



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

An Evening with Eylon Levy

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) is excited to partner with UJA-JCC Greenwich to bring Eylon Levy, one of Israel's best defenders on social media and television networks across the globe, to the community. He will be in conversation with event co-chair Alec Ellison on



Eylon Levy

Wednesday, November 6. Light bites and cocktails will begin at 6:45 pm, followed by the program beginning at 7:30 pm. The event will be held at Chabad of Greenwich, 38 Field Point Road, Greenwich. The co-chairs from UJF and UJA-JCC are Pamela and Alec Ellison, Lenore and Ilan Fogel, Hilary and Zion Shoheit, and Shushannah Walshe and Ari Yagur.

Born in London, Levy attended University College in London and University of Oxford, where he received his bachelor's degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics in 2013. He moved to Israel in 2014 at the age of 23 to join the Israeli military during the 2014 Gaza War. Then, in 2016, Levy worked as the chief news anchor at IBA News, the English-language broadcast on Israeli

public television. He later worked at the international news network i24NEWS, as a news anchor, commentator, and investigative journalist.

In 2021, Israeli President Isaac Herzog appointed him as his international media advisor at the Office of the President of Israel, in which capacity he served for the first two years of the Herzog presidency. After the 2023 Hamas-led attack on Israel, he became an official Israeli government spokesman and one of Israel's most internationally recognized faces in the war. However, in March of 2024, he was suspended as spokesman after complaints from the UK government following his public criticism of their stance towards Israel and the war against Hamas.

Levy went on to create *Israel: State of a Nation*, a podcast in which he interviews guests about Israel, antisemitism, and Jewish history. He also founded the New Israeli Discourse public advocacy project and Israeli Citizen Spokespersons Project, which aim to support independent non-governmental Israeli advocacy and

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Finding Joy in Learning Together

BY ERIC ROSS, UJF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

For over twenty years, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) has brought every corner of the Jewish community together for *Tapestry*, to continue the tradition of communal adult Jewish learning.

This year, *Tapestry 2.0* will be held on Saturday evening, November 16, at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford. The theme will be "Rediscovering Joy in Judaism," with each presenter offering unique opportunities to learn how to find joy through different aspects of your Jewish identity.

The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a wine and cheese reception, followed by a communal *Havdalah* ceremony and a keynote address by Dr. Shira Weiss, editor of the book *An Ode to Joy: Judaism and Happiness in the Thought of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks*.

Attendees will then participate in two learning sessions, with several class options available per session. The evening will close with a dessert reception, celebrating the community together, As One.

Examples of confirmed sessions include:

- Rachel Gordin Barnett and Lyssa

Kligman Harvey, authors of the book *Kugels and Collards*

- Rabbi Menachem Creditor, Pearl and Ira Meyer Scholar-In-Residence at UJA-Federation of New York
- Cantor Micah Morgovsky, Temple Sinai of Stamford, teaching a session on "Zentangle" art
- Rabbi Joshua Strom, Stamford JCC's Director of Jewish Experiences, covering sources of happiness in the Torah
- Marc Weber from On The Marc Events in Norwalk, providing a hands-on Jewish cooking lesson
- Exploring the beauty of Jewish poetry with Rabbi Evan Schultz, Congregation B'nai Israel of Bridgeport
- Andrew Banoff, President and CEO of Mozaic Senior Life in Bridgeport, discussing the importance of finding joy as one ages
- "Not Your Mother's Israeli Dancing" with Jeff Kaplan, PhD, MFA of JeffKaplanArts
- Mielcah Munk of Wellness By Mielcah, leading a guided mindfulness meditation session

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Jewish Festival Sparks Jewish Pride

Hundreds of members of the local Jewish community joined United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and UJA-JCC Greenwich and hip-hop artist Kosha Dillz (center) at the Loading Dock in Stamford on Sunday, September 29 to celebrate their Jewish pride and joy at the first ever Jewish Festival of Fairfield County. (See centerfold for more photos.)



(PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)



From UJF's Chief Executive Officer One Year Since...

(These remarks were delivered at the October 7th Community Commemoration).

BY DIANE SLOYER

We gather tonight to mark one year since the horrific attack that has changed the course of Jewish history. We went to sleep on October 6, 2023, not knowing that our lives would never be the same!

It has been one year since 1,185 Israelis were murdered. One year since 251 hostages were dragged away from their homes and their families and taken into Gaza. One year since our sense of safety was shattered, and our world was broken.

And it has been one year since our beloved IDF, who have suffered far too many casualties, have continued to heroically defend our beloved country Israel, in a war we did not start.

Our community gathering takes place during the “Yamim Noraim,” the “10 Days of Awe” between the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashana and our holiest day, Yom Kippur.

These are the days when we are instructed to take account of, and to reflect on, the past year of our world, our communities, and our own souls.

A central metaphor of the High Holy Days is - “the Book of Life”.

Many of us are eager to turn the page on this last year. This has been an enormously painful year for our people, with so much tragedy and suffering, and yet our community remains strong—in some ways even stronger than before.

I don't think we could have imagined that a year after the sudden, horrendous attack by Hamas, that so many of the hostages taken that day would still be in captivity, and that the war between Israel and Hamas would still be going on.

Nor could we have imagined that antisemitism, which most of us rarely experienced during our lifetimes, could return with such a vengeance, taking over our college campuses, infesting our city councils, infiltrating our K-12 schools, and on and on.

Yet amid these horrors, we have found strength and heroism.

The Israeli people have demonstrated an unbreakable spirit, an extraordinary resilience, and an incredible ability to persevere through the most challenging and painful experiences that human beings can face.

In our own community, we have faced difficulties and challenges. So many of us have been made to feel unsafe. So many of us have seen long-standing friendships and ally-ships ruptured seemingly beyond repair, and have, quite frankly, begun to doubt if our place as Jews in North America



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

is secure.

But look at what we've accomplished by refusing to back down, by standing up for our pride in being Jewish and our need to be safe and secure.

We've found new strength in our collective action, forged new alliances, and enlisted the aid of our elected officials.

There's a surge of interest in Jewish life, and UJF is rising to meet that moment. We will continue to fight back against hatred and ignorance and stand up for our freedoms and values.

We have no choice!

We have made Am Yisrael Chai more than just a slogan—the people of Israel live. And not just live, of course, but flourish and grow and continue in our sacred, age-old mission to be a light to the nations, to be paragons of peace.

Peace is a journey—one that winds through hardship and sacrifice, but also through hope. And we must never lose hope, no matter how dark the day is, no matter how much the values of humanity and empathy have been eclipsed in our world.

So, as much as we wish to turn the page, we must remember that we are not yet done writing this chapter in the book of life.

Our work is not done. We must continue to do what we've been doing for a year—sharing the truth, saying prayers, writing letters to elected officials, companies, universities, hanging up posters, wearing yellow ribbons or dog tags, lighting candles, leaving open seats at our holiday tables, creating public displays, and everything else that shows how much we need that piece of our own hearts that was taken from us to be restored.

Our tradition teaches that within every person a whole world is contained—that is why saving a life is akin to saving the entire world. And we are all connected to each other in a sacred chain that spans time and space.

So, as we approach Yom Kippur, let's put a bookmark on the page for last year, because we will continue to return to it again and again, every minute of every day, until this war is over, and the hostages have come home.

But the Jewish story will continue to be written, and we are the ones who will continue to write it. We have no choice but to remember and mourn and also to move forward.

And let us all have a New Year of peace, health and happiness, liberated from anxiety and fear, blessing the light as well as the darkness.

Am Yisrael Chai!

UJF President's Message Disorientation and Hope

(These remarks were delivered at the October 7th Community Commemoration).

BY MICHAEL SCHLESSINGER

As I listen to our distinguished speakers today, I reflect on the disorientation I felt one year ago. Perhaps I have remained more disoriented this year because, in my Federation role, I talk to so many of you . . . and the simpler explanations that provide bearings for some do not work for all.



Michael Schlessinger, UJF President

The seeds of disorientation . . .

First, the surprise of an attack that suddenly seemed existential for Israel. Could our enemies -- so weak in conventional military terms -- really win this century-old conflict by combining their asymmetrical tactics with a global vilification that effectively negates Israel's right to respond? That the IDF failed those border communities so starkly a year ago made this question more real, but even after a year, it lingers.

Second, the scenes at our beloved, prestigious universities. The weaponization of social justice ideology against us and the horrific bullying of our kids. Where are our so-called “allies” and how did the perceived “facts” of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict become so distorted and upside down?

Finally, our domestic division . . . we are so preoccupied with a high stakes presidential election that our critical leadership on the global stage may be compromised or in doubt.

So, the disorientation -- the bewilderment -- is justified and less fleeting than many of us assumed it would be. As we contemplate the sacred Day of Atonement, where can we find hope?

First, in our peoplehood, and in the phenomenon of the October 8th Jew. There is something in us as Jews that is so ancient, so profound, so sustaining, that

– when we are asked as we have been so many times throughout the millennia, to flee, to convert, to be less different or less visible, we refuse. Instead, we stand up, we risk status and friendships, and we proclaim our identity. *Am Yisrael Chai.*

Second, in our strength.

The courage and ingenuity of the young Israeli woman who apparently first dreamed up the improbable Hezbollah pager operation recalls for me the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. But instead of kitchen knives and garden implements, we are blessed today with the remarkable IDF and with all the resources and ingenuity of modern Israel, supported by a successful Diaspora. That our strength so enrages our enemies should reassure us that we are on the winning side.

Finally, in the prospect for peace. Not imminent, maybe not even apparent on the distant horizon, but as the tectonic plates of geopolitics begin to shift, there will be both risk and opportunity. The ability of Israeli intelligence to penetrate so deeply into Hezbollah and Iranian leadership belies that leadership's unpopularity with their own people and, ultimately, their weakness. We pray that rapidly changing events reveal a path toward improvement, and ultimately peace, for a region so deeply in need of respite.

As our program draws to a close, I want to thank you all for being here and for your solidarity over this difficult year. October 7 was a call for unity. In the months ahead, we at Federation pledge to work closely with our agencies and synagogues to provide opportunities for us to gather AS ONE, and to proclaim both in word and deed, *Am Yisrael Chai.*

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

November 1	5:34 pm
November 8	4:26 pm
November 15	4:20 pm
November 22	4:15 pm
November 29	4:12 pm

UPCOMING DEADLINE

December 2024 - January 2025 – Chanukah Edition
Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2024

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

UJF Brings Melton Back to the Community

(Courtesy of UJF) Since October 7, 2023, many have felt the need for an in-depth study of the history of Israel. United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (UJF) has partnered with The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning to bring a two-part curriculum to the community. Part One, entitled, "Beyond Borders: From the Birth of Nationalism to 1967" is a 10-session course which will commence on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 7:00 pm. A full list of dates can be found on the registration page.

Jonathan Fass, who taught the original

four-course Melton curriculum for UJF two decades ago, will return to teach this course. He has served in education-focused senior leadership roles across the United States and Israel. For the past four years, he has worked as the Senior Managing Director of Educational Technology and Strategy at The Jewish Education Project and then Senior Managing Director of RootOne, an Israel education initiative of The Jewish Education Project.

His undergraduate and graduate studies are in Jewish Studies and Jewish Education. He was a participant in Jewish education

fellowships from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The Lookstein Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora, and Yeshiva University.

The course will examine maps, media documents, original speeches and the famous "Balfour Declaration" with new eyes, as we study the roots of the conflict between Jews and Arabs over the modern State of Israel. These 10 sessions encompass the return of the Jews to the land, the role of the British, the Cold War, the rise of Palestinian nationalism, the 1967 War, and the post-1967 vision for a "Greater Israel" — including the initial rise of Islamic fundamentalism. From religion and culture to history, politics, economics, identity, and survival, the material is designed to encourage discussion and debate, challenging learners to appreciate the basis of the claims made by all sides.

Lesson 1 - Introduction to the Region - Palestine Pre-1880

Lesson 2 - The Underpinnings of Jewish and Arab Nationalism

Lesson 3 - The Development of Jewish

Palestine Through WWI

Lesson 4 - Between the Wars

Lesson 5 - WWII and the Aftermath of the Holocaust

Lesson 6 - Moving Towards Zionist Independence

Lesson 7 - Israel's War of Independence

Lesson 8 - The Suez Canal Crisis and the Sinai Campaign

Lesson 9 - Rise of Palestinian Nationalism

Lesson 10 - The Six-Day War

The cost for all 10 sessions is highly subsidized at \$80 per person and includes a printed course book. All sessions are from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm and will be held at the UJF offices, 2009 Summer Street, Suite 302.

Part Two of the curriculum, "Beyond Borders: Post 1967 into the 21st Century" will be offered at a later date.

Registration is required and can be found at www.meltonschool.org/stamford.

Enter the coupon code ISRAEL80 on the checkout page to receive the significant discount, including the printed coursebook.

Congregation Agudath Sholom Welcomes Scholars-in-Residence

Over the next three months, Congregation Agudath Sholom will offer the community the opportunity to participate in a series of lectures given at the synagogue by four scholars-in-residence. These scholars include:

Leora Moskowitz - Wednesdays, October 30, November 6, 13 and 20 at 7:30 pm.

and Talmudic Interpretation focusing on *Gemara* (rabbinic commentary) and *Halacha* (Jewish law). Last year Leora returned to MTVA where she served as shiur assistant (yeshiva learning assistant) for Shani Taragin's *Gemara shiur* (class). This summer she will be the director of *Chinuch* (education) at Moshava Ba'ir summer camp in New Jersey. Leora is passionate about Torah and hopes to pursue a career in education, both in the classroom and the community-at-large.

Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom - Shabbat, November 1 and 2.

Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom, born and raised in Los Angeles, California attended Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavne, Rabbi Isaac Elhanan Theological Seminary and Yeshivat Har Etzion before receiving *Semicha* (ordination) from the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem, Rabbi Itzhak Kolitz, z"l. Rabbi Etshalom has been a dynamic educator in the Los Angeles community since his return in 1985 where his ability to reach out to today's youth and share his

passion for Jewish learning and Jewish life has enriched many young lives. He launched the *Beit Midrash* program at YULA Girls High School and opened the Beit Midrash at Shalhevet, where he currently serves as Rosh Beit Midrash. Rabbi Etshalom directs the *Tanakh* (Bible) Masters Program at YULA Boys' High School and is a sought-after

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Leora Moskowitz



Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom



Dr. Shaina Trapedo



Rabbi Shay Shachter

Leora Moskowitz, originally from Teaneck, New Jersey, graduated from The Frisch School and studied in Midreshet Torah v'Avodah (MTVA) in Israel. She received her undergraduate degree in Judaic Studies at Stern College for Women where she is currently a student in the Graduate Program in Advanced Talmud/Tanakh Studies, working towards a Masters in Biblical

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TBE Adult Learning Series

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) The Temple Beth El (TBE) Adult Education Committee is delighted to unveil its initial set of 2024/25 courses. These offerings, with more to come, seek to build Jewish identity, knowledge and a connection to Judaism through the study of Jewish texts, personalities, history and contributions to the world – both ancient and new.

Exploring the Prophets – A virtual Lunch and Learn on Zoom. Rabbi Michael Knopf will discuss *Nevi'im*, the prophets of Judaism, and the relevance their messages held in their generation and still hold today, on Wednesday afternoons starting November 6, from noon to 1:00 pm on Zoom. Course dates are Wednesdays: November 6, 13, 20; December 4, 11; January 8, 22, 29; Feb 5, 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9. All are welcome at no charge, but registration is required.

TBE Hebrew Reading Crash Course on Zoom. Learn to read Hebrew in eight sessions - with Susan Shapiro from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Zoom.

Wednesdays: November 13, 20; December 4, 11, 18; January 8, 15, 22.

To register contact Susan Shapiro at sbshapiro@hotmail.com. The course is free.

A Thinking Person's Judaism. The distinguished Rabbi Dr. Neal Rose will lead a discussion on the life and thoughts of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel on eight consecutive Monday evenings, starting November 4 on Zoom from 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm.

Mondays: November 4, 11, 18, 25; December 2, 9, 16, 23. This course is free for TBE members and \$36 for non-members. To register, go to bit.ly/tbe-tpj on your browser.

Sacred Days: Exploring the Holidays. Rabbi Knopf and Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg will each take a holiday and discuss its origins, significance, customs and special prayers, from 12:45 pm to 1:45 pm after the Kiddush lunch on the Shabbat morning preceding the *chag* (holiday). Everyone is welcome. Services begin at 10 am, Kiddush lunch approximately 12:15 followed by the class.

- Dec 14 - Hanukkah led by Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg
- Feb 8 - Tu B'Shvat led by Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg
- Mar 8 - Purim led by Rabbi Michael Knopf
- Apr 5 - Pesach led by Rabbi Michael Knopf
- May 31 - Shavuot led by Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg

For further information on these classes and other Adult Education programs at TBE, please contact the TBE office at office@tbe.org or call 203-322-6901.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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New JLI Course on Nurturing Relationships

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) Beginning Wednesday, November 13, Rabbi Levi Mendelow of Chabad of New Canaan will teach a new six-week course entitled *Nurturing Relationships*. The course will be offered on Wednesday mornings at Chabad of New Canaan at 10:00 am and on Wednesday evenings at Chabad of Harbor Point at 7:30 pm.

The new course was developed by the globally recognized Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) which is the adult education arm of Chabad-Lubavitch. The course draws on thirty centuries of Jewish teaching to deliver effective, relevant tools for better connections today—from empathy, active listening, and healthy disagreement, to managing reactions around flawed behavior, being a good influence, and achieving forgiveness. JLI's classes and programs are offered at over 1,600 locations in more than 900 communities worldwide.

In a distracted age, this course will examine a wide array of Jewish texts to offer a roadmap back to genuine human connection.

"We see too many people with plenty of friends, family,

and connections still longing for more closeness in their relationships," says Rabbi Mendelow. "This course draws on centuries of Jewish scholarship to give participants effective tools they can apply to cultivate real depth and meaning in all their relationships."

The course's six sessions combine text-based learning with engaging discussions and real-world applications. Each week, participants examine one core relationship skill in depth and come away with a clear understanding of the topic—plus real tools they can use that same day.

"One week, participants might see what it takes to forgive a loved one after feeling betrayed," says Rabbi Mendelow. "Another week, they'll learn how to provide guidance or feedback without seeming arrogant—or how to apply active listening skills in every conversation."

Rabbi Mendelow has been teaching JLI courses in Stamford and New Canaan for two decades. Over the years, hundreds of people have benefitted from the courses.

For more information, contact Rabbi Levi Mendelow at 203 449 0472 or visit www.myjli.com.

Congregation Agudath Sholom Welcomes Scholars-in-Residence

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Scholar-in-Residence throughout the US and Israel.

Rabbi Etshalom's podcasts on *Daf Yomi* (Talmud "page of the day") (<http://www.dafyomiyicc.org/>) have attracted an international following, as have his *Tanakh* podcasts, many of which are available online. His critically acclaimed series "Between the Lines of the Bible" is a methodological guide to the study of *Tanakh*. He currently writes a weekly lecture for Yeshivat Har Etzion's Virtual Beit Midrash on the books of Amos and Hoshea. His book on Amos will be published as part of the Koren Maggid Studies in *Tanakh*.

Dr. Shaina Trapedo - Shabbat, December 13-14

Shaina Trapedo is an Assistant Professor in English at Stern College and Resident Scholar and Recruitment Officer at the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University. She received her undergraduate degree at Barnard College and her PhD in English from UC Irvine where she specialized in early modern literature and religious studies. Her current book project, *From Scripture to Script: The Hebrew Bible on the Early English Stage*, considers Shakespeare and his contemporaries' indebtedness to Judaism and its exegetical traditions. In her teaching and scholarship, she continues to

explore the connections between literacy, cultural identity, and social engagement.

Rabbi Shay Shachter - Sunday, December 22

Rabbi Shay Schachter currently serves as Rabbi and *Rosh Beit Midrash* (Head of Learning) at the Young Israel of Woodmere, overseeing its extensive adult educational programs. He is the Rabbi and spiritual leader of Yachad, the Orthodox Union's international program for individuals with disabilities. Since the summer of 2017 he has served as the Rabbi of Camp Simcha, Chai Lifeline's camp for children battling cancer and chronic illnesses. He formally served as the Assistant Rabbi at Congregation Knesseth Israel "The White Shul" in Far Rockaway, from 2012 – 2015. Rabbi Shay received his rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) after studying together with his father, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, for nine years. He also received an additional Rabbinic ordination from his teacher and mentor, Rabbi Asher Weiss of Jerusalem. Rabbi Shay holds an MA in Jewish Education and Administration from the Azrieli Graduate School of Yeshiva University.

For more information regarding any of these lectures, please go to www.cas-stamford.org

UJF Announces 2024-2025 Kuriansky Teen Leadership Initiative

(Courtesy of UJF) This fall will mark a new year of teen philanthropy at United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF). The Kuriansky Teen Leadership Initiative will enter its thirteenth year, thanks to a generous grant from the Louis J. Kuriansky Family Foundation. The rebranded name, formally Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps, is a leadership program incorporating the Jewish values of *Tzedakah* (philanthropy), *Tikun Olam* (social justice), and *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness).

Beginning immediately, UJF is accepting applications from teens wishing

to participate in the 2024-2025 Kuriansky Teen Leadership Initiative cohort. Applicants must be entering 10th, 11th, or 12th grades, and must make a commitment to attend all meetings. There is a program fee of \$54, and each participant will be expected to fundraise a minimum of \$100, which will go toward charities the cohort jointly decides to fund. The application can be found at www.ujf.org/teenleadership.

Each month, from December through May, participants will engage in discussions and exercises to establish the values, goals, and mission for their cohort. They will also research local Jewish and secular charitable



Members of the Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps' 2023-2024 cohort and former UJF Community Shaliach Yoav Yaron present funds they raised to help support members of Kibbutz Be'eri in Israel.

Chabad of Stamford's CTeen Raises Jewish Leaders

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) With 804 chapters in 63 countries and six continents, CTeen, the Chabad Teen Network, is one of the largest networks of Jewish teens in the world. Chabad of Stamford is proud to have a thriving chapter right here in Stamford.

CTeen offers fun and engaging events for Jewish high schoolers to come together to feel connected to their Judaism. It also provides an opportunity for the teens to meet other Jewish teens, building lasting friendships, networks and connections. Their kickoff event was an opportunity for the teens to come together with friends to celebrate their Jewish pride while enjoying a sweet and savory Ooni pizza bar, knocker ball soccer fun, yard games, music, and more.

CTeen also has a range of events catered to giving back to the community while giving the teens fun, hands-on experiences. The teens will have a cookout and prepare Thanksgiving meals for Chabad's Betsy's Buddies seniors program. For Purim, they will bake

hamantaschen to raise money for charity and pack *shalach manot* (food baskets), and for Passover, they will deliver matzah around town.

The highlight of the year is the CTeen International Shabbaton in Brooklyn, New York which will take place from February 28 to March 2, 2025. The International CTeen Shabbaton is an annual weekend convention for Jewish teens from around the world. For the past 16 years, thousands of teens have forged new friendships while experiencing a meaningful Shabbat, all in one of the most exciting cities in the world. This year, teens can look forward to hitting the tourist hot spots, visiting Jewish attractions throughout Brooklyn, experiencing the CTeen Choice Awards, and singing and dancing at a massive concert in the heart of Times Square.

Chabad invites all teens to join them on Tuesday, November 26 at 6:00 pm at Chabad of Stamford for a cook-a-thon for seniors in the community. For more information on CTeen, please email programs@stamfordchabad.org.



Chabad of Stamford's CTeen participants gather together at a local home in Stamford to meet old friends and make new ones.

organizations, to learn how to evaluate their effectiveness and to determine how this cohort would like to focus its *tikun olam* and philanthropic efforts.

The sessions will be facilitated by Eden Refaelovich, UJF's Community Shlichah (Israeli Emissary), and held in the UJF offices.

"We look forward to continuing our role in educating the next generation of Jewish philanthropists. The continued generosity of the Kuriansky Foundation has impacted well over 200 teens since the

inception of the Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps. UJF is grateful for their visionary leadership," said Diane Sloyer, CEO of UJF. 2024-2025 sessions will be held on:

- Sunday, December 8, 2024
- Sunday, January 5, 2025
- Sunday, February 9, 2025
- Sunday, March 16, 2025
- Sunday, April 6, 2025
- Sunday, May 4, 2025

For more information, please contact Eden Refaelovich at eden@ujf.org or (203) 321-1373.

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Welcome Center: 260 Long Ridge Road, Suite C-160, Stamford, CT 06902
Future location: 210 Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06602

To learn more or to meet with a Residency Counselor, contact us at:
203-396-1140 ■ info@mozaicl.org ■ mozaicconcieryliving.org



Supporting Your Aging Loved Ones with Schoke JFS

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) As loved ones age, families often face new challenges in ensuring they receive the care and support they need. Schoke Jewish Family Service offers a variety of resources to assist families in navigating these changes through three integrated programs designed to provide practical assistance, care coordination, and nutritional support for aging adults.

Home Companion Program: In-Home Care Assistance

The Home Companion Program connects families with affordable aides who help with daily tasks such as meal preparation, medication reminders, and household chores. Certified Nurse Assistants are also available to assist with personal care, including bathing, dressing, and mobility.

For more information, contact Isrella Knopf, LMSW, at 203-921-4162 or iknopf@ctjfs.org.

Geriatric Care Management: Coordinated Care and Support

Schoke JFS' Geriatric Care Management Program provides personalized care planning, helping families manage medical appointments,

financial tasks, and other essential services. They also provide emotional support, ensuring that the well-being of aging loved ones is a priority. This service helps families stay organized and relieves the stress of managing care alone.

To learn more, contact Hannah Pollack, LCSW, at 203-921-4161 or hpollack@ctjfs.org.

Hirsch Kosher Home Delivered Meal Program: Nutritional Support

The Hirsch Kosher Home Delivered Meal Program provides families with an easy way to ensure their loved ones have access to nutritious, kosher meals. Five complete meals, including soups and desserts, are delivered frozen, making it easy for seniors to store and reheat them as needed.

For more details, contact Jen Bernstein at 203-921-4161 or jbernstein@ctjfs.org.

These programs can be used individually or together to create a comprehensive care plan for aging loved ones. Families can find the resources they need through Schoke JFS at www.ctjfs.org/peaceofmind.



Carolyn Spencer, Geriatric Care Manager, with client Mary, as they celebrate her 90th birthday.

Filling the Schoke JFS Food Pantry for Thanksgiving

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) As the Thanksgiving season approaches, Schoke Jewish Family Service (JFS) is reaching out to the community for support in filling the shelves of the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry. This essential resource provides nutritious meals to families in need, and the community's generosity can make a significant difference.

The following items are needed: canned yams, instant mashed potatoes, canned cranberry sauce, Arnold's stuffing

mix, turkey gravy mix, canned green beans, canned fruit, and grocery store gift cards. Donations can be dropped off at the Schoke JFS office, located at 196 Greyrock Place in Stamford, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Every contribution, no matter how small, helps provide a warm and festive Thanksgiving for families in the community. With the community's support, Schoke JFS can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a special holiday meal.

The Big Give 50K Matching Gift Announced

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (UJF) is excited to announce a \$50,000 Matching Gift Challenge aimed at amplifying the impact of donations to its Annual Campaign. This initiative doubles the contributions made to UJF for all new and increased gifts.

"I am tremendously grateful to Melody and Claude Bernstein and Gayle and Howard Rothman for making this match possible. As long-time supporters of UJF and the community at large, they continue to be shining lights for our community and Jews around the world. Their leadership and generosity are inspiring," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.

Research shows that 84% of donors are more likely to give when their contributions are matched, and one in three would consider increasing their donation if a match is available.

"When you receive a call from a dedicated volunteer on November 3 for the Big Give, a day of unity and philanthropy," said Wendy Siegel, co-chair of the event, "please answer the call and give generously!"

And now with the generous matching fund, your gift can be even more meaningful. Share this opportunity with friends and family to help us maximize participation in this challenge. Please spread the word, use social media, text, email to encourage others to join in."

Robin Fischel, co-chair of the event added, "This is a fantastic opportunity for you to make a significant difference in the community while having your donation matched. Now, more than ever, the community needs your support. Together, great things are achievable, As One!"

Please give generously on November 3 or you can visit UJF's donation page to make your contribution, www.ujf.org/give, and remember, every dollar counts and all increases and new donations will be matched up to \$50,000!

For more information about the matching gift challenge or how you can help, please contact Eric Ross, UJF's Deputy Director at Eric@ujf.org.

Open House and Mitzvah Day at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Chabad Stamford) Gan Yeladim warmly invites all families (prospective, current and past) to join them for the Open House and Mitzvah Day on Sunday, November 24 from 9:30 to 11:30 am. This special day will be filled with hands-on activities and experiences for all ages with a focus on doing meaningful *mitzvot* (good deeds). Some of these will include challah baking and making tzedakah boxes while also enjoying an interactive musical drumming experience with "Musical IQ". Parents will also have the opportunity to tour the school and see what makes the Gan community so special.

Gan Yeladim is a Jewish, Reggio-inspired preschool that nurtures the

unique strengths and interests of each child. The school is committed to creating an emotionally secure and supportive environment where children, families, and staff can thrive. Through active hands-on learning, the *morahs* (teachers) help the *yeladim* (children) become confident, independent thinkers while instilling a love for Judaism.

This year's Open House is all about discovering fun and impactful ways to make a difference. Please join an unforgettable morning experiencing the joy of doing *mitzvot* at Gan.

For more information or to RSVP, please email Wendy Beder at wendy@stamfordchabad.org.

An Evening with Eylon Levy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

activism in support of Israel.

"We are grateful to once again partner with UJA-JCC to bring speakers of Eylon Levy's popularity to our community. Since Oct 7, 2023, Levy has found a way to keep us all educated and informed. We are looking forward to hosting him," said UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.

This event is an opportunity for attendees to deepen their understanding of Israel's position and advance their advocacy skills. The couvert is \$118 pp and sponsorships are available at \$1,000 which includes 4 tickets and a meet and greet with Levy. Space is limited so please register today at www.ujf.org/levy.

RE-ELECT *Pat Billie*
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 DEMOCRAT STATE SENATE

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Pat



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- ✓ **Increased access to voting** and passed the CT Voting Rights Act
- ✓ Provided additional funding to **improve mental health services** for students and at-risk youth
- ✓ **Secured almost \$300 million for school air quality upgrades and new school construction** to support students and families in Stamford and Darien



RE-ELECT *Pat Billie*
MILLER
 DEMOCRAT STATE SENATE

VOTE EARLY:
 October 21 to November 3
 Darien @ Town Hall
 Stamford @ Government Center

**VOTE ROW A
 BY NOV. 5!**

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JCRC Update

BY GARY JONES,
UJF JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL
DIRECTOR



Gary Jones,
JCRC Director

The Jewish community is experiencing a growing number of challenges in the post-October 7 environment. Here are some of the recent challenges where UJF's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is making a meaningful impact.

1) Darien Middle School. Last year, a Darien Middle School teacher was found to have provided students with information relating to the Holocaust which was considered antisemitic. UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross was in communication with the Superintendent, who said that since the case was under investigation, UJF would be updated following its conclusion. The teacher has since resigned, and the Superintendent followed up with a meeting with UJF to further discuss the situation and to consider appropriate steps to ensure that such an occurrence is not repeated.

2) Wilton Public Library Writer-in-

Residence. At the beginning of this school year, the Wilton Public Library instituted a program in which it would provide a yearly stipend to a writer-in-residence responsible for providing a variety of services to the Library and community members. Unfortunately, the person selected proved to be antisemitic when she declined to participate in a panel discussion

where she indicated some individuals on the panel were "Zionists". This was truly shocking and scary, even with the heightened level of hate the Jewish people are undergoing. Even though Wilton is not in our Federation area, at the request of many local community members, UJF felt it was important to weigh in on the blatant and public display of antisemitism. After discussions with Wilton's First Selectwoman, we sent a letter to the Board of Directors of the Library requesting that it terminate the relationship with the writer-in-residence immediately. Our message referenced the clear antisemitism exhibited by the writer-in-residence in that this person would not

work or meet with anyone who believes that the State of Israel has a right to exist. The Library Board took the appropriate action and the relationship was terminated.

3) Anabel Figueroa. Upon learning that on more than one occasion State Representative and member of the Stamford Board of Representatives Anabel Figueroa had said that Jews cannot represent "our community," UJF immediately issued a number of statements criticizing her antisemitic and anti-democratic statements and calling for a response both from the State Legislature and the Board of Representatives. Figueroa lost her primary campaign to retain her seat in the Connecticut House of Representatives, and she was stripped of her committee responsibilities during the remaining time as a legislator. Although Representative Figueroa initially announced her resignation from the Board of Representatives, she later rescinded that resignation. At the Public hearing that took place regarding this issue, UJF CEO Diane Sloyer, and many community members, delivered testimony and presented the Jewish community's position before the Board requesting that Figueroa be removed from her position. She was removed from committee responsibilities in the State Legislature, removed from the Stamford Democratic City Committee, and pending action from the Stamford Board of Representatives.

4) Response to Antisemitic Graffiti at AITE. In response to the multiple antisemitic and hateful markings found at the Academy of Information Technology & Engineering

High School (AITE) in Stamford, UJF reached out to Mayor Caroline Simmons and Dr. Tamu Lucero, the Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools, to express our community's concern and to request that they consider responses to hate incidents such as these. We also offered to introduce them to national Jewish community organizations which can help the Mayor and Superintendent by providing educational programming to fight hate and bias. As a result, the Mayor, the Superintendent and Carmen Hughes, Stamford's Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, arranged a meeting of community leaders from a variety of religious, racial and ethnic backgrounds to start the process of fighting hate and bias. As conveners of the Jewish community, UJF invited ADL, AJC and Stand With Us to also participate in the meeting to inform the Mayor, the Superintendent and other community leaders of how they may be of assistance. As a result of the meeting, UJF and the City arranged for a community "Town Hall" meeting so that the Mayor, the Superintendent and the Police Department could communicate with the Jewish community in-person regarding their efforts to respond to the antisemitic graffiti incidents. Hundreds of community members were in attendance.

5) Ongoing Challenge of Antisemitism in Public Schools. UJF is grateful for the support and leadership of the Mayor, Superintendent and other leaders in response to the public displays of antisemitism. Since

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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Federation Meets with Darien Public Schools Officials



UJF staff met with Darien Public Schools officials to discuss antisemitism. (l-r) UJF JCRC Director Gary Jones, Katherine Dimoulas, Principal of Middlesex Middle School in Darien, UJF CEO Diane Sloyer, and Dr. Alan Adley, Superintendent of Darien Public Schools at the Superintendent's office in Darien.

Schoke JFS Receives Food Rescue Certificate

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) In recognition of its partnership with Food Rescue US, Schoke Jewish Family Service (JFS) has received a certificate acknowledging efforts to rescue food that would otherwise be discarded, ensuring it reaches those in need. This collaboration, highlighted by Jen Bernstein, Schoke JFS Director of Food Programs, and Karen Saggese, Food Rescue US Fairfield County Co-Site Director, underscores the commitment to reducing waste and supporting the community.



Jen Bernstein, Schoke JFS Director of Food Programs (left) with Karen Saggese, Food Rescue US, Fairfield County Co-Site Director.

Chabad Young Professionals Sha-BBQ



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) What better way to end a busy work week with Jewish pride and resilience than at the Chabad of Stamford's Young Jewish Professionals pre-Shabbat BBQ with cocktails, great food, fun and friends!

Finding Joy in Learning Together

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I am so excited for this year's *Tapestry 2.0* theme!" said Bob Abrams, UJF Education Committee Chair. "After a year of heartbreak, anxiety, and stress, I think we can all use a little reminder to find joy in our Judaism now and then."

Rabbi Joshua Strom, the new Director of Jewish Experiences at the Stamford JCC added, "As a newcomer to the Connecticut Jewish community, I'm honored and excited to join the illustrious *Tapestry* program as a first-time presenter. I love to teach and I love to learn, and I know that this will be a fulfilling experience for me, and, hopefully, for those in my session as well! I'm deeply grateful for this wonderful opportunity."

Tapestry would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of UJF's Education Committee members: Bob Abrams, Chair; Michael Feldstein; Barbara Friedman; Nan Gordon; Wynd Harris; Elissa Kaplan; Arlene Rosen; Ronnie Sichel; and Betsy Stone.

Tickets purchased by November 5 will be \$36 per person, and \$45 per person thereafter. Event sponsorship is available for \$180, which includes two tickets, recognition during the event, and a guaranteed choice of class selection. Please visit www.ujf.org/tapestry to register.

For more information, please contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at 203-321-1373 ext. 1004, or at Eric@ujf.org.

New Around Town

Rabbi Josh Strom, Stamford JCC Director of Jewish Experiences

Rabbi Josh Strom joins the Stamford JCC as its new Director of Jewish Experiences. This new position builds on the legacy of Jewish life and learning directors and professionals who have served the community in the past, including Jonathan Fass, Director of Jewish Life in the early 2000s, and Bob Abrams, Director in the mid-2000s. Before joining the JCC, Rabbi Strom served as a congregational rabbi and worked at Eisner Camp.

"Rabbi Strom brings a wealth of experience and passion to our community," shared Stamford JCC CEO Marshall Kurland. "We believe he will be a tremendous addition to our Stamford JCC community, supporting families every step of the way, birth through life, and providing them with Jewish experiences that meet their needs and wants."



Rabbi Strom will be holding open "Ask the Rabbi" office hours on Tuesdays from 9:15 am to 10:30 am, no appointment necessary. Please stop by to say hello, introduce yourself, and share your ideas for Jewish engagement over a bagel and shmear.

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www.ganyeladim.org

A New Year for Reading Partners

(Courtesy of UJF) Volunteers for the Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor UJF Reading Partners program started the new school year with a literacy workshop at Stark Elementary School. Close to forty Reading Partners gathered together to learn the latest thoughts on literacy and were provided hands-on activities to be used with their students during their reading sessions.

Sarah Santasiero, the Stark reading liaison to Reading Partners, led the program. A 35-year veteran of the Stamford Public Schools, Santasiero is currently the Literacy Support Specialist at Stark Elementary. The session with the volunteers included experiential activities and a discussion of the different areas of focus impacting the children during their reading sessions. Volunteers had time to ask questions and enjoy pumpkin bread baked by one of Stark's devoted Reading



A full house at the Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners Fall Workshop.

Partners.

Reading Partner volunteers spend one hour a week at all of the 13 Stamford elementary schools and one after school program! They read with two students, each one-on-one for a half hour. If you would like to volunteer for Reading Partners during the 2024-25 school year, it is not too late. Please contact Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org.



New Reading Partners volunteers.

Rosh Hashana Learning

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) In celebration of Rosh Hashana, the Gan Yeladim children blended Judaics, cooking, hands-on learning, nature, and fun. They learned about the shofar and its significance, and explored the anatomy of a fish from head to tail. They discussed the symbolism of the fish and connection to the holiday, "that we may be the head and not the tail in the coming year." Afterwards, the children seasoned, cooked, and enjoyed their delicious creation.



Holocaust Survivors Celebrate at Pre-Rosh Hashana Concert



Holocaust survivors gathered together for the pre-Rosh Hashana concert.

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) The Anachnu Program had an unforgettable pre-Rosh Hashana Rock and Spirit concert at Young Israel of Stamford. Over 75 Holocaust survivors and their aides joined Schoke Jewish Family Service (JFS) for a day filled with joy and connection. Rabbi Eli Kohl of Young Israel of Stamford shared insights about the month of Elul and gave a powerful shofar wake-up call. When he blew the shofar, there was complete silence in the room.

Talented performers, including Rabbi Kohl, Jennie Woltz, Peretz Cik, and Schoke JFS Director of Case Management Hannah Pollack, took the stage both solo and together, filling the room with



Rabbi Kohl blows the shofar with performers Jennie Woltz and Peretz Cik.

beautiful music. So many danced, and even those who couldn't join in the dancing enjoyed the uplifting atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who made this day so special.

Cooking for Rosh Hashana

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Over 75 women gathered at Chabad of Stamford for its annual pre-Rosh Hashana cooking event. They prepared several festive dishes to share with their families and friends in honor of the holiday.

The evening began with a spread of hors d'oeuvres, including salads, power bars, and healthy juices. Then, Leah Shemtov, Co-Director of Chabad of Stamford, delivered a heartfelt talk highlighting the inner light that each Jewish woman carries and the immense good it can bring to the world. She drew inspiration from the Rebbe's "Neshek" campaign, launched 50 years ago. While *neshek* means ammunition in Hebrew, it also serves as an acronym for *Nerot Shabbat Kodesh* (Holy Shabbat Candles).

The Rebbe's campaign encouraged Jewish women across the globe to light



(l-r) Julie Rosenberg, Lisa Manheim and Adira Knopf get ready for Rosh Hashana with Chabad of Stamford.

Shabbat candles each Friday night to bring more light into the world. Leah Shemtov encouraged the attendees to similarly "arm" themselves with *neshek* during these difficult times using the light of the candles to combat the darkness that has enveloped the world since last October.

Following the inspiring talk, the women enjoyed a hands-on session, preparing apple-shaped challah, desserts, and side dishes to take home and share with their families for Rosh Hashana.

Chabad Bat Mitzvah Club Embraces Spiritual Theme

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) The first Chabad of Stamford Bat Mitzvah Club meeting for girls in grades 6 to 8 was a fantastic start to the year! The evening introduced this year's theme, "Point of View: The Way Hashem Sees Me," with a "would you rather" questionnaire and a time capsule letter-writing activity. The youth leaders led a lively discussion focused on how people can sometimes get caught up in their own "POV: The Way I See Me," focusing on their own talents, personalities, strengths, and weaknesses.



Chabad of Stamford's Bat Mitzvah Club gathered for an evening filled with creative crafts, lively discussions, and fun.

For Morah Shternie Shemtov, youth director of Chabad's youth programs, "These POVs don't define us—our true essence is our *neshama*, our soul, and G-d sees beyond our limitations, recognizing our infinite light, potential, and the joy and talents we can share with those around us."

This year, the Bat Mitzvah Club will explore how to embrace more spiritual perspectives and use the unique gifts G-d has given them to make the world a brighter and better place. The evening wrapped up with a fun "Crumb Cookies" style decorating workshop and a delicious waffle dessert.

To get involved in the Bat Mitzvah Club or for more information about Chabad's youth programs, please email youth@stamfordchabad.org.

Embracing Mitzvot (Good Deeds)

(Courtesy of UJF) Dignity Grows, a program of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (UJF), chaired by Nancy Fahey and Lisa Popper, delivers 300 to 400 totes of feminine care and hygiene products each month to social service agencies in the community. There are now 60-plus Dignity Grows chapters throughout the country, most affiliated with Federations, and the program relies heavily on grants and private donations.

Temple Sinai has been a valued partner since UJF brought Dignity Grows to the community. In addition to providing storage space for all the products, Temple Sinai congregants have hosted three "pack" events since June, raising over \$5,000. At these events, Dignity Grows tote bags are filled with necessary feminine care and hygiene products. A



Volunteers display Dignity Grows tote bags.

Dignity Grows "pack" event will also be a part of Temple Sinai's Mitzvah Day on November 10. A special thanks to Tamra Lichtman who has been instrumental in organizing these packs. To learn more about Dignity Grows or to donate, visit www.ujf.org/dignitygrows.



Muriel Ashley and Linda Hurwitz



Barbara Kasman, Terry Newman, Julie Hollenberg and Kathy Poch



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Jewish Festival of

We Will Dance Again!

(Courtesy of UJF) We came together, we sang, and we danced! After months of preparation and planning, over 600 members of the local Jewish community joined United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and UJA-JCC Greenwich at the Loading Dock in Stamford on Sunday, September 29 to celebrate their Jewish pride

at the first ever Jewish Festival of Fairfield County. The Festival featured unforgettable performances by hip-hop artist Kosha Dillz, The Shul Band, and Magic AI, who kept kids and families entertained while Aqua E Grano, Napoletana, Kona Ice, and Jim's Ice Cream Truck served up delicious food and some sweet treats for all festival goers to enjoy.

Many thanks to UJF Chairs Jill Kaplan, Tara Shapiro and Wendy Siegel



(PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

Fairfield County



(PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

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With tremendous gratitude to the following corporate sponsors for making the first Jewish Festival of Fairfield possible!

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One Year Later: Commemorating October 7

(Courtesy of UJF) On October 7, the community came together for an evening of remembrance, hope, and resilience. The evening, sponsored by United Jewish Federation and the Stamford Board of Rabbis, included a photo exhibit and various intentional opportunities for participants to reflect, mourn, and find opportunities to hope.

A special thanks goes to B.L. Manger

Foundation for providing a grant to fund this program, to the Stamford JCC for hosting this community gathering, and ADL of Connecticut, AJC of Westchester and Fairfield Counties, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Chabad of Harbor Point, Chabad of New Canaan, Chabad of Stamford, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Friendship Circle, Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, Schoke Jewish Family

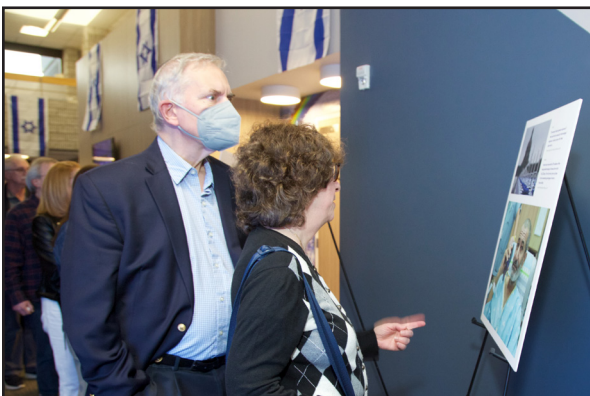
Service, Stamford JCC, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, and Young Israel of Stamford for serving as co-sponsors.

The evening also included Israeli author Tal Chaika, who spoke about realizing there was a need to document the events of October 7 through the stories of those who experienced the tragic event. More than 15 volunteers from diverse professional backgrounds joined in helping Tal bring

testimonials, reflections, and stories to life in the book *October 7: Voices of Survivors and Witnesses*. For those interested in purchasing the book, there are limited copies available (\$18) at the UJF offices. Please email Lara@ujf.org to inquire about purchasing a book. All proceeds from the book go to organizations that support the survivors and their families.



(PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)



(PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

Bits & Pieces



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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Daniella & Shalom Barishansky on the birth of a daughter.

Lara & Keith Berman on the birth of a daughter, Romi Emma Berman; and to grandparents **Joyce Resnick & Bob Schumacher**.

Nikki & Brian Freilich on the birth of a daughter, Jessica Faye Freilich; and to grandparents **Maxine & Jay Freilich**.

Jillian Hoy & Benjamin Hoffman on the birth of a son, Solomon Merlin Hoffman, and to grandparents **Joan Ross, and Rabbi Eric Hoffman & Manya Phillips**.

Chanie & Yossi Kamman on the birth of a son.

Debra & Richard Nemchek on the birth of their granddaughter, Greer Mackenzie Nemchek.

Yael Stern & Chaim Gartenberg on the birth of a daughter.

Julie Veetal & Jacob Karasik on the birth of a son.

Rita & Jacob Voytovich on the birth of a daughter, Naomi Maya Voytovich.

MAZEL TOV MARRIAGES/ ENGAGEMENTS:

Julie & Warren Breakstone on the marriage of their daughter, **Carolyn Breakstone to Ben Finkelstein**, and to grandparents **Eileen & Bob Breakstone**.

Robin Frederick & Michael Gold on the marriage of their daughter, **Daniele Gold to Andrew Hague**.

Allie Goldberg & Garry Mikhailevich on their recent marriage.

Joan Ross and Rabbi Eric Hoffman & Manya Phillips on the engagement of their daughter, **Hannah Hoffman to Alex Berenbeim**.

Linda & Len Russ on the marriage of their son, **Douglas Russ to Yael Malul**, daughter of **Esther Malul**.

Shirley & Bill Sklar on the marriage of their granddaughter, **Julie Sklar to Liam Gaziano**.

MAZEL TOV OTHER:

Maxim Feits named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Ezra Block: son of **Eve & Daniel Block**.

Luke Burston: son of **Staci & Mark Burston**.

Lucy Lotstein: daughter of **Laurie Rosen & Eric Lotstein**.

Nathaniel Stolarsky: son of **Lindsey Rossler-Stolarsky & Tomer Stolarsky**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Joel Edward Freedman; husband of **Naomi Freedman**; and father of **Richard Freedman, Debbie Freedman and Jane Freedman**.

Claire Friedlander: mother of **Joel Friedlander and Jeffrey Friedlander**.

Edwin Greenberg: husband of **Marsha Greenberg**; father of **Robert Wolfe, Liz Wolfe Kitay, Michael Greenberg and Jeffrey Greenberg**.

Dorothy Jaiven: mother of **Jerry Jaiven**.

Chana Popack: grandmother of **Leah Shemtov**.

Joshua Aaron Rattner: father of **Aaron Rattner and Sasha Rattner**; son of **Judy Rattner** and brother of **Charles Rattner**.

Sally Rothkopf: wife of **Jim Rothkopf**; and mother of **Sara Ellington and Jill Steinberg**.

Beatriz Schoepper: mother of **Ana Lilienfeld and Rabbi Irving Elson**.

Jeff Weinstein: brother of **Sherri Rosenthal** and uncle of **Lauren Zislis**.

The Hebrew Corner

A Monthly Primer by Robert Abrams,
UJF Education Committee Chair

HOW DO YOU CONCEIVE YOUR YEAR?

The new year has begun, and we have all spent a decent amount of time in our synagogues and temples listening to sermons and singing songs, praying and meditating, and listening to the sounds of the shofar.

And it was the paragraph we recited just after the shofar was blown on Rosh Hashanah that caught my interest. I must have said it tens of times if not quite a bit more, but this year was different. After the shofar is sounded we recite the opening words to the paragraph, "Ha-Yom HaRaHt Oh-Lahm." Most of our High Holiday prayer books, our Machzors, translate this phrase as something similar to, "Today the world was born," or "Today is the birth of the world." But this year I realized that this usual translation is not quite accurate. A more accurate translation would be, "Today is the day the world was conceived." That's right; "conceived" as in becoming pregnant. Obviously, the authors of this paragraph chose the word *HarRaht* purposefully. So, let's take a deeper dive into this word and try to determine why it was used.

The three letters of the root of the Hebrew word to conceive are Hay, Raysh, and Hay. Taking a quick look inside of the TaNaCH/our Bible, we can easily find examples of this word being used. When Eve conceives her first child in chapter 4, verse 1, of Genesis, the Torah uses the word "vaTaHar" to tell us that she "conceived" Cain (of Cain and Abel fame).

Similarly, in the book of B'midbar/the Book of Numbers, when Moshe/Moses expresses his frustration to God with



Robert Abrams

the Jewish people, he asks in chapter 11, sentence 12, "Did I conceive this entire people?" The Torah uses the same root for the word "HaReeTee," for "conceive."

Now, as you may already know, the word Torah means "instruction" and comes

from the same root for conceiving. The infinitive "to instruct" in Hebrew is "L'HohRoht" and shares the same three letter root of Hay, Raysh, Hay. And through the rules of Hebrew grammar and conjugation we get the words for a male teacher - Moreh - and a female teacher - Morah. But wait! There's yet another connection.

The Hebrew word for a parent also shares the same root - Hay, Raysh, Hay. And that word is "HoReH," and the plural is HoReem/parents.

The connection between the words for "conception," "teaching," and "parents" makes good sense: Parents conceive a child, parent a child, and teach a child.

Now let's return to the paragraph after the blowing of the Shofar and the author's intention of using the word for the world being *conceived* on Rosh Hashanah. I believe the shofar and the accompanying prayer are not simply making an announcement. I think the shofar and the prayer are asking *us* how *we* conceive of the upcoming year; how *we* conceive of how we want the upcoming year to look like; and what *we* plan to do to make our goals happen.

And here's the message now that the new year is underway. How have we conceived of our year turning out, what does our idea of it look like, and how are we planning to make it happen? These are the questions we should all be asking ourselves now as well - *before* the year has a chance to get away from us.

JCRC Update

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

last October 7, UJF has received a number of calls and messages relating to incidents of bias targeting Jewish students in public schools. What became apparent after our Town Hall meeting is that our school and city leaders, who were very concerned about antisemitism manifested on school buildings, were not aware of problems occurring in the schools themselves. If our leaders are not aware, they are not in a position to address the problems or to work proactively to limit future incidents. The Federation is now working

on a process designed to provide the kind of information that our leaders need to know and to empower our students and their parents to have the confidence that reporting future incidents will not result in further challenges for their children.

If you experience or learn of incidents of hate targeting our community, please let us know. We certainly can't solve every problem, however, we can help design the appropriate response. No one should feel isolated or alone. Together, as one, we can be a stronger and safer Jewish community. All questions relating to JCRC issues can be directed to Gary Jones at Gary@ujf.org

Tribute Gifts to Federation



are a meaningful way to honor, remember, or celebrate a friend, family member, or someone in the community.

www.ujf.org/tribute



Mitzvah Day for Israel

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) On October 7, the Chabad of Stamford community came together for a meaningful “Day of Mitzvahs” in support of Israel. The event, held throughout the day, encouraged participants to engage in acts of kindness, prayer, and reflection, creating positive energy and solidarity with the people of Israel. It was a day filled with compassion, aimed at remembering those lost and praying for those still held captive.

Community members of all ages participated in various *mitzvot* (good deeds), starting with packing meals for Chabad’s “Loaves of Love” initiative.

Families were invited to bring their *tzedakah* boxes from home, counting their donations and selecting a charity to support. Additionally, men had the opportunity to wrap *tefillin* and women could pick up Shabbat candles, either for personal use or to gift to others, spreading the light of Shabbat throughout

the community. In the morning, a special Torah class for both men and women provided a moment of reflection and learning, with a focus on the power of faith and unity in challenging times. Later in the morning, volunteers gathered to bake honey cakes for homebound seniors. These were then personally delivered to seniors in the community helping to spread joy and connection through *chesed* (lovingkindness.)

A highlight of the day was the presence of a *sofer* (ritual scribe) on-site offering an opportunity for community members to have their *mezuzahs* and *tefillin* checked. This sacred service, provided at a nominal cost, allowed attendees to ensure that their holy items were in proper condition, adding to the spiritual significance of the day.

The community gathered at 5:00 pm for a brief but powerful solidarity event. Men, women, and children stood together in

prayer, remembering those who had perished and offered *Tehillim* prayers (psalms) for those still in captivity. The gathering was led by the Gan children, who made *brachas* (blessings) and sang songs.

For the younger attendees, special mitzvah stations were set up throughout the day. Children had the opportunity to decorate *tzedakah* boxes to send to Israel, create cards for IDF soldiers, pack honey cupcakes to share with friends, and make Shema cards to encourage daily prayer.

The Day of Mitzvahs at Chabad of Stamford was more than just a collection of



Rabbi Moshe Shemtov, Director of Chabad of Stamford, addresses the crowd gathered together on October 7 for Chabad’s Mitzvah Day.

activities—it was a day that strengthened bonds between community members and the people of Israel. In a time of mourning and uncertainty, the event served as a powerful reminder of the strength that comes from unity, prayer, and acts of kindness.

BCHA Commemorates October 7

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) The Upper and Middle School at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut marked the first year since Israel was attacked on October 7, 2023. Students and faculty members worked together to honor and remember those who were lost and to reaffirm a school-wide commitment to a safe and peaceful future in Israel.

closely, I felt it needed a very different feel. Therefore, in an effort to make the program mature, empathetic, and respectful, we created a ceremony that was led entirely by our Upper School students.”

The students spoke, presented, led heartfelt prayers, and presented relevant musical interludes. Their voices stirred hearts, bringing comfort and unity to a difficult day of remembrance.



Students speak at the BCHA October 7 commemoration.

Under the direction of Maytal Lerner, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy’s Director of Jewish Life Programs and the school’s B’not Sherut (emissaries from Israel in their year of National Service), the Middle and Upper School students, parents, and community members gathered for a moving and deeply meaningful ceremony.

“It was obvious that we needed, as a community, to mark this day,” noted Lerner. “In the beginning, I thought it would be similar to the assembly we did last year right after the events of October 7, 2023. But after considering it more

In addition to the ceremony, the BCHA gym was transformed into a powerful art exhibit that encapsulated the tragedy of that fateful day and the challenging year that Israel has endured since October 7, 2023. Through commemorative presentations, photography, and memorial walls, the care and sensitivity in curating this space offered a reflective and poignant experience for all of the students, educators, parents, and guests.

In a message sent to the Bi-Cultural

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

October 7 Memorial Display



A family stops to contemplate the 1,231 electric candles in the memorial display in New Canaan.



Chabad of New Canaan, in partnership with UJF, set up a memorial display in New Canaan.

(Courtesy of Chabad New Canaan) From Sunday, October 6, 2024, to the morning of October 8, 2024, a solemn and impactful memorial display was set up on God’s Acre, a historic site in New Canaan, to honor the 1,231 victims of the tragic October 7, 2023 massacre in Israel.

The memorial featured 1,231 electric candles, each representing a life lost in the attack. While the display was visible during the day, its true impact was felt after sunset, when the candles illuminated the night, creating a profound visual reminder of the scale of the tragedy. Alongside the candles, banners explained that each flame symbolized a precious soul. Additional banners were displayed to raise awareness for the hostages who remain captive.

“The sight of 1,231 candles lighting up the night is a sobering reminder of the

immense loss we have suffered. As each flame flickers, it not only memorializes a life, but also stands as a collective symbol of resilience and remembrance,” said Rabbi Levi Mendelow of Chabad of New Canaan. “We hope this display will move people to reflect and inspire unity in the face of such heartbreak.”

“It is a very important display,” said Yan Klats, a member of the New Canaan Jewish community. “It is particularly meaningful that this town respects this, and we can be Jewish proudly. A lot of folks have been super supportive over the past year for which we are very grateful.”

The memorial display was co-sponsored by the Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center and United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

UConn Hillel Stamford Students Commemorate October 7th

(Courtesy of UConn Hillel Stamford) UConn Hillel Stamford students gathered on October 7, 2024 to show solidarity with the victims of October 7, 2023. The service was led by Dr. Frederick Roden, a UConn Professor, and included videos with prayers from Cantor Azi Schwartz as well as a reading of the names of the 101 hostages. Every student received a yellow ribbon pin to raise awareness of the hostages. Speakers included Dr. Beth Ginsberg and Dr. Simon Shachter from UConn's faculty.



UConn Hillel Stamford students gathered on October 7.

Students used this event as an opportunity to reflect on the challenges of this past year. They found strength in each other, the faculty and Hillel this past year. One student spoke about losing family at the Nova Festival. Another reflected on her Israeli upbringing and how she

is grateful to be studying at UConn but worries about her friends serving in the IDF. The faculty shared how they also felt empowered by students taking action and are looking forward to more local programming. Given the proximity to Rosh Hashana, students were given apples and honey for a sweet new year ahead.

BCHA Commemorates October 7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Hebrew Academy and community, Head of School Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein shared words of hope and comfort. "As we reflect on this past year and the significance of these moments," he wrote, "we turn to the instructive words of the prophet Yirmiah, to 'remember the days of old, and renew them in our time' which can be understood as a directive: that during difficult times we must remember the many generations in which the Jewish people ultimately

prevailed over their enemies, and ask God to renew those days of victory. This is a charge to the Jewish people to never forget that we are an *עַמּוּת עוֹלָמָה*, an eternal nation that cannot be destroyed."



Upper and middle school students attend BCCHA's commemoration of October 7.

LIFE & LEGACY

Life & Legacy Testimonial

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

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

ERIC ROSS, UJF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TESTIMONIAL

My wife Jaime and I and our children moved here to Stamford 14 months ago, to escape all of the craziness of Florida. We'd heard about the natural beauty of Connecticut and we were ready for a new start, but we never expected to find such a warm, loving, and tight-knit Jewish community. We came from an area in south Florida that was nearly 50% Jewish, and yet we never felt like we were part of a real "community" outside the walls of our synagogue. It only took a couple months to realize just how special our new home

here truly is. And after spending a full calendar year settling in, we can't imagine living anywhere else.

Growing up, I was fortunate to have a family in my life that modeled the values of *tzedakah*, *tikkun olam*, voluntarism, and community building. So in honor of my one-year anniversary working at United Jewish Federation, we decided to make a Life & Legacy commitment to UJF. And we will continue to increase that commitment each year on my work-anniversary, to help ensure that all future generations of Jewish transplants will be welcomed just as warmly as we were.



The Ross Family - Eric, Sapphire, Leo, and Jaime.

SAVE THE DATE

AN EVENING WITH

EYLON LEVY

Co-Chairs

Pamela and Alec Ellison
Lenore and Ilan Fogel
Hilary and Zion Shohet
Shushannah Walshe
and Ari Yasgur



NOVEMBER 6 7:30PM

Eylon Levy is a former Israeli Government Spokesman. Since October 7, he has become one of Israel's most prominent voices and currently hosts the State of The Nation Podcast. Are you one of the 265,000 people who follow him on Instagram? If not, follow him @IsraeliCitizenspox

Chabad Greenwich
38 Field Point Road
Greenwich, CT

www.ujf.org/levy



Life & Legacy Honor Roll

United Jewish Federation is proud to partner with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to bring the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community the Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY Program. Through communal efforts, the following individuals have made a commitment to one or more Jewish communal institutions to secure our Jewish future. The names in blue indicate that formal actions have been taken.

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

28 Anonymous
29 Anonymous
Craig Adler
Adrienne & Michael Alexander
David Amsellem
Alice & David Andersen
Jeri Appel
Mark Appel
Ricky Snow Arbron
Suellen Bache
Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
Rachel Tyd & Robert Beldock
Gayle & Mitchell Bell
Debra & Michael Berg
Dina & Paul Berger
Karen & Ira Berk
Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz
Lynn & Harvey Berman
Berkun Family
Darona & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
Jen & Andy Bernstein
Melody & Claude Bernstein
Bruce & Nancy Blasnik
Judith Block
Ilana Springer Borkenstein & Daniel Borkenstein
Jodi & Richard Boxer
Amy Bubel
Henry Bubel
Blake & Daniel Bueckman
Rita & Michael Butterman
Judy & Jeff Cahn
Kate & Peretz Cik
Roberta & Alan Cohen
Andrea & David M. Cohen
Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen
Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeff Cohen
Judy & David S.* Cohen
Mimi Cohen
Rachel & Ephraim Cohen
Saul Cohen*
Marsha Colten
Kahla & Gordon Cooper
Randie Katz & Lawrence Cryer
Tracy & Nahum Daniels
Janice Steinberg & Stephen Davidson
Andrea Dener
Elayne Dener
Rabbi Yisrael & Vivi Deren
Helen & Marty Donner
Fran & Bob Dorf*
Shoshana Dweck
Heather & Glenn Dynner
Debra & Dan Faizakoff
Michelle Fanwick
Esta & Jay Feinsod
Sharon & Michael Feldstein
Peggy & Jerry Fensterstock
Linda Hurwitz & Richard Fine
Robin & Jason Fischel

Gail Berman & David Fogel
Stephanie & Howard Fogel
Lenore Fogel
Ilan Fogel
Miriam Lavinsky & Morton Folb*
Beverly Frank
Sharon Franklin
Robin Frederick
Julia & Eli Freedberg
Connie & Alan Freeman
Maxine & Jay Freilich
Susan Frieden
Rachel & Keith Friedman
Marc Friedman
Donna & Edward Fuhrman
Nancy & Mark Funt
Heidi & Harrison Ganz
Lisa & Gadi Gavronsky
Lesley & Dennis Gehr
Gary Gepner
Carole Gladstone
Herbert Gladstone*
Sylvia & Herb Gladstone*
Leslie Glenn
Michael Gold
Abby Goldberg
Cyndy & Eric Goldberg
Marilyn & Irving Goldblum
Alicia & Jason Goldstein
Caryl & Melvin Goldstein*
Judy & Howard Goldstein
Sharon & Bruce Goldstein
Meryl & David Gordon
Nan & Paul Gordon
Linda Gornitsky
Loralee & Philip Granowitz
Shira & Ethan Green
Allison & Frederic Greenbaum
Sharon & Larry Greenberg
Susan & Edward Greenberg
Pam Ehrenkranz & Matt Greenberg
Rhonda Greif
Grecia & Ron* Gross
Caryn Halbrecht & Tommy Haendler
Jeremy Hager
Michael Handel
Scott Handelman
Kayla & Leon Hanna
Wynd Harris
Jacqueline Herman
Elissa & James Hyman
Rebecca Isenstein
Shara & Rabbi David Israel
Sari & Alan Jaffe
Meryl & Ron Japha
Anne Liss Johnson
Sadae & Michael Kadish
Judith & Grant Kallen
Peggy Kalter
Helene & Harvey Kaminski

Chanie Kamman
Roni & Jan Kaplowitz
Jason Kaplowitz
Lisa & Arnold Karp
Jeannie Kasindorf
Jessica & Ilan Katz
Joy Katz
Larry Katz
Judith & Sheldon Katz
Neil Katz
Mark S. Kaufman
Betsy & Peter Kempner
Madelyne Kirch
Liz & Marc Kitay
Elissa & Philip Klapper
Sally Kleinman
Harris Kligman
Naomi & Rabbi Eli Kohl
Susan Kostin
Arthur Kramer*
Claudia Kraut
Norma Kraut
Erica Krappohl
Jeannie & Brian Kriftcher
Carol & Allen Krim
Elizabeth & Scott Krowitz
Nina Kuch
Svetlana Kunin
Jackie & Marshall Kurland
Lorraine & David Kveskin
Helen & Ed Kveskin
Lieba & Steve Lander
Hannah & Ilan Lastoff
Dallice & Ian Lazarus
Shelley Leibowitz
Lois Stark & Gary Lessen
Marla & Jason Lewis
Sharon & Jeffrey Lewis
Elizabeth Libner
R. & J. Licht
Ronnie & Gary Lilien
Vered & Mark Links
Lisa & Seth Linzer
Pamela Feldstein & David Loewenberg
Eleanor & Mort Lowenthal
Stu Madison
Lisa & Jeff Manheim
Norma & Milton Mann*
Susan & Len Mark
Dinah Miller Marlowe
Seth Marlowe
Chris Maroc
Rhonda Schaffer-Maron & Jeffrey Maron
Melanie Massell
Sandra Mehl*
Michal & Rabbi Levi Mendelow
Janice & Jake Meyer
Wendy Goldberg Miles
Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun
Cecile E Minkoff
Bennet Moskowitz
Marguerite & Kenneth Neuhaus
Becky & Omer Neumeier
Rose* & Bruce Newman
Marsha & Louis Panzer
Leah & Doni Perl
Robin Evans & Jeffrey Perry
Dr. Shay Pilnik
Michele & Scott Piskin
Caryl Ferber Poser & Peter Poser
Tanya Barton- Radin & David Radin

Enid Randall*
Bonita & Stephen Rappoport
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Judy & Adam Rin
Jamie & Toby Ring
Betty & Dan Roberts*
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Linda & David Roitman
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Irma Ross
Sandra Ross
Sally* & Jim Rothkopf
Ruth Rothseid
Terry Newman & David Rubin
Linda & Leonard Russ
Bonnie Russo
Edith Samers
Renee Samson*
Sharyn & Richard Sarner
Sharon L & Charles H Saul
Leah Schechter
Hilde Scheraga*
Jayne & Bud Schiff
Judy Schneiderman
Nancy Schiffman
Carol Ruth & Herman Shepherd*
Monica Smyth & Michael Schlessinger
Elayne & James Schoke*
Daniel Schwartz
Chaya & Levi Segal
Betsey & Arthur Selkowitz
Myrna & George Sessa
Diane & Steve Shaby
Debbie Katz Shapiro
Leon Shapiro
Tara & Richard Shapiro
Jessica & Laurence Sheinman
Leah & Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
Marsha Kaiser Shendell
Rosalyn Mae Sherman
Stephanie & Bob Sherman
Malya Shmotkin
Ronnie Ness Sichel & Steven Sichel
Jerome and Bracha Silber
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Paula Simon
Gloria & Randy Skigen
Marty Skrelunas
Diane & Elliot Sloyer
Michal Fox Smart
Brenda & Bruce* Smith
Ed Smith
Marilyn Sofer

Greta Solomon
Miriam & Steve Sosnick
Sandy & Moshe Speter
Ed Spilka
Cantor Micah Morgovsky & Rabbi Benjamin Spratt
Eileen Springer
Fred Springer
Beverly & David Stein
Betsy & Michael Stone
Gladys & Greg Teitel
Julie & Rabbi Jay TelRav
The Estate of Judith Bragin*
The Estate of Sheila Carmine*
The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin*
The Estate of Ronald Gross*
Rebecca Tipermas
Hildi and David Todrin
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Pamela & Richard Vogel
Janet Wainright
Phyllis & Harvey Walzer
Annie & Jeremy Watman
Shternie & David Wayne
Ellen & Richard Weber
Linda Gornitsky & Harvey Weber
Dana & Carl Weinberg
Marian Weinberg
Leon Weisburgh
Janet Welkovich
Barbara Kasman & Art Wernicke
Barbara & Ken White
Leigh Wilson
Robyn & Mark Winarksy
Howard Wolfe
Navah & Naftali Wolfe
Dana Horowitz & Peter Wolly
Neda Khaghan & Robert Yaghoubian
Rita & Abe Yellen
Marcia Gordon & Seth Young
Sheryl & Dan Young
Lauren & Joe Zalis
Joan Zinbarg*
Renee Zinn
Navah & David Zizmor
Shira & Mitchell Zucker
**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. Names in blue have finalized their commitment at the time of publication.

Did You Know?



You can join one of the ten Life & Legacy teams in our community (Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Chabad of Stamford, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Friendship Circle, Stamford Jewish Community Center, Schoke Jewish Family Service, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, United Jewish Federation, Young Israel of Stamford) and help secure the Jewish future of our community.

A Message from UJF's Community Shlichah October 7th

BY EDEN REFAELOVICH

(These remarks were delivered at the October 7 Community Commemoration at the Stamford JCC.)

I don't remember Israel without enemies or wars. I am from Neshar, a city next to Haifa and when I was just nine years old, in 2006, we experienced the Second Lebanon War. We lived in a reality of rockets and sirens, and a missile even hit our home.

On the morning of October 7th, the sirens were nonstop in the South but it would take time before we knew what was actually going on. As images and videos of terrorists in our country started pouring in from social media, I remember the first one I saw: a family lying helplessly on the ground, the kids with flipflops, with Hamas militants pointing weapons at them. I couldn't believe this was happening in my country; at the beginning I thought it might be fake news but unfortunately, it was a horrific reality.



Eden Refaelovich

The videos were very difficult to watch. I personally avoided watching them to protect my mental well-being and I immediately took my younger siblings' phones away from them because it was everywhere.

Many Israelis and many of you were impacted by the horrific images and videos no human should ever see or experience. It's no secret that an entire nation needs psychological support and healing.

My twin sister, who had served for seven years in the Israeli Air Force, was called up to her base and the fear in my mother's eyes was unimaginable. All the uncertainty about where this is happening, if other countries will join in, whether it's safe to travel on the roads in Israel right now, even if you're in the north.

But there was so much we did not know. We understood that there was a large party in the south and many young people were missing, including many soldiers in the bases in the area. Faces and names were

posted on social media by my friends, my family and then you realize in such a small country everyone knows someone.

Families were looking at different hospitals. People decided, despite the situation, to go south and search for their loved ones, risking their own lives.

The uncertainty lasted for days and weeks, and gradually the horrors were revealed—sad endings to the stories that we hoped were just a bad dream.

My military service was in the Navy and although I had an exemption from reserve duty, I asked my commanding officer to volunteer back for reserves. I think a lot of Israelis did the same. Unfortunately, I did not hear back from her because on November 18, 2023, my commanding officer, Einav Peled, passed away, may her memory be a blessing.

After my military service, in the summer of 2022 and 2023 I was a *shlichah* (emissary) of the Jewish Agency in summer camps in Baltimore and Palo Alto and I would like to share a story of a former shaliach of the Jewish Agency in 2022 at Camp Perlman, Pennsylvania.

Ron Shemer was part of that world of summer camps, with a love for Israel and the freedom to explore after his military service. Tragically, Ron was murdered on October 7 at the Nova festival. When the alarms sounded, he searched for his friends and ran to a safe room, which was hit by three grenades thrown by the Hamas terrorist. Ron stood at the entrance, trying to confront the terrorist, but he was the first to be abducted from the shelter. For a week, he was classified as a hostage until his body was found just 50 meters from the shelter. It's hard for me to believe that we sat in the same room two years ago, excited to go out and spread the light of Israel, and today I am here, and he is up there.

Like him, there are many others who lost their lives on October 7 and since then.

יהי זכרו ברוך. May his memory be blessed.

Amid the darkness, I witnessed the incredible resilience of our people, *Am Israel*. The support we offered each other, both within Israel and from around the world, was heartwarming.

Usually, you see people fleeing a country at war, but after October 7, we saw an incredible demand to return home and protect our land. Young people, who had just been released from service and were on their big trip, boarded every available flight to come back and fight for the country. People took to the streets with food and supplies for soldiers and civilians. And in that moment, you realize you are part of the most beautiful people in the world.

To all of you, the Jewish community in America and in my new home, Stamford, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude. Thank you for your help and for speaking up for Israel and standing strong against the Haters. The people of Israel felt and continue to feel your support.

And we are with you, *Am Yisrael*, as global antisemitism is on the rise.

I had registered for the Jewish Agency's emissary program long before October 7th, but that day shook me. I questioned whether I wanted to leave my home and family during such turbulent times. Yet you, the Jewish community in America, empowered me to understand that now is the time to go and represent Israel, to bridge the connection between us. I may be far from home, but Israel is closer than ever in my heart.

At one of the conferences I attended before I arrived here, I heard an American Jew say the following: As individuals, we have a home everywhere in the world; as a people, as Jews, we only have one.

This is our time to continue speaking out for Israel and to remain a united people, and God willing, בע"ה the hostages will return home safely.



NextGen invites you to a ladies

Packing & Candle Making Party



Join us for an evening of compassion and creativity as we pack bags of menstrual products for those in need while enjoying a fun candle-making session with **Rachel Zehden!**

- ♥ Thursday, November 14 at 7:30pm ♥
- ♥ Private home in Stamford ♥
- ♥ \$25 p/p to sponsor a bag (early bird), \$36 after November 8 ♥

Wine, cheese and good vibes included!

Because when we pack with purpose, we all shine brighter!

Limited spots available
RSVP www.ujf.org/packingparty

Event chairs:
Robin Fischel and Meira Scheiner




Dignity Grows tackles period poverty by supplying pre-packaged monthly bags of menstrual products to those in need.

Giving Just Got Easier!

You can now donate to UJF with Venmo and PayPal



SCAN ME
Venmo



SCAN ME
PayPal



Rediscovering Joy in Judaism



tapestry 2.0

a community celebration
of Adult Jewish Learning

Saturday Evening

November 16, 2024 6:30pm

Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT

This year's Tapestry theme will be "Rediscovering Joy in Judaism"

The evening will begin at 6:30pm with a wine and cheese reception, followed by a communal Havdalah ceremony.

Come together to see old friends and make new ones!

The evening will close with a dessert reception, as we all gather to celebrate the unity of our community.

Pre-Registration is \$36 and closes Wednesday, November 6 at 5:00pm. Registration after November 6 will be \$45 per person. **All classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.** UJF staff reserves the right to close or cancel a class depending on attendance. For more information, contact Eric Ross at 203-321-1373 ext. 1004 or Eric@ujf.org.



United Jewish Federation **NEXTGen**

Save The Date

Dreidels and Drinks!

Saturday, December 7 • 8:30pm

The Whittington Discovery Center at Mill River Park

Dress attire: Chanukah Sweaters Encouraged!

\$36 p/p Early Bird • \$50 p/p after December 2
www.ujf.org/nextgenchanukah

Coming This December

Join Eden Refaelovich,
United Jewish Federation's Community Shlichah (Israeli Emissary), on a

VIRTUAL TOUR OF ISRAEL

Sessions will be 7-8:30pm, on the following dates:

Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Afula-Gilboa (UJF's partner-city)

Monday, December 16, 2024:
Haifa & Nesher (Eden's hometown)

Thursday, January 9, 2025:
Jerusalem

Tuesday, January 21, 2025:
Eilat & the Negev Desert

Tickets: \$10 per class, or \$25 for all four sessions
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Turning Olive-press Waste Into Gluten-free Flour

In the millennia-old quest to find a commercial use for olive-mill waste, PhenOlive flour may have the answer for mills, farmers, and the environment.

BY JOHN JEFFAY/ISRAEL21C

Olive farmers invest time, effort and money growing their crop to make oil.

But after olives have been squeezed for their liquid, the 85 percent solid that remains often ends up being burned or buried because, frankly, it's useless. And it's toxic, and acidic, and it stinks.

Within 15 minutes of the olives being squeezed at an industrial mill, the waste matter, called pomace, starts to oxidize.

The nutrients disappear, it becomes unfit for human – or animal – consumption, and it can't even be used as fertilizer because it contaminates the soil.

Olives are an ancient crop, mentioned numerous times in the Bible, with the earliest known olive mill, in Matera, Italy, dating back to the fourth century BCE.

Yet in all that time, upcycling olive pomace into a useful, successful commercial product has remained elusive.

WIN-WIN

PhenOlives, an Israeli startup, has

come up with an innovative win-win for both the farmers and the mills that crush 95% of all olives into oil.

It has perfected a mechanical method of rescuing the waste product in the tight window before it oxidizes, and turning it into gluten-free flour and other commercial products.

PhenOlives presents olive mills with a “total solution” – installing its patented machinery to transform a mountain of smelly leftovers into useful, edible, sellable, profitable products.

This could be a gamechanger for the industry and could provide olive farmers with an extra revenue stream.

There will no longer be trucks lining up at the olive mills to collect tons of byproduct for landfill, says Chen Lev-Ari, the company's CEO.

Instead the trucks will be delivering high-fiber, low-calorie flour to food manufacturers to turn into bread, pasta, crackers, cookies, brownies, pizza...



Crackers made with PhenOlives' olive flour. (PHOTO COURTESY OF PHENOLIVES)

you name it.

SECRET PROCESS

So what exactly is the breakthrough? Well, that's a secret.

Lev-Ari says they've developed a machine that divides the olive waste into three components — pulp, black water (the wastewater from pressing) and seeds.

The process is completely natural, doesn't use chemicals or additives, and is readily incorporated into the existing olive milling process. After the pulp is extracted, it's dried and then ground into flour.

But Lev-Ari won't go into detail. The technology is patented in Israel and is close to being patented in Europe, he tells ISRAEL21c.

Mill owners in Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal, among Europe's biggest olive-producing nations, are blown away when they see it, according to Lev-Ari.

“It's amazing to see their reaction,” he says. “They're amazed in a way that it doesn't surprise us, but it gives us a lot of confidence. As far as we know, we are the only company in the world that has a solution for stopping oxidation in the olive-oil production process.”

ISRAELI PROBLEM-SOLVING

So how did they come up with a way to re-purpose olive waste? “Maybe it's the Israeli way, how we look at problems,” says Lev-Ari. “We look at the whole problem and break it down into smaller ones.”

Lev-Ari, who has a background in managing products and supply chains and a particular interest in agriculture and recycling, embarked on his olive journey in 2019.

He spent three years researching and developing ways to process the pomace and founded PhenOlives in 2022.

Bread made with non-gluten olive flour. Photo courtesy of PhenOlive

It was important to find a solution that didn't just turn the olive pulp into gluten-free flour. It was all or nothing – they had to deal with the whole 85% of

the olives that currently have no use. The olive mills wanted the waste taken off their hands entirely, and that's what PhenOlives is promising to do.

Lev-Ari says the company, based at the InnoValley Innovation Center in the Beit She'an Valley, is now in talks with major olive millers in hopes of forming strategic partnerships.

Lev-Ari has met dozens of food manufacturers in Israel and Europe to discuss how the olive flour could be used as a gluten-free ingredient, much like almond or chickpea flour. The company has several ongoing pilot projects, and is working with local chefs to develop a range of new recipes.

NUTRITIOUS GOODIES

Olive flour will be PhenOlives' first commercial product. Lev-Ari is keen to show me brownies, cookies and other goodies baked with it.

The flour will, in most cases, be combined with wheat and other traditional flours. It's gluten-free, which means it doesn't have elasticity or water retention properties needed to make bread, but it works well as a minority ingredient in an 80/20 mix with other flours.

It's fine as a 100% flour for crackers and can be used at 50% for pasta, muffins and pizza crust, and 30% for cookies and brownies. And it boasts all the health benefits of olive oil.

The company is researching other uses for the pulp, as food additives and colorings, and even pet food. It's also looking at ways to use the nutritious black olive water and the seeds. The latter could be used by non-food industries such as heat and energy production.

PhenOlives has received \$760,000 in grants from the Israel Innovation Authority. “Additionally, we are currently raising an investment round to support installation of the first PhenOlives systems in Europe, begin sales of the olive flour, and develop new products from the pulp and black water,” says Lev-Ari.

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