

Organizations of all kinds focus on leadership as a vital concept necessary for success. Everyone talks about leadership, everyone says they want leadership, everyone prioritizes leadership. But, why is leadership important?

Leadership implies working with others, not alone. Leadership is often associated with top management, but leadership can occur anywhere. It is taking initiative; it is showing interest; it is pursuing a mission to serve a greater purpose, or a greater good.

Since we believe leadership is so important, it was only fitting that this year United Jewish Federation would honor emerging leaders in our Jewish Community. These emerging leaders have kept us going during these challenging times and we are so appreciative of their work. This year, each Jewish organization was asked to identify one emerging leader they would like us to honor here today.

QUALITIES OF OUR EMERGING LEADERS INCLUDE:

- The ability to collaborate with others.
- Self-assured confidence.
- Consistent and constant learning and self-improvement.
- A propensity for fostering growth in others. and
- A strong capacity for clear communication.

OUR EMERGING LEADERS

- are active in the community. ...
- are well-rounded. ...
- are achievers. ...
- encourage others. ...
- aren't afraid of change. ...
- are strong team players. ... and
- are motivated to achieve a common good.

United Jewish Federation is proud to honor this community's emerging leaders.



Adam Furmansky receives his award from United Jewish Federation President David Gordon. (All photos courtesy of Aviva Maller Photography)



Fred Springer, Friendship Circle Chair, award recipient Chanie Kamman and Malya Shmotkin, Director of Friendship Circle.



Lisa Manheim, Temple Beth El President, presents Chris Maroc with his award.



Marshall Kurland, Stamford Jewish Community Center CEO, event chair Lorraine Kweskin, award recipient Jessica Berger, and Sandi Waldstreicher, JCC Educational Coordinator.



Matt Greenberg, Schoke Jewish Family Service CEO presents the emerging leader award to Shushannah Walshe.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 19

Gan Yeladim Prepares to Welcome the New Year

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) As Gan Yeladim prepares for the new year ahead, the Morahs (teachers) spent a productive week learning innovative ways to help make Gan a wonderful year for all. This year, the week's focus was on learning principles of "conscious discipline". As Gan began its journey using this method, tools were offered to be able to understand children in proactive ways and help them deal with their emotions and respond appropriately. Gan is thrilled to be offering this course to any interested parents (with children of any age) this coming fall in their "Parenting Club" workshops which start on October 12th.

Another focus for Gan this year was on learning new "Aleph Bet" manipulatives in order to enhance the school's Hebrew



Professional Development at Gan Yeladim. (l-r) Morahs Margarita Kunin, Kate Wolk, Hillary Isaacs, Zandalee Labuschangne, Melanie Santasiero, Kelley Lombardo and Mussie Greenberg.

language and reading program this year. Lastly, the Morahs also shared techniques on bringing an extra level of joy and love to their davening (prayer) time through singing, dancing and more.

For more information on Gan's parenting workshops, which are open to all, email wendy@stamfordchabad.org.

Dignity Grows™



Dignity Grows packing party.



Mother-daughter duo, Jocelyn and Margie Abrams.



Person-To-Person receives Dignity Grows bags from UJF.

(Courtesy of UJF) This past August local women came together to make a difference by packing tote bags for Dignity Grows. The Packing Party was chaired by Daniela Fisch and Lorraine Hutzler. Totes were sponsored by participants at \$10 per tote, and 100 bags were

packed to be donated to Person-To-Person. Dignity Grows empowers our neighbors in need by providing menstrual and hygiene supplies. To learn more about the program, to sponsor a monthly tote, or to host a fundraiser, contact Taly Farber at Taly@ujf.org.

Applications Underway for Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps

(Courtesy of UJF) The Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps, a program of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, and generously funded by the Kuriansky family, is a teen philanthropic leadership program designed to train the next generation of community philanthropists. Applications are now open for 10th-12th grade students for the 2021-2022 Corps.

Each month of the academic year, participants meet over dinner to explore the Jewish values of tzedakah and philanthropy, engage with community guest speakers, and visit local nonprofit organizations. The group will develop priorities for funding. Corps members will learn to source ideas, create priorities, and then fund projects in our local community and beyond.

Returning for the third year, Jonathan Fass will be the educator and facilitator for the Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps. Jonathan currently serves as the Managing Director, Educational Technology and Strategy at The Jewish Education Project. He has directed UJF's Behrend Institute for Leadership, teaches a weekly communal

Torah study class at the Stamford JC, and until about a year ago, served as COO at Schoke Jewish Family Service. "Jonathan has made Jewish education his lifelong passion and we are lucky to have him direct this program again this coming academic year" shared Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO.

Recruitment is well underway for the 2021-2022 cohort. Ideal candidates for this elite group of teen leaders must be entering 10th-12th grade, live in Stamford/New Canaan/Darien, and have leadership experience. Sessions are planned to be in person at the Federation offices, 1035 Newfield Avenue and all participants must submit proof of vaccination. The program will move to online sessions if needed.

Session dates are: October 24th, November 11th, December 12th, January 23rd, February 13th, March 20th, April 10th. The May session, date to be determined, will be graduation.

Applications can be found at www.ujf.org/teen and are due by October 12th.

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

UJF Welcomes Babies and Newcomers

(Courtesy of UJF) Stamford, New Canaan and Darien continue to be hotspots for home buyers. Sharon Franklin, United Jewish Federation's Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement welcomes newcomers with a lovely

gift bag including a challah cover and information about the community. Babies receive board books and a Future Jewish Philanthropist bib. If you know anyone new to the area, please contact Sharon at sharon@ujf.org (203) 321-1373, ext. 109.



Elana Tepper and her baby daughter receive a Shalom Welcome visit. Elana and her husband Brian are thrilled to live in their new warm and welcoming community.



Jason and Shira Saibel and their son Aiden enjoy a Shalom Stamford Welcome from Sharon Franklin, UJF's Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement, after moving to Stamford.



Ariel and Stephen Bedik receive a Shalom Baby Welcome visit in honor of their new daughter Scarlett.



Gila Ogle and her daughter Aria enjoy a Shalom Welcome visit. It was a chance for them to hear more about their new community and what UJF and the greater community has to offer.

An Evening with Michal Oshman: A Tribute to Joanne Steichel Karow

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) When Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford, heard about the tragic passing of her friend and longtime Stamford resident, Joanne Steichel Karow, she thought of ways she could honor and celebrate the life of a powerful and dynamic individual and the legacy she left behind.

With that in mind, she invited Michal Oshman to speak and share life lessons and Jewish wisdom on how to live the fullest life with purpose and meaning and without fear.

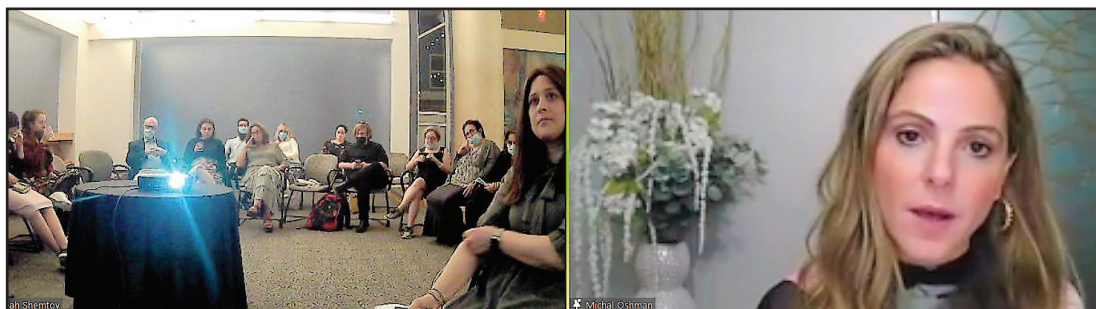
The evening began with friends and family from near and far, paying tribute to Joanne's life and the legacy she left behind. Her legacy included dedication to family and friends, building communities, and education, which she was especially passionate about.

At first glance, Michal's achievements seem awe-inspiring. A senior executive at TikTok and formerly at Facebook, she was an army officer and trained and coached

hundreds of tech leaders. She is an author, a wife and mother and holds three college degrees. Despite this, she spoke movingly about how her life had been riddled with fear and anxiety, and how everyone can use ancient principles of "Chasidus" (Hasidic philosophy) in Judaism to help overcome these and live their best possible lives.

The title of Michal's book, "What Would You Do if You Weren't Afraid" was a motto she saw on a wall at Facebook. At that time, despite 'having it all', she was consumed with depression and anxiety. That day, she googled the words "joy", "happiness" and "Judaism", which brought her into contact with Chabad. Chabad led to her first Tanya class which changed her life forever. (The Tanya is an early work of Hasidic philosophy.)

Her book includes wisdom for anyone who wants to improve their



Chabad of Stamford hosted an evening with social media guru and author, Michal Oshman, in tribute to Joanne Steichel Karow.

lives in practical ways. The beauty of the evening was the link to Joanne, who also wanted people to be the best versions of themselves. In Michal's words, even in peoples' darkest times, "We have a partner in life and are not alone and Judaism teaches us there is nothing more complete than a broken heart. We lean on a broken wall in Jerusalem, and Judaism focuses on looking forward, improvement, connection and growth. Doing it with faith and goodwill can help everyone." She added, "Struggle is part of life but there is always potential and Jewish wisdom encourages us always to

take steps forward." Lastly, Michal spoke about how she infuses Jewish principles in her work in social media in order to create positive content.

Audience members were all encouraged to take on an extra mitzvah, to have a good thought or do a good deed in honor of Joanne.

Chabad of Stamford has launched a new educational scholarship fund in Joanne's name. For information about the scholarship fund, for copies of Michal's book or to join Chabad of Stamford's weekly "Tanya" classes, please email programs@stamfordchabad.org



"AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE"

WITH FORMER ISRAELI AMBASSADOR

RON DERMER

Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 pm at Temple Shalom

Ambassador Dermer will share behind the scenes experiences and personal stories from during his time as the the Israeli Ambassador to the United States from 2013 to 2021, and as the senior advisor to immediate past Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

He will also give us his perspective on relevant current events.

\$18 for Temple Shalom members • \$25 for Non-members

\$180 for Intimate Cocktail Reception & Meet & Greet Beforehand

Purchase tickets at: www.templesholom.com/ambassadorordermer

300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT • 203-869-7191





Community Impact

Social Services & Senior Support



Where It Is Needed Most

Let UJF decide which of the programs on this menu your dollars will support. Your generosity will ensure that UJF continues to impact, support and strengthen our Jewish community and beyond.



The Infrastructure of UJF

Help keep the UJF engine running so we can continue to provide all the educational and local community-building activities that strengthen our community and enhance our connections to Israel and World Jewry.



Communal Security

The global and local Jewish communities face a growing threat of hatred and anti semitism. Money raised for communal security will go to the increasing cost of keeping our local Jewish community safe. We will continue to work with and benefit from the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official homeland security and safety initiative of the organized North American Jewish Community.



Jewish Community Relations Council

The JCRC works in partnership with the non-Jewish world, on the local and state levels. It mobilizes the Jewish community, building relationships and engaging in non-partisan work focused on education, social justice, communal security, support for Israel and combating antisemitism.

Funding goal: \$82,000



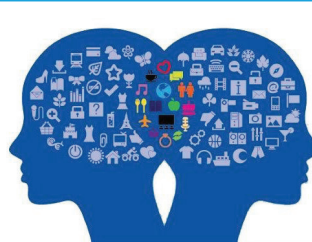
Israel

Our collective Jewish communities helped fund the founding of the State of Israel. Today, through our partnerships with the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and World ORT, UJF continues to fund social services, education and opportunities for Israelis in need, including immigrants and those on the periphery. UJF's partnership with Afula-Gilboa through the Southern New England Consortium, (SNEC), is supported by our Israel donations.



Global Jewry

UJF's global connections are strengthened by our contributions to the overseas Jewish Community. Wherever there is a Jew in need, UJF's partners, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Agency for Israel and World ORT are there to provide a safety net. Especially in post-communist countries, our network is a catalyst for the rebirth, renewal and growth of Jewish life.



Affinity Groups

UJF events provide opportunities for Jewish community members who share the same profession or life stage to gather while learning about timely and relevant topics, often with the opportunity to earn professional credits. Groups include lawyers, doctors, business professionals and NextGen.

Funding goal: \$29,000



New Jewish Voice Newspaper

The New Jewish Voice, published by UJF, is sent free of charge to over 5,000 households. Local Jewish communal organizations submit articles and photos, and receive thousands of dollars of free publicity annually.

Funding goal: \$62,100



Shalom/Welcome Program

UJF's Shalom/Welcome Program greets new Jewish residents to our community, providing them with information and opportunities to connect Jewishly. The Shalom Baby Program welcomes new babies with gifts and provides relevant information to their parents.

Funding goal: \$14,500



Life & Legacy

LIFE & LEGACY® is a collaborative communal initiative helping individuals and families create legacy gifts for Jewish causes they care about, providing a permanent source of support for our community organizations and beyond. Federation administers this program in partnership with 10 local organizations. Participating organizations receive training and incentive grants from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and UJF.

Funding goal: \$82,000



Yom HaShoah Commemoration

UJF, together with the Board of Rabbis, brings the community together with impactful speakers and programs to remember entire communities and individuals lost in the Shoah.

Funding goal: \$12,000



Farm to Table

Housed at the Stamford JCC, this program aims to build community through shared interests in farming and gardening. Individuals of all ages will learn about planning the garden, planting the seeds, caring for the various crops, and harvesting the produce. Harvests will be donated throughout the community.

Funding goal: \$73,000



Connect to Community

Schoke Jewish Family Service will continue to implement a friendly visiting program geared toward providing companionship to elderly and homebound individuals.

Funding goal: \$24,650



Senior Services at Home

Schoke Jewish Family Service will administer and facilitate programming to address an unmet need for mobile counseling, and will provide case management services for the physically impaired and home bound elderly.

Funding goal: \$16,800



Digital Kosher Food Pantry

This Schoke JFS project will take their bricks and mortar pantry into the 21st century by implementing a digital pantry and inventory system, similar to "Peapod". This digital shopping experience will be more efficient and will allow for greater dignity.

Funding goal: \$45,000



Holocaust Survivor

Emergency Fund

By partnering with Kavod Shef, all funds raised for this project will be matched to enable Schoke JFS to provide emergency assistance to Holocaust survivors in our area.

Funding goal: \$17,000



Intergenerational Choir

The Kolenu Dor L'Dor Choir, housed at Congregation Agudath Sholom, will build an intergenerational community, using the power of music and Shabbat to connect Jews of all ages. The Choir, open to 4th graders through teens, will meet weekly. Seniors will practice at Atria. The goal of the choir will be to “harmonize” intergenerational voices.

Funding goal: \$10,000



Hello 21st Century

This initiative will allow Temple Sinai to implement modern best practices in Jewish education. Four classrooms (grades 4 – 7) will be upgraded with new equipment. Great benefits will be enjoyed by the entire Temple Sinai community as well as those organizations that use the facilities.

Funding goal: \$9,000



United Jewish Federation



Campaign for Communal Needs 2021

Building a Strong and Vibrant Jewish Community in Stamford, New Canaan, Darien and Around the Globe

More information can be found at www.ujf.org or please contact Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373/105, dianesloyer@ujf.org

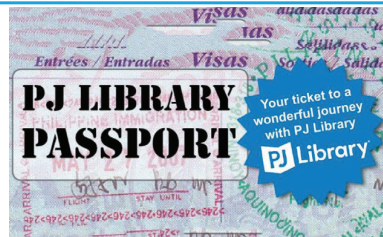
VOLUNTEER



Bi-Cultural Community Chesed

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy will offer a curriculum that enables students in grades pre-K - 12 to volunteer on a regular basis in the local community and beyond. This grant will fund a coordinator, supplies and transportation costs.

Funding goal: \$56,000



PJ Library Programming

UJF's PJ Library and PJ Our Way provide children ages 6 months to 11 years old with free monthly Jewish books, as well as regular programming opportunities.

These programs connect families with young children to the greater community.

Funding goal: \$38,000



Resource Specialist

As its Upper School continues to grow, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy will use the resource specialist to support the growing diverse educational and social needs of the student body. By expanding support services, BCHA can expand its reach and welcome additional students.

Funding goal: \$56,000



Teen Social Justice Club

This program will engage 7th and 8th graders in social action/social justice activities and projects, culminating in a Civil Rights trip to enhance the learning they have experienced throughout the year. This program will be run by and housed at Temple Beth El and is open to the community.

Funding goal: \$11,200



Inclusion Fair

Implemented by the Friendship Circle, this educational fair is run by teen volunteers. They will guide elementary-age children through booths where they will learn about different special needs, giving them tools and language to become ambassadors of inclusion.

Funding goal: \$6,000



One Happy Camper

With a match from the Foundation for Jewish Camping, Federation will be able to offer \$1,000 scholarships to first-time campers attending a Jewish summer camp that is part the Foundation network. The grants are available to non-day school families and first-time attendees.

Funding goal: \$18,000



Communal Scholarship Fund

Our community, like others around the world, has seen a tremendous rise in scholarship needs due to the economic impact of the pandemic. Contributions to the Communal Scholarship Fund will provide funding to organizations in our local community so they can award scholarships to those in need for schools, camp and more.



UConn Hillel Shabbat on the Go

UConn Hillel will offer themed Shabbat programming. Services and a Shabbat meal will be offered at the Stamford campus where students from the Storrs campus will join. Transportation will also be provided from the Stamford campus for students to join in services and a Friday night dinner at the Storrs Campus.

Funding goal: \$7,500

Youth and Young Adult Opportunities

Bits & Pieces



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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Sandy Golove Eliane & Elliot Glassman on the birth of a daughter. Jennifer & Daniel Granowitz on the birth of a daughter, Julia Stern Granowitz; and to grandparents, Loralee & Philip Granowitz.

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

Mouchka & Dov Heller on the birth of a son; and to grandparents, Eva & Rabbi Elie Damon and Lianne & Theo Heller.

Theresa Linsner & Elie Herman on the birth of a son; and to grandparents, Dina & Ira Herman and Joanne & Jerry Linsner.

Aviva & Jared Kafer on the birth of a daughter, Elia Maayan; and to grandparents, Estelle & Sheldon Kafer and Shera & Bob Nusbaum.

Meg Eilenberg and Ben Moskowitz on the birth of a son, and to grandparents, Rona and David Moskowitz.

Racheli & Dan Rosenblum on the birth of a son; and to grandparents, Chana & Tom Beltram, Michael Nutkiewicz and Lee & Stuart Rosenblum.

Nurit & Mark Wexler on the birth of a granddaughter; and to great-grandparents, Debbie & Ben Soifer.

Joanne Shapes Zaner & Mark Zaner on the birth of a son, Caleb Jeffrey Zaner; and to grandmother, Madelyne Kirch.

MAZEL TOV ON ENGAGEMENTS/ MARRIAGES:

Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen on the engagement of their daughter, Adina to Moshe Averick, son of Lisa & Benjy Averick.

Maxine & Jay Freilich on the marriage of their son, Gary Freilich to Danielle Hauser,

Arline Gewanter on the engagement of her grandson, Shimon to Chaya Glazer.

Claudia Kraut on the marriage of her son, Herbie Rimerman to Elizabeth Latham; and to the grandmother, Norma Kraut.

Kori & Bill Meyers on the marriage of their son, Sam Meyers to Emma Seligson.

Marina Sapir & Alex Podelko on the marriage of their son, Lev Podelko to Masha Meira, daughter of Anna Vorochkova & Igor Pekar.

Joan Doctor Rosenthal & Robert Rosenthal on the marriage of their son, Benjamin Rosenthal to Stacy

Newman, daughter of Linda & Norman Newman.

Roberta Stiel and Stephen Wayne on the engagement of their son David Wayne to Shternie Weingarten daughter of Shainie & Rabbi Yisroel Weingarten.

MAZEL TOV TO:

Elie Kligman, son of Laura & Marc Kligman and grandson of Nancy & Harris Kligman who was drafted into the Major League baseball team, the Washington Nationals.

Harris Kligman who just published his 5th book, Life Impossible and first children's book The Original Alphabet Gang.

MAZAL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Hannah Bahar, daughter of Maya Sparks and Darren Bahar; and to the grandparents, Rachel and David Bahar.

Yoav Hochman, son of Sarah & David Hochman.

David Lefkovitz, son of Andrea & Ari Lefkovitz.

Lolly Socaransky, daughter of Carlie & Jordan Socaransky.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Sylvia Lasher Abrams: mother of Beverly Stein.

Dafna Berman: wife of Jonathan Berman and mother of Avidan Berman, Maayan Berman and Shira Salovey.

Martin Bernstein: father of Eileen Springer.

Sarey Bernstein: wife of Samuel J. Bernstein and mother of Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein and Cathy Freund.

Stephen Bradley: father of Darren Bradley and Jonathan Bradley.

Gloria Breese: grandmother of Melissa Fahey.

Edward Chait: father of Bryna Chait Dreyer.

Jack Ferster: father of Caren Ferster Borowski.

Guta Fischel: mother of Sam Fischel and Rosalie Stone.

Harry Morgenthaler: father of Walter Morgenthaler.

Marden (Mordy) David Paru: brother of Rachel Terk.

Marilyn Rice: mother of Michele Piskin.

Richard Sherman: husband of Betty Sherman; and father of Lynn Sherman Alloy and Robert Sherman.

Bruce Smith: husband of Brenda Smith; father of Greg Smith, Melissa Smith and Ruth Smith; and brother of Edward Smith.

June Stefanik: mother of Kim Mahoney.

Vivien Weiss: mother of Shulie Schnelwar, Daniel Weiss and Rebecca Weiss.

Agudath Sholom Celebrates Renovation and Rededication



(l-r) CAS Executive Director Matt Feinberg, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Capital Campaign Chair Shushannah Yasgur, Capital Campaign Chair Harvey Kaminski, CAS Past-President Simeon Wohlberg, CAS President Toby Schaffer, CAS Past-President and Capital Campaign Chair Howard Rothman, CAS Past-President Rachel Dayan, Mayor David Martin, and Rabbi Daniel Cohen pose in front of the synagogue's new entrance.

(Courtesy of CAS) Congregation Agudath Sholom hosted a Chanukat Habayit Dedication Ceremony on August 29th in celebration of its recent renovation and expansion.

"This afternoon, as we celebrate the renewal of our beloved shul, Agudath Sholom, founded in 1889 with a dream of establishing a house for God, we too are affirming our sacred mission to be a blessing to the world," said Rabbi Daniel Cohen, spiritual leader of Congregation Agudath Sholom, in his dedication remarks.

"We are grateful for all of the angels who came before us and on whose shoulders we stand here today. We invoke the memory of Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz who understood that Orthodoxy must always be rooted in tradition and relevant to the modern world. Together with families throughout our history, Rabbi Ehrenkranz built Agudath Sholom into an anchor in Stamford for Torah, Prayer, Advocacy, Community and Kindness," Rabbi Cohen continued. "...We pray today to be reinvigorated in our mission to be a beacon of faith, fortitude,



Stephanie and Josh Belinker and Rabbi Daniel Cohen point to the newly installed mezuzah at the synagogue entrance.



Event Chairs Helene and Harvey Kaminski and Howard and Gayle Rothman attend the pre-dedication festivities in the CAS tent.

education, optimism, hope and the belief in the capacity of each and every one of us to make a positive difference in the world."

He thanked Senator Richard Blumenthal, Congressman Jim Himes, and Mayor David Martin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Participants tour the new sanctuary.

Happy Birthday from the Friendship Circle Family

(Courtesy of The Friendship Circle) The Friendship Circle family is wide and includes the entire community. Among the many things in common that the community celebrates are... birthdays! The Friendship Circle Birthday Project reaches out to all Friendship Circle members to help celebrate and learn about both their secular and Jewish birthdays.

All of the children and adults with special needs receive a package in the mail with treats to celebrate their special day. During non-COVID times, The Friendship Circle staff and special friends will deliver the package in person and make a small party for the participants. Treats include something to eat, birthday gifts and a special card that teaches about the Jewish traditions surrounding birthdays.

Moms of children with

special needs also receive special birthday packages. The parents work hard and often don't spend time on themselves. These packages contain special self care and fun birthday relaxation ideas. Included in past packages have been cozy blankets, robes, spa kits etc. The moms are encouraged to take some time for themselves and to celebrate their special day. Dorit, one of the moms, shared, "I have just opened my birthday gift, with tears in my eyes. All the love, care, and warmth that were put into that touched my heart. I can't thank you enough for making my birthday so special".

Friendship Circle volunteers and donors help keep the organization running and the calendar filled with activities, educational events and special trips. To help honor these donors



Jack Theriault celebrates his birthday.

and volunteers, special birthday gifts have included personalized books of psalms, phone wallets, Friendship Circle swag, and more. The Friendship Circle Birthday Project helps to celebrate and appreciate everyone's special day.

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

JHSFC Awarded Stamford Arts and Culture Grant

(Courtesy of JHSFC) Mayor David Martin and the Stamford Arts and Culture Commission recently announced the winners of the 2021 Stamford Arts and Culture (SAC) Grant. The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) was designated as a winner of a grant for the production of a traveling exhibit, "It Happened Here."

According to Eva Weller, grant project manager, "The JHSFC will draw on its more than 5,000 photographs and over 250 oral histories in the design of this exhibit, which will consist of seven pull-up panels to cover such topics as immigration, civil rights, and women's accomplishments."

The Jewish History Society has begun working on this opportunity for Fairfield County's Jewish communities

to portray their over 350 years of Jewish immigration, civil rights activity, and women's accomplishments. JHSFC looks forward to having the Fairfield County Jewish communities participate in this program both personally and financially.

According to Mayor Martin, "Stamford's arts venues and programs have provided immense value to our community this past year, and I am glad we can continue supporting the work they provide to our residents. I know I look forward to many of these programs as defining experiences to Stamford's cultural identity and I look forward to their work this year."

Please contact info@jhsfc-ct.org or call 203-359-2196 for more information or to get involved.



United Jewish Federation



Please join us for a

MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Moderated by Joshua Esses, Chair, Jewish Community Relations Council

October 18, 2021

7:30pm

In person or virtual, to be determined—please watch your email for further details

Come hear from the candidates about their ideas and vision for Stamford for the next four years.

To register: ujf.org/forum

Participating organizations:

Jewish Community Center, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Temple Beth El, Young Israel of Stamford

For more information: Sharon Lewis, Director, JCRC, slewis@ujf.org

JCC Sr. Adult Holiday Lunch

(Courtesy of The JCC) After nearly 18 months apart, the Stamford Jewish Community Center was delighted to welcome the senior community back to the J for a

Rosh Hashanah luncheon. This luncheon was made possible through the generosity of Henry Stern and family, in memory of Henry and Sandra Stern and Irene Krinsky.



Fred and Sandy Golove await the festivities to come. (CREDIT: BRIANNA STIEBLING)



Long time friends and attendees of the senior adult luncheons, Phyllis Tachna and Victoria Mueller enjoy their apples and honey before their festive kosher meal.



Rita and Abe Yellen and Steve Trell enjoy homemade matzo ball soup before their main courses.

“For People, Not Politics”

BOBBY VALENTINE

UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

**A BOLD LEADER, EXPERIENCED TEAM BUILDER
AND KNOWN INNOVATOR WHO WILL ...**

Control taxes by cutting waste using zero-based budgeting

Fix our roads, clean up our streets & invest in our parks

Expand programs to care for our seniors

Champion our public schools & renovate our classrooms

Create a concierge service to assist small businesses

**VOTE ON
NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

Read about my history in our community, leadership and managerial experiences, and priorities for Stamford by visiting:

www.bobbyvalentine.com



@BobbyV4Stamford



@BobbyValentine4Stamford



@BobbyValentine

Paid for by Bobby Valentine for Stamford. Rissa Gerych, Treasurer. Approved by Bobby Valentine.



CAROLINE SIMMONS

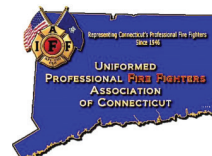
★★★★★

MAYOR

Endorsed Democratic and Independent Candidate

I'm running for Mayor to build a brighter future for you and your families, to bring Stamford together around innovative solutions, and to take our city to the next level.

ALSO SUPPORTED BY:



**Vote for Caroline Simmons
in person on November 2nd,
or by absentee ballot.**

(Polls will be open from 6AM-8PM)

**For more information on how
to vote by absentee ballot,
visit CarolineSimmons.org.**



Paid for by Caroline Simmons for Mayor. Leah Kagan, Treasurer. Approved by Caroline Simmons.

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

Nan and Paul Gordon	Stu Madison
Linda B. Gornitsky	Lisa and Jeff Manheim
Sharon and Larry Greenberg	Norma and Milton Mann*
Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg	Susan and Len Mark
Grecia and Ron* Gross	Chris Maroc
Scott Handelman	Melanie Massell
Jacqueline Herman	Michal and Rabbi Levi Mendelow
Dr. Shara and Rabbi David Israel	Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun
Sari and Alan Jaffe	Marguerite and Kenneth Neuhaus
Meryl and Ron Japha	Rose and Bruce Newman
Sadae and Michael Kadish	Marsha and Louis Panzer
Judith and Grant Kallen	Leah and Doni Perl
Helene and Harvey Kaminski	Dr. Robin Evans and Dr. Jeffrey Perry
Chanie Kamman	Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser
Dr. Jan Kaplowitz	Enid Randall*
Jason Kaplowitz	Bonita and Stephen Rappoport
Roni Kaplowitz	Judith Raymond
Lisa and Arnold Karp	Lisa and Harry Rich
Jessica and Ilan Katz	Judy and Adam Rin
Joy Katz	Betty and Dan* Roberts
Judith and Sheldon Katz	Sonia and Brian Roitman
Larry Katz	Arlene and Carl Rosen
Betsy and Peter Kempner	Arlene Rosen
Liz and Marc Kitay	Irma Ross
Elissa and Philip Klapper	Sandra Ross
Harris Kligman	Sally and Jim Rothkopf
Susan Kostin	Ruth Rothseid
Arthur Kramer*	Linda and Leonard Russ
Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher	Bonnie Russo
Elizabeth and Scott Krowitz	Edith Samers
Svetlana Kunin	Renee Samson
Jackie and Marshall Kurland	Sharyn and Richard Sarner
Lorraine and David Kweskin	Leah Schechter
Helen and Ed Kweskin	Hilde Scheraga*
Lieba and Steve Lander	Jayne and Bud Schiff
Shelley Leibowitz	Carol Ruth and Herman Shepherd*
Lois D. Stark and Gary P.Lessen	Nancy Schiffman
Elizabeth Libner	Monica Smyth and Michael Schlessinger
R. and J. Licht	Elayne and James Schoke*
Ronnie and Gary Lilien	Chaya and Levi Segal
Vered and Mark Links	Myrna and George Sessa
Lisa and Seth Linzer	Jessica and Laurence Sheinman
Eleanor and Mort Lowenthal	Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov

Stephanie and Bob Sherman
Malya Shmotkin
Ronnie Ness and Dr. Steven Sichel
Miriam Landsberg-Silverman and Eliezer Silverman
Paula Simon
Diane Sloyer
Diane and Elliot Sloyer
Ed Smith
Greta Solomon
Miriam and Steve Sosnick
Sandy and Moshe Speter
Ed Spilka
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*
Annie and Jeremy Watman
David Wayne
Ellen and Richard Weber
Linda B. Gornitsky and Harvey Weber
Dana and Carl Weinberg
Leon Weisburgh
Janet Welkovich
Robyn and Mark Winarksy
Neda Khaghan and Robert Yaghoubian
Rita and Abe Yellen
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.*

UJF 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.

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.

CHRISTOPHER MAROC AND RICHARD HEIMLER* TESTIMONIAL

“When you learn, teach. When you get, give.” Maya Angelou

On our first date, Richard told me he was diagnosed with lung cancer nine years earlier. I was so taken by

him that I thought he told me he had the common cold. During our life together, Richard overcame 14 years of living with cancer, always with his head held high, driven by his unflagging passion for living his life fully. He was a generous man with a heart that loved without judgment. Richard gave unstintingly to his family, his friends, his faith, and to organizations that gave back to those challenged in some way. He was especially proud of his tenure as President of Temple Beth Rishon in New Jersey, his contributions on the board at Lung Cancer Alliance, and volunteer work at the Hetrick Martin Institute. His legacy is now deeply rooted in two ways- his two children, Michael and Rachel who work to continue the work he started, and the organizations he gifted when he left us in 2017. As he often said, “a legacy is not a donation. It is an investment.”



Christopher Maroc and Richard Heimler of blessed memory.

We are driven by a will to establish meaning in our lives. We need a purpose. Would you like to see your values carry forward and have an impact on those who will make this a substantive world? Your gift, through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, LIFE & LEGACY, will make that possible.

**Of blessed memory*

Agudath Sholom Celebrates Renovation and Rededication

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

for attending, and added, “Our mission aligns with the aspirations of our country. Faith is critical to the functioning of democracy because religion inspires people to lead lives of calling and integrity and see the face of God in every human being.”

Capital Campaign Chairs Howard Rothman, Elissa Klapper, Harvey Kaminski and Shushana Yasgur were thanked, as was congregant Barry Sternlicht whose generous lead gift launched the renovation.

The ceremony concluded with the placing of the mezuzah on the entranceway to the synagogue.

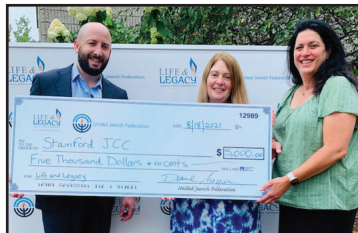
“This mitzvah links us to the courage of the Jewish people thousands of years ago who on the cusp of redemption, declared at great personal risk and without fear, their full commitment to standing with God and embracing His mission to be a light unto the world. May we all merit a time very soon of peace and God’s light and love in every corner of the country and world,” Rabbi Cohen concluded.

To learn more, contact Rabbi Daniel Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org.

Legacy Gifts Impact Community Future

With year one of United Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundations LIFE & LEGACY program complete, each participating organization was presented with an incentive check for reaching benchmarks in the program. “The beauty of this program is collaboration and partnerships. When Harold Grinspoon created LIFE & LEGACY, he knew it might take some

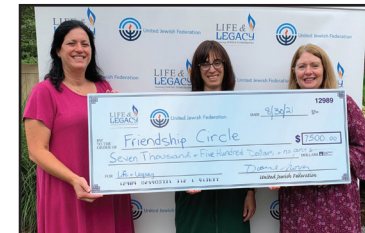
incentivizing efforts for organizations to increase their efforts and build their endowments. Organizations receiving \$7,500 checks have secured 25 or more letters of intent and those receiving \$5,000 secured between 18-24 letters of intent,” shared Lenore Fogel, program coordinator. To date our community has secured over 9 million dollars in Legacy gifts to secure the future of our Jewish community.



Marshall Kurland, Stamford Jewish Community Center CEO, receives a check from Diane Sloyer and Lenore Fogel.



Rabbi Moshe Shemtov, Co-Director of Chabad of Stamford, receives a LIFE & LEGACY check from Diane Sloyer and Lenore Fogel.



Director of Friendship Circle, Malya Shmotkin (center), receives a check from Lenore Fogel and Diane Sloyer.



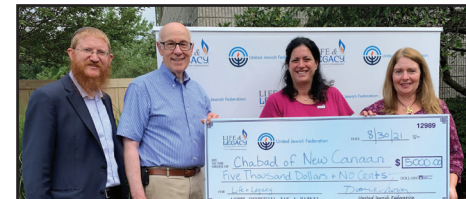
Lenore Fogel, UJF's LIFE & LEGACY Coordinator and Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO present a check to Susan Kostin, Temple Sinai and UJF Board Member and Rabbi Jay TelRav, spiritual leader of Temple Sinai.



Lenore Fogel and Diane Sloyer present a check to Schoke Jewish Family Service past president and SJFS LIFE & LEGACY Chair Beverly Stein.



Lenore Fogel and Diane Sloyer present an incentive check to Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Head of School, Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein.



Rabbi Levi Mendelow of Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center, Jerry Fensterstock, Reporting Chair, receives an incentive check from Lenore Fogel and Diane Sloyer.



UJF board member and LIFE & LEGACY Chair Edith Samers accepts a Life & Legacy check from Lenore Fogel and Diane Sloyer on behalf of United Jewish Federation.



Lenore Fogel presents a check to Rabbi Daniel Cohen, spiritual leader of Congregation Agudath Sholom.



Lenore Fogel and Diane Sloyer present Temple Beth El a check to LIFE & LEGACY co-chair Jeff Cohen, past president and LIFE & LEGACY co-chair Carl Weinberg, and executive director Steve Lander.



Lenore Fogel presents a check to Young Israel of Stamford's LIFE & LEGACY Chair and past president Greg Teitel, Rabbi Eli Kohl of Young Israel of Stamford, and YI president Stephen Davidson.

UJF Launches Campaign with Sell Out Crowd

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



A full house enjoy Rabbi Telushkin.



Louise and Ami Soifer.



Ilan Fogel and Eli Freedberg.

Emerging Leaders Honored at Federation Campaign Launch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



Rabbi Daniel Cohen of Congregation Agudath Sholom, award recipient Jessica Sosnovich, and CAS President Toby Schaffer.



Rabbi Jay TelRav of Temple Sinai presents Ben and Carly Magidson with their award.



Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov, Chabad Stamford Co-Directors, and award recipient Vered Links.



Rachel Haron, Associate Head of School at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, award recipient Jodi Hodge, and BCHA President Paul Berger.



The Farmers Who Are Giving Their Land a Year's Rest

In Israel, every seventh year is supposed to be a sabbath year when farmers don't raise crops. It's a great rest for the fields, but a huge test of faith.

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN/
ISRAEL21C

Ben Rosenberg will let his organic farm rest during the sabbatical year. Photo courtesy of Ben's Farm

Starting the second week of September, Israeli organic farmer Ben Rosenberg will stop planting in the field. He will grow his veggies in raised containers inside fabric-covered hothouses until next September.

The hothouse setup was expensive, and he will only be able to grow about half the usual 40 seasonal varieties he raises in the field during a normal year.

But it's not going to be a normal year. The year 5782 on the Jewish calendar – starting at sundown on September 6 – is a sabbatical year for the land.

According to the Bible, every seventh year in the Land of Israel is a shmita (“release”) when debts are canceled and fields lie fallow and ownerless.

Promoting growth through most forms of plowing, planting and pruning is forbidden, as are the usual methods of reaping and harvesting.

Any previously planted vegetable, flower or fruit that grows in the soil during the sabbatical year has a special sanctity. It must not be wasted or sold – it should be made available freely to anyone, in acknowledgement that the land is God's, not ours.

The Bible promises a triple bounty in the sixth year of the agricultural cycle — enough for the sixth, seventh and eighth years until new crops can be planted and harvested (Leviticus 25:20-23).

In modern Israel, most large commercial farmers symbolically relinquish ownership of their land for the sabbatical year, enabling them to sell produce grown in the soil with certain modifications, such as plowing before shmita begins.

Farmers choosing to practice shmita more literally can use various methods to continue providing produce to the market. One option is to grow hydroponically or in raised containers as Rosenberg does.

His quarter acre of shmita hothouses were built under rabbinical supervision to ensure the plants have no contact with the soil in his three-acre field.

“The ground is the best way to grow food because it's the natural environment, but there's no doubt that if the land rests it replenishes itself. I saw that when I started growing here 13 years ago,” he says.

Simple crop rotation could accomplish that goal. But shmita is a larger concept and is meaningful to this transplanted American.

“It's an emotional thing for me,” Rosenberg tells ISRAEL21c. “To be able to do a mitzvah [commandment] that is connected to the land is very special.”

Beit Uri in Afula: Home to Those with Special Needs

(Courtesy of UJF) Beit Uri is an Afula-based residential community providing nurturing care and employment for over 100 special needs residents aged seven to 62. The community is supported by the Southern New England Consortium, of which United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is a member.

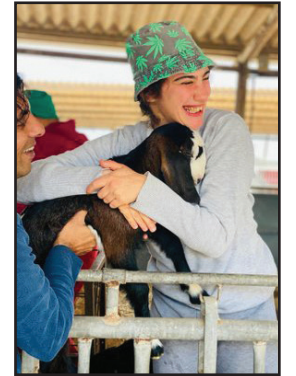
COVID-19 presented a tremendous challenge to Beit Uri. New protocols have been employed and residents have remained relatively healthy. By early September, residents and staff will receive their third booster shot.

Despite a cut back in large group activities, the creative staff has worked in small groups to take day trips to nearby farms and swimming pools throughout the hot summer, adding smiles and joy to everyday village life.

Workshops have given the opportunity to learn new skills as residents have been busy building the wooden furniture for



Beit Uri residents share a laugh.



Residents enjoy an outing to a nearby farm.

the facility including tables, shelving, and storage cupboards.

Despite recent unrest between Arab and Jewish communities, Beit Uri continues to be a leader in the pursuit of co-existence, with over a quarter of its dedicated staff from nearby Israeli Arab towns and villages. Care and dedication to a common cause help build and strengthen bridges.

To learn more about Bet Uri and the Southern New England Consortium contact Diane Sloyer at Diane@ujf.org.

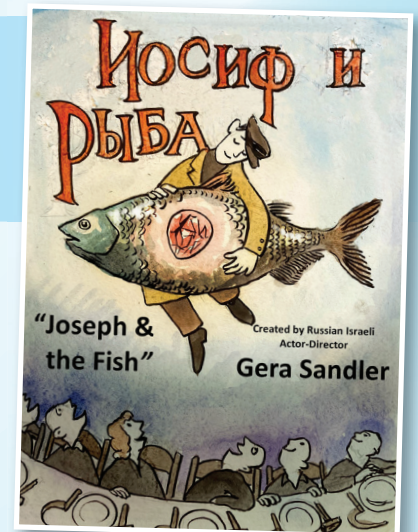
United Jewish Federation's PJ Library
Presents an Original New Play

“Joseph and the Fish”

PERFORMED IN RUSSIAN

Join us for this outdoor play on
Sunday, October 3rd
3:00pm – 4:00pm

- Explores the concepts of generosity, doing good for others, feeding the hungry, and taking care of others through the lives of two neighbors-Joseph and Judah.
- For families with children ages 12 and under (siblings welcome).
- \$10 per person/\$40 family max.



Sign up at www.ujf.org/pjruussian

Outdoors at a location in Stamford

For more info contact Sharon Franklin at Sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373 ext. 109



SAVE THE DATE

United Jewish Federation

SUPER SUNDAY 2021

Answer The Call

November 7, 2021

Event Chairs:
Robin Fischel, Becky Kevelson, and Shushannah Yasgur

**Super Week events will begin November 3rd.
Details to come!**

To learn more contact Sharon Franklin at Sharon@ujf.org.

Rape Crisis Center – The Afula Branch

(Courtesy of UJF)

The Afula Branch of the Haifa Rape Crisis Center is supported by the Southern New England Consortium, of which United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is an active member. Having the



Students participate in a workshop led by the Rape Crisis Center in Afula.

center located in Afula has made it accessible to hundreds of people in Afula-Gilboa who wouldn't be able to get help otherwise. The Afula branch works 24/7, raising awareness of the subject of sexual violence and its prevention, and encouraging sexual abuse survivors to contact the center for support and

consultation. In addition, the center facilitates an outreach training program within the region's educational, health, social services, and criminal justice systems in both Arab and Jewish communities.

In 2020, a record of 6,400 calls reached the center's hotline. At least 2,000 of them came

from residents of Afula and the region, with a significant increase in applications from teenagers and professionals.

"The rise in calls to our Afula branch neared crisis proportions, close to doubling that of the year before. We believe that COVID-19 led to this escalation and are grateful to the ongoing support of SNEC in helping us meet this growing need," shared a local professional.

At the same time, the Afula branch continued its activity using Zoom and in-person encounters when possible. A women's support group for sexual violence victims met, new volunteers from the region were recruited to provide assistance, and meetings with about 2,000 young people in various educational

frameworks took place at the center. Training also continued to be provided to professionals in the field.

The center has created a new lecture on "10 practical ways to prevent the next abuse," emphasizing the importance of information related to sexual violence. The lecture, enabling an open intergenerational conversation, aims to provide tools for dealing with emergencies and crises of sexual assault, and to prevent them from taking place. So far, this lecture has been given to teenagers, parents, and professionals in several settlements and kibbutzim in the Afula-Gilboa region and has received positive feedback. A teenager from one of the kibbutzim says, "We are finally talking about the right things."

Communication Made Easy for Those With Speech Difficulties

Voiceitt app allows people with speech impairments to converse with others and to control Alexa-enabled smart home devices using their own voices.

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN/
ISRAEL21C

Danny Weissberg's grandmother struggled to communicate after suffering a stroke. While visitors had difficulty understanding her impaired speech, her full-time caregiver gradually learned to understand it.

Working as a software developer in high-tech companies including Check Point, Radvision and HP since 1999, Weissberg spotted the potential of early machine-learning technology to mimic what the caregiver had done naturally.

He founded Voiceitt to harness that technology. The Ramat Gan-based company's new app empowers individuals with non-standard speech to communicate with others and control smart-home devices using their own voice.

"About nine years ago, I saw a strong trend for human-machine interface. It was clear to me that voice and speech recognition would become big," Weissberg tells ISRAEL21C.

A dedicated volunteer with the elderly and with Save a Child's Heart, Weissberg saw this as an opportunity "to do something bigger to create an impact."

"Giving people with disabilities the ability to communicate has the potential to change lives in a meaningful way with technology," he says.

Discussions with speech therapists revealed that impaired speech impacts many children and adults with hearing impairment, autism, Down syndrome, neurological conditions or conditions affecting the throat or mouth.

Speech-recognition expert Stas Tiomkin, like Weissberg a graduate of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, was then researching machine learning at Hebrew

University in Jerusalem. Their former professor introduced them.

"Stas told me all the major companies are developing speech recognition for standard speakers. He thought my idea was not only unique but feasible," Weissberg recalls.

Personalized speech model

This was 2012, when voice assistants began appearing on the market.

"Voice interface became dominant with products such as Siri, Cortana, Alexa, Bixby and Google Assistant. We thought maybe we had something interesting to offer to these big corporates to make their products accessible to a wider population that needs these voice assistants the most," says Weissberg.

Any atypical speech makes using voice assistants difficult, whether it's slurred pronunciation, a heavy accent, or speaking a language that's not supported by the technology.

"We started to develop a speech recognition engine that learns a person's speech the way a person does, and builds a personalized speech model for him," says Weissberg.

The big corporations liked the idea.

After initial funding and assistance from what is now the Israel Innovation Authority, EzraTech and angel investors in the United States and Israel, Voiceitt won Microsoft's AI For Good competition and received a grant from its AI for Accessibility Fund.

"Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has a personal connection because his son was born with cerebral palsy," Weissberg explains.

Voiceitt received investment from Amazon through the Alexa Fund and support from the Alexa Techstars Accelerator in Seattle. A pilot in collaboration with the American

Association of Retired Persons (AARP) followed along with investment from AARP. The successful pilot led to the integration of the Alexa API into Voiceitt's application.

"That means a person who cannot use Alexa because of a speech disability can use Voiceitt to translate what he says and access Alexa," says Weissberg.

"So this innovation is not just for person-to-person communication but also for smart homes and smart cars, for video conferencing with real-time closed captions, and many more scenarios."

Weissberg points out that the biblical Moses, described as having some kind of speech impediment, communicated through his brother Aaron.

"Aaron was the one who could understand him. We're like the Aaron of the 21st century."

Opening doors

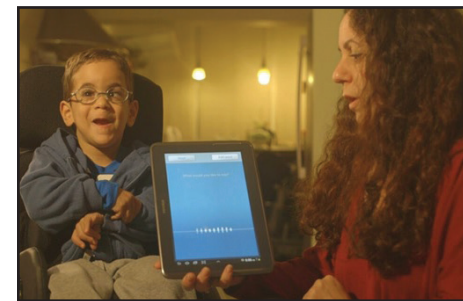
The Voiceitt experience begins with training the software to recognize an individual's speech in any language.

Users build a personalized dictionary of specific words and phrases that the app learns to understand in up to five minutes per phrase.

"You train it for each command individually, like 'Turn off the lights.' It doesn't extrapolate 'Open the door' from that," explains Weissberg. "We are developing a support for fluent speech for more flexibility and that will be in English first. It should be ready in a year from now."

One of the company's Israeli testing sites, ALYN Pediatric and Adolescent Rehabilitation Hospital in Jerusalem, adopted Voiceitt to allow patients with atypical speech to interact with Alexa in Hebrew or Arabic.

"In collaboration with Voiceitt, we have been able to bring Alexa to even more



Voiceitt app allows people with speech impairments to converse with others and to control Alexa-enabled smart home devices using their own voices.

customers," said Peter Korn, Director of Accessibility at Amazon Lab 126.

"We strive to make all Amazon products and services as delightful and easy to use as possible for everyone. Voiceitt's integration with Alexa helps us do just that, enabling customers with speech impairments to enjoy all that Alexa has to offer and help them live more independently.

Voiceitt has raised \$17 million from Amazon Alexa Fund, M12 (Microsoft's venture capital fund), AMIT Technion, Viking Maccabee Ventures, Connecticut Innovations, Cahn Capital, Quake Capital Partners, Dreamit Ventures and others. The company has a subsidiary in the United States.

The app –available for iOS devices – comes at a time when isolation caused by the pandemic has left many individuals with speech and motor impairments separated from loved ones or caregivers.

By offering the Voiceitt app at no cost until this fall, Weissberg and Tiomkin and third cofounder Sara Smolley aim to "mitigate some of the hardships created by the pandemic, for as many people affected as possible."

PJ Library Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

• **Calling all Russian Speaking Jewish Families!** Join UJF for our premier Russian family program on Sunday, October 3rd from 3:00 pm-4:00 pm, featuring the play “Joseph and the Fish”, inspired by the PJ Library book *Joseph and the Sabbath Fish*. The play (which will be in Russian)



Sharon Franklin

will be outdoors and is \$5 per person at a location in Stamford. Register at www.ujf.org/pjrussian.

• **Looking to meet new people?** Contact PJ Library Director Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org/203-321-1373 ext. 109, to join a UJF PJ Library group run by a local Parent Ambassador. Groups meet monthly for fun family outings and playdates, and include those in North Stamford, central Stamford, downtown and Harbor Point, families new to the area, and a baby group.

• **Sign up for a free monthly PJ Library book** at www.pjlibrary.org. Age-appropriate books for ages birth to eight are mailed directly to your home and are provided by UJF and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

• **Your child turning nine soon?** Sign up for the next chapter of PJ Library- PJ Our Way! Each month your child can pick from four different chapter books, which are provided by UJF and the HGF for free! For ages nine-12. Contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org for more information or go to www.pjourway.org.

• **FALL CRAFT: How to Make a Pinecone Bird Feeder – The Perfect Craft For Fall!**

Making bird feeders at home is an easy and fun way to provide a nutritious food source for birds while experiencing and enjoying nature.

Supplies: Pinecones- clean and dry, natural nut butter, plastic knives or popsicle sticks, birdseed, hemp/twine, paper plates, and scissors.

Birds that will love your bird feeder: Cardinals, finches, chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, grosbeaks, blue jays, and titmice.

1) **Collect some pinecones outdoors.** If you prefer, clean them by dropping them into a bucket of water and stir. Dry for 30 minutes on a paper towel, then bake on parchment paper in the oven at 200 degrees until dry.

2) **Tie a piece of hemp twine** around the end or tip and knot tightly.

3) Place pinecone on a paper plate, and use a popsicle stick or plastic knife to **spread a nut butter** around and under the scales of the pinecone.

4) When the pinecone is covered in nut butter, **sprinkle birdseed on top or roll it around in a tray.**

5) **Hang the pinecone outside** by tying it to a branch of a tree or shrub!



Pine Cone bird feeder.

PJ Library & PJ Our Way Feature Family: The Licht Family

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

We are Rachel and Josh Licht, and we have four boys, Yoni who is turning 11, Shlomo who is eight, Asher who is five and Dovid who is four months old. We moved to Connecticut from California three years ago and really love living in Stamford!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PJ LIBRARY BOOK(S)?

Our favorite PJ library books are any of the stories that have to do with the people of Chelm - all three of my older kids enjoy those stories!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PJ LIBRARY PROGRAM OR INITIATIVE YOU HAVE ATTENDED?

We’ve really had fun at all the programs we’ve been able to attend both in person and virtual. The program with the Holocaust survivor reading stories to the kids was very meaningful for us all.

WHY IS PJ LIBRARY IMPORTANT IN YOUR HOME?

There are lots of reasons! But when I get the holiday themed PJ library books in the

mail, it’s a great reminder that that specific holiday is coming up!

WHAT IS YOUR BEDTIME ROUTINE LIKE IN YOUR HOME? IS A STORY INCLUDED?

With all the different ages, bedtime is a bit staggered. Yoni and Shlomo like to read once they’ve gotten into bed and Yoni specifically enjoys choosing his own PJ Our Way books. I usually tuck Asher in with a story of his choice and he often chooses the PJ library books!



(l-r) Yoni, Josh, Asher, Rachel, Dovid, and Shlomo Licht.

PJ Library Engages Russian Families

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation’s PJ Library held a focus group this past summer with local Russian-speaking Jewish families, facilitated by Harold Grinspoon Foundation’s (HGF) International Russian Engagement Officer, Jane Tuv. HGF is the non-profit organization that sends PJ



Russian-Israeli writer Gera Sandler.

books to families around the world. UJF’s PJ Library Director Sharon Franklin and Tuv began planning a fall program in August after gaining a better understanding of the needs and desires for programming with content and activities geared directly for this demographic.

As a result of the focus group, Russian-speaking Jewish families have planned an inaugural program to be held on Sunday, October 3rd from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm outdoors at a location in Stamford. The program will feature an original new play, “Joseph and the Fish,” created by Russian Israeli actor-director, Gera Sandler. Inspired by the PJ Library children’s book, *Joseph and the Sabbath Fish*, the play explores the concepts of generosity, doing good for others, feeding the hungry, and taking care of others through the

lives of two neighbors, Joseph and Judah. The play will be performed in Russian and is ideal for children ages four plus, but all are welcome!

“As part of our outreach and engagement efforts, it is crucial to provide opportunities to connect Jewishly for Russian speaking families,” shared Diane Sloyer, CEO of UJF.

Sharon Franklin, Director of Campaign and Community Engagement, has been connecting to area families. If you know someone who might like to attend this program, or a family that might want to be a part of this new PJ Library venture, please email sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373 ext. 109. To join the UJF PJ Library Russian-Speaking Jewish Family Facebook group go to @Russian PJ Library Stamford.

The cost for the performance is \$10 per person, with a \$40 cap per family. Registration for the program can be found at www.ujf.org/pjrussian.

This UJF program was made possible through a partnership with PJ Library of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, with additional support by Genesis Philanthropy Group.

Enhancing Fall Holiday Celebrations



Tamar Levine picks up a complimentary Fall PJ Library holiday gift bag.



Local parent Ben Berger received holiday themed gift bags.



Amy Sroka and her son pick up a gift bag.

Dozens of families enjoyed holiday gift bags courtesy of United Jewish Federation’s PJ Library and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. Gift bags including games, crafts, treats and toys.

WHY I CARE...

Focus on: Ben Folkinshteyn & Jennie Woltz

"How you spend your days is how you spend your life." - Annie Dillard

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY.

Ben Folkinshteyn and Jennie Woltz have lived in Stamford for four years, after living in Manhattan for more than a decade. They met and began dating at college at the University of Pennsylvania more than two decades ago. They are proud to say they've spent more than half of their lives together. Their children attend Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy.

During the pandemic, they decided to launch a husband-and-wife boutique law practice, Woltz & Folkinshteyn, P.C., dedicated primarily to labor and employment law, and saw their family-owned legal practice as an extension of their deepest values. They educate, solve problems, provide needed support to individuals and small businesses, and help create dignity in the workplace by giving companies the advice, counsel, education, and advocacy they need to comply



Jennie Woltz and Ben Folkinshteyn.

with employment laws and prevent or defend against employee grievances and lawsuits.

DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT AND PAST INVOLVEMENT WITH UJF

We've been involved in UJF since we put down roots in this community. Jennie has been involved with the Cardozo Society as a participant and speaker on legal topics. Ben has participated in various UJF networking opportunities and is a committee member of the new Russian Speaking Jewish PJ Library group. Our kids also love PJ Library books and have participated in PJ Library programming since they were babies.

down roots in this community. Jennie has been involved with the Cardozo Society as a participant and speaker on legal topics. Ben has participated in various UJF networking opportunities and is a committee member of the new Russian Speaking Jewish PJ Library group. Our kids also love PJ Library books and have participated in PJ Library programming since they were babies.

HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH OTHER JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY AND ELSEWHERE?

We are active members of our children's school, BCHA, and our shul, Congregation Agudath Sholom, where Ben is on the

Board of Directors. Ben is also on the Board of Directors of the Kings Bay Y, a Jewish community center in Brooklyn. We make it a priority to participate in chesed, social, and adult education opportunities offered through our community's religious institutions.

We also volunteer our time to support other Stamford-based initiatives. Ben is a member of the Stamford Board of Ethics, and Jennie is on the board of the Stamford-based durable medical equipment lending library, Wheel it Forward.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK IN THIS WAY?

We are extremely grateful for the privileges and opportunities that have been afforded to us from many sources. We give back because in addition to being fun, we know it is our duty – as Jews, as parents, as members of the community. The Stamford Jewish community is strong because of the actions of individuals who are willing to share with and support one another. We want to be a part of something larger than ourselves, and Stamford is small enough that even individuals can have a large impact.

AS A YOUNG COUPLE, CAN YOU COMMENT ON HOW THOSE IN YOUR AGE GROUP CAN BE INSPIRED TOO?

We are reminded of a quote that has always resonated deeply with us: "How you spend your days is how you spend your life." It's very easy to feel overwhelmed and burnt out, particularly when you have young children with bottomless needs. But our children are watching our every move and listening intently to the messages – spoken and unspoken – all around them. Knowing this, our children have become an unexpected source of inspiration for us to live our lives with greater intention and to "live our values." So, we carve out time for what is important, and we tell our children about the organizations in which we are involved. We also try to involve our children to give them the experience of helping others – whether that is bringing them to sing-alongs for seniors at the Atria (pre-pandemic), delivering challah to home-bound seniors through Mitzvah Moments or having them help cook challah for Shabbat. This is what we hope our children will remember when they think of how we spent our time.

TEEN VOICES

What My Jewish Communities Mean to Me

BY NORA AMSELLEM

Over the past year and a half, a time that has felt distant and disconnected, the Jewish community has been extremely grounding for me. It has always played a significant role in my life, especially having been part of several different Jewish communities within Stamford.



Nora Amsellem

I attended a Modern Orthodox Jewish day school for nine years while being a member of a Conservative synagogue, and now I am a part of a Reform temple. Despite the differences between each of these communities, they each provided me with support and connection, and reminded me of the importance of Jewish values.

As I entered public school for high school, where I was surrounded by relatively few Jews, that sense of community had not disappeared. In fact, it seemed more apparent than ever before, especially as we entered the pandemic. As we quickly adapted to virtual platforms, I continued to participate in programs at my synagogue. It amazed me how everyone worked so hard

to maintain the sense of community that we longed for while in isolation.

I immediately felt compelled to get more involved in my community. I wanted to give back and provide support to others just as they had done for me. This inspired me to become a volunteer at The Friendship

Circle, where I participated in mostly virtual programs throughout the year. I also continued as a Madricha (teacher's assistant) for religious school at Temple Sinai, and earlier this year, I participated in Federation's Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps.

Getting more involved and giving back to my community has allowed me to gain a greater appreciation for my religion, in addition to gaining all of the skills I have learned. I am positive that I will continue to be an active participant in my Jewish community in the future.

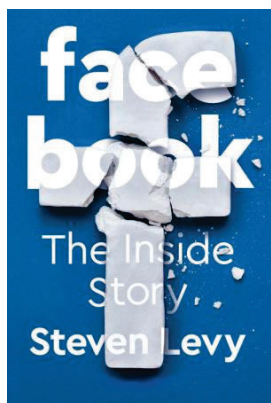
Nora is a junior at AITE, and plays high school tennis, and participates in many other activities in her school and in the greater community.

SAVE THE DATE

United Jewish Federation's Rothschild Society Presents

An evening with **Steven Levy**

Author of **Facebook: An Insiders Story**



Monday, October 25th
7:00pm

\$25 includes dinner, drinks, and program.

Renowned tech writer Steven Levy has had unprecedented access to Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg for three years. Levy will discuss the definitive history of one of America's most powerful and controversial companies: Facebook.

"Comprehensive and captivating history."
—*The Wall Street Journal*

"Levy writes with verve . . . [He] doesn't shy from asking the tough questions." —*The Washington Post*

Sign up at www.ujf.org/facebook

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

United Jewish Federation
The New Jewish Voice
1035 Newfield Ave, Suite 200
Stamford, CT 06905

Non-profit Organization
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United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan & Darien, Jewish
Community Relations Council, Interfaith Council of Southwestern
Connecticut, Mayor's Multicultural Council invite you to:

WALK for UNITY in our COMMUNITY

Sunday, October 10, 2021

(Rain date October 17, 2021)

12:30pm – 3:30pm • Cove Island Park

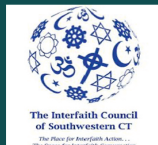
The importance of unity and friendship in our community has never been more important. Join us for this interfaith, multicultural event to promote and celebrate unity, friendship and peace. Participants are invited to walk around the main circle at Cove Island Park and then gather for a self-provided picnic lunch and have more time to get to know each other.

CDC guidelines will be followed.

Pre-registration required. • ujf.org/unity

Planning Committee:

Debby Goldberg, Jewish Community Relations Council
Rev. Dr. Nestor Gomez, First Congregational Church of Stamford
Michael Hyman, DOMUS Kids
Shahzad Khawaja, Stamford Islamic Center
Rev. Mark Lingle, Chair Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut
Pilar Pelaez, Mayor's Multicultural Committee
Malinda Polite, Mayor's Multicultural Committee
Linda Spilka, Jewish Community Relations Council (Event Chair)



**For more information: Sharon Lewis
Slewis@ujf.org 203-321-1373, ext. 104**