



# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF  
GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

## Anat Hoffman: Spotlight on Religious Pluralism

### Hyacinthe and Harold E Hoffman Memorial Lecture

BY STEVE LANDER

Anat Hoffman, executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center, and director and founding member of the Women of the Wall, will speak at Temple Beth El on Wednesday, November 11, at 7:30 pm. Her topic will be "What We Don't Talk about When We Focus on Israel's Security."



Anat Hoffman

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, spiritual leader of Temple Beth

El, stated, "Anat Hoffman is undoubtedly the foremost champion of religious pluralism and women's rights in Israel. She has inspired Israelis to forge a more just and equitable society, and American Jews are crucial to the success of this important mission. I am so proud that we will be able to host her."

Hoffman is a *sabra* born on a *kibbutz* near Jerusalem.

See "Hoffman" on page 2

## Tapestry at Twelve

On Saturday, November 21, at 6:30 pm, the Stamford Jewish community will gather at the Stamford Jewish Community Center to celebrate Jewish learning. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Tapestry, chaired by Carol Lilienthal, with Co-chairs Adam Batkin and Rhonda Ginsberg, brings together teachers and subjects with "tracks" for teens and grandparents, for history buffs and for those interested in Israel, women's studies and text studies.

This year, Tapestry will feature a workshop on the art and history of Jewish paper-cutting with artist Dena Levie. In addition to creating one-of-a-kind *ketubot* and other Jewish documents, Levie's artwork is displayed in museums and has been used for such projects as the cover art of a CD by Matisyahu.

Participants in this workshop will have the opportunity to try their hand at creating a work of art of their own.

Another arts-related workshop will teach participants to create their own family history book. Alexandra Moller will display examples of family history projects she helped to assemble, and the books that become a legacy of that history.

Along with the local community of rabbis, cantors and teachers, Tapestry will feature two sessions with wordsmith Andrew Lustig, whose spoken-word poetry is considered a hit on YouTube. Lustig's second session will be a closed workshop and party for UJF's Young Leadership Division. (See accompanying article on page 4.)

See "Tapestry" on page 4

## No Arms Deal is Perfect

BY SANDY GOLOVE

Ambassador Dennis Ross, former chief Middle East peace negotiator and senior member of several presidential administrations, spoke to a sold-out audience at Greenwich's Carmel Academy on September 24. The evening was co-sponsored by UJF of Greater Stamford New Canaan and Darien, UJA Greenwich and the Greenwich JCC.

Ross, who did not take a public position as to whether or not he supported passage of the proposed P5+1 Nuclear Arms Agreement with Iran, explained his views in detail, noting

the strengths and weaknesses of the agreement. As a former arms negotiator, he reminded the audience that "no arms deal is perfect." but reiterated on several occasions that "there is sincere cause for concern" within the agreement.

Ross spent the bulk of his presentation discussing ways to strengthen the agreement and the posture the United States should take over the course of the 15 years of the agreement. Ross suggests that the United States declare, in no uncertain terms that a dash for a nuclear weapon would immediately "trigger the

See "Deal" on page 10

## When Difficult Relatives Happen to Good People

### Saul Cohen – JFS Lecture

BY LYNN SALTZ

On Thursday, November 5, at 7:30 pm, Jewish Family Service will present the fourth Annual Saul Cohen – JFS Lecture featuring Leonard Felder, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and author. The lecture is offered through the generosity of Mimi and Saul Cohen and is a gift to the community at no cost.



Leonard Felder, Ph.D.

Hosted at the Ferguson Library, Main Branch, in Stamford, Felder notes his presentation, "When Difficult Relatives Happen to Good People," will be an exploration of ways to deal with family members who are considered complicated or who have "baffled and challenged" others in the past.

See "Relatives" on page 4

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### Shabbat of Impact

BBYO Connecticut Valley Region teens who serve as Regional Board members spent September 25 at Tower One/Tower East in New Haven. The teens helped to decorate the sukkah, and then had dinner and attended services with the senior residents. Emmy Roday, of Woodbridge, CT, and Max Kitay, of Stamford, co-regional sh'lichim, planned and implemented the event as the first Shabbat of Impact, a project for the Regional Board to lead their peers in a rededicated effort to community outreach and service. (See article on page 8.)

L-r: Molly Schwartz, regional treasurer, West Hartford, CT; Emily Liebowitz, regional chairwoman, Longmeadow, MA; Louis Shenker, Regional VP membership, Longmeadow, MA; Shaina Lubliner, regional president, Stamford, CT; Alexa Pellenberg, regional VP programming, Fairfield, CT; Sam Wasserman, regional VP programming, Orange, CT; Hayley Ratick, regional secretary, Fairfield, CT; Max Trachten, regional secretary, Woodbridge, CT; Nohar Segal, regional VP membership, New Haven, CT; Emmy Roday, regional VP Judaic programming, Woodbridge, CT; and Max Kitay, regional VP Judaic programming, Stamford, CT.



President's Message

Mission: Possible

Full Disclosure: My trip to Israel almost 40 years ago was actually part of a larger mission to find a Jewish husband! Although I didn't succeed in finding my spouse on that trip, it fostered my lifelong love of Israel and the Jewish community.

Rebekah Raz, UJF's vice president of development's, mantra is, "go on a mission – it will change your life!" Missions



Ellen Weber, UJF president

inspire, educate, bring people with shared values together and, not the least, are fun. Missions come in all sizes: from those that take us across the globe to others just around the corner.

This past summer, UJF's Chapter 2 women's group participated in two mini-missions to UJF recipient agencies, Camp Laurelwood and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. In both cases, we saw our Federation dollars at work.

How important were we to see Camp Laurelwood's beautiful grounds and have the opportunity to give thanks to God with campers while lunching together. At the JDC, we heard from Will Recant, assistant executive vice president, about JDC's impact on Jews around the world and, specifically, how we support French Jews confronting antisemitism. Future mini-missions in the planning stage include a trip to Jewish Senior Services in Fairfield and the JFNA General Assembly in Washington, DC, where we'll hear how Federation touches more Jewish lives than any other organization in the world.

Linda Spilka, a leader of our Jewish community, has been on "more missions than I can count" and says that their value is simple. "Missions assist me in connecting with Jews and non-Jews in need from around the world... making the concrete connection opens up a world of understanding that is so powerful. Each recipient has a story to tell. They embrace the opportunity to meet a mission participant so openly. They know they are not forgotten."

Rachel Dayan, a member of the National Young

Leadership Cabinet and UJF's Board of Directors, recently visited the Jewish communities in Bucharest and Budapest, where she saw how "Federation dollars are making it possible for Jews in these communities to thrive after the double blow of the Shoah and Communism. Spending the day with young Jews from all over Eastern Europe at Camp Szarvas was both humbling and inspiring. Seeing how our Federation dollars allow these children to explore their Jewish roots and connect with other Jewish children made me feel proud to wear my Lion pin."

There are two Federation missions planned for 2016. The first is JFNA's Women's Philanthropy Heart to Heart Mission to Israel from February 7-11. Participate in a Federation-sponsored *tzedakah* project with children in Tel Aviv, learn how JDC provides poor, at-risk families the means to live healthy lives, and be part of a meaningful bat mitzvah celebration in Jerusalem.

The Southern New England Consortium will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary Partnership 2Gether with an Israel trip from March 31-April 7. In addition to seeing Israel's great sites, you'll learn about Federation programs in Haifa, Ashkelon and in our sister city, Afula, to name a few. And, the first 40 registrants will be given a \$999 incentive!

A mission can change your life and we hope you will join us on one in 2016.

All the best, Ellen Weber

Hoffman. . . . Continued from page 1

Her mother, Varda Blechman, was the first child born at Kibbutz Ramat Rachel (Rachel's Heights). Her American-born father, Charles Weiss, served as a Voice of America correspondent in Israel. She attended the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design. She also excelled as a competitive athlete, becoming a champion swimmer. She competed in the Maccabiah Games, winning titles in nine events.

In 1974, after she completed her service in the Israel Defense Forces, she left for the United States to study. She graduated from UCLA in 1980 with a B.A. in psychology. While at UCLA, she was connected to Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life and started the Israeli Student Organization. She was exposed to Reform Judaism and realized for the first time that Judaism was not limited to Orthodoxy. She later pursued graduate study at Bar Ilan University.

Returning to Israel, she became an activist for religious pluralism, becoming involved in the founding of Kol HanesHEMA, a Reform or progressive synagogue in Jerusalem. She served on the Jerusalem City Council from 1988-2002, representing the Civil Rights and Peace Movement.

The Hyacinthe and Harold Hoffman Memorial Lecture is sponsored by the family of the late Hyacinthe and Harold E. Hoffman, former members of TBE and the Stamford community who were dedicated to many civic and Jewish causes. For more than a quarter of a century, the event has brought to Fairfield County speakers such as Elie Wiesel, Abba Eban, Thomas Friedman, Dennis Ross, Michael Oren and last year's speaker, Ari Shavit.

As with all Hoffman Memorial Lectures, the public is invited to attend without charge. The lecture will be followed by a question-and-answer period and reception.

**CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES**

October 23.....	5:44 pm
October 30.....	5:35 pm
November 6.....	4:26 pm
November 13.....	4:19 pm
November 20.....	4:14 pm
November 27.....	4:10 pm
December 4.....	4:08 pm
December 11.....	4:08 pm
December 18.....	4:09 pm
December 25.....	4:13 pm

**Fairfield University**  
The Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies  
**SPECIAL LECTURES AND PROGRAMS: FALL 2015**

<b>DANIEL PEARL</b> WORLD MUSIC DAYS CONCERT Galeet Dardashti and Divahn Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts	<b>"Making America Harmonious: The Jewish Contribution to Popular Music"</b> Dr. Stephen J. Whitfield Monday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. Doan School of Business Dining Room	<b>JACOBY-LUNIN HUMANITARIAN LECTURE</b> "Donors Choose: Expanding the Possibilities of Education" Charles Best Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 8:00 p.m. Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts	<b>ADOLPH AND RUTH SCHUMACHER LECTURE IN JUDAIC STUDIES</b> "Germans Who Stood Up to Hitler: The Resistance Movements of Nazi Germany" Anne Nelson Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Doan School of Business Dining Room
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All events are complimentary with the exception of the Jacoby-Lunin Humanitarian Lecture. Email [bennettcenter@fairfield.edu](mailto:bennettcenter@fairfield.edu) or call (203) 254-4000, ext. 2066 to reserve a seat for free events. More info at [fairfield.edu/bennett](http://fairfield.edu/bennett)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**UJF Cardozo Law Society**  
An Evening of Schmoozing, Networking & Learning

**Speaker:**  
**Rabbi Daniel Cohen**  
of Congregation Agudath Sholom

**Topic:**  
Courageous Choices: Signals and Strategies for Ethical Living in a Morally Subjective World

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**RSVP: [www.ujf.org/CardozoNov3](http://www.ujf.org/CardozoNov3)**

The Cardozo Society is a law affinity group providing educational, leadership and networking opportunities with the objective of benefiting both local and global Jewish communities.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Turns Out for JCC Maccabi Kickoff

BY LUISA VILADAS

Hundreds of families turned out in September for the Jewish Community Center's kickoff to the 2016 Stamford JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest. Volunteers were on hand to share information with potential host families, volunteers and participants, while everyone had the opportunity to enjoy Maccabi-themed games, activities and refreshments.

"We couldn't have been more pleased," said Jeanne Kriftcher, who is co-chairing the Stamford 2016 JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest with Michael Gold. "More than 150 athletes, artists, host families and volunteers expressed interest in joining us for this remarkable community project."

"We still have a way to go," Gold added, "but the community's enthusiasm is very exciting. Altogether it will take 1,000 volunteers and 450 host families to help us make this the best possible experience for

At right: Celebrating the kickoff to the 2016 JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest (l-r): JCC CEO Eric Koehler, JCC President Jeff Goldblum, CT state Senator Carlo Leone, JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest Co-chairs Jeannie Kriftcher and Michael Gold, Stamford Mayor David Martin, and JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest Director Rachel Rothman.



the kids who participate."

More than 1,000 Jewish teens from the U.S., Canada, South America, Europe and Israel will travel to Stamford next summer. The JCC Maccabi Games

are an Olympic-style athletic event with competition in 10 different sports. JCC Maccabi ArtsFest is a week-long arts experience for Jewish teens, featuring workshops led by artists in the fields of dance, acting/improv, culinary arts, musical theater, vocal music ("Glee"), rock band, visual arts and reporting. Stamford will be the only city to host ArtsFest next summer. The local delegation team of athletes and artists is expected to number 300.

See "Maccabi" on page 4

UJF Plans Fall Affinity Group Events

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

In the last year, United Jewish Federation has introduced three affinity groups to the Greater Stamford community. Based on the success and positive feedback of the initial events, UJF has planned additional networking events this fall for all three professional groups, the Cardozo, the Maimonides and the Rothschild societies. Two events are planned for the coming year for each affinity group.

"It is our goal to bring quality speakers and programming to our professional community while providing both leadership and networking opportunities with the objective to benefit both the local and global Jewish communities," says James Cohen, CEO of United Jewish Federation. Each program will start with a cocktail hour followed by a program.

UJF's Cardozo law society will hold its next event on Tuesday, November 3, at 6:45 pm, featuring Rabbi Daniel Cohen of Agudath Sholom. During the program titled "Courageous Choices: Signals and Strategies for Ethical Living in a Morally Subjective World," Rabbi Cohen will explore recent cases of financial fraud, discuss the moral underpinnings of the cases, and identify strategies for financial and value-based success. Resources will be drawn from ancient Jewish wisdom as well as modern scholarship. The event will be held at the law office of Shipman and Goodwin in Stamford, and 1 CLE credit in ethics will be provided. Chairs of the event are Robert Hoff and Michael Wirgin, with Julie Daniel and Shari Goodstein as committee members. To RSVP, go to [UJF.org/CardozoNov3](http://UJF.org/CardozoNov3).

The Maimonides Society, a networking group for medical and health professionals, will hold a panel discussion on Tuesday, November 17, at 7 pm, titled "Wellness Beyond Borders: A Panel Discussion about Medical and Dental Field Hospitals." Ilan Fogel, M.D., M.B.A., will share his experiences as a Pfizer Global Health Fellow in Africa, working to prevent the transmission of HIV from pregnant mothers to their newborns. Al Helfer, D.D.S., will speak about his experiences as a volunteer for DVI, Dentist Volunteers for Israel. Helfer, who is president of the non-profit,

says DVI treats children in need in Israel regardless of their religion and race. Liran Raz, M.D., will focus on his time as a medic for the Israeli Defense Forces, working in a Rwandan field hospital treating victims during the genocide. The event will take place at the Tully Center in Stamford. Maimonides Society chairs are Dr. Shara Israel and Dr. Marc Silver. To RSVP, go to [UJF.org/MaimonidesNov17](http://UJF.org/MaimonidesNov17).

The Rothschild business society will hold its third event on Wednesday, December 2. Based on the success of last spring's program, which featured Neal Hoffman, inventor of Mensch on a Bench, UJF will offer new strategies and stories from professionals in the business world. Details of the program will be forthcoming.

For more information about these UJF programs, contact Sharon Franklin at [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org) or call 201-321-1373, ext. 109.



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# Poet Andrew Lustig to Perform at Tapestry

Spoken word poet Andrew Lustig will be a presenter at UJF's Tapestry event on Saturday, November 21. Lustig, 25, of Long Island, NY, came to public attention in early 2014 when his poem "I am Jewish" went viral on social media, including YouTube.



Andrew Lustig

The poem was written while applying to year abroad programs dealing with social justice and traditional learning in Israel. All the essays for the applications got him thinking about his Jewish identity – "not something to take lightly" – and made him realize he wanted to understand it "more deeply than gefilte fish and dancing on Shabbat."

## Tapestry

For the first time, Tapestry will include two workshops for teens. A representative of The David Project will discuss the challenges and opportunities of campus attitudes toward Israel. In the second session, Miri Kornfeld, the high school program director of StandWithUs, will help students develop skills to be a positive voice for Israel. Although these workshops are specifically designed for teens, high school students with a valid ID can choose to go to any two workshops for only \$5 through a new program called High 5.

Grandparents can attend a workshop on how to be "a great Jewish grandparent" to interfaith grandchildren. Barbara and Joel Levitt of The Grandparents Circle run an eight-session course, but in this workshop they will give participants a short course on how to be a positive influence without alienating your non-Jewish son- or daughter-in-law.

Women in the cantorate, in Talmud and Tanach will also be featured. Rabbi Ita Paskind, the new rabbi

Besides performing publicly, Lustig teaches workshops for children and teens all over the U.S., which are designed to encourage students to reflect on and take ownership over their Judaism.

Lustig will hold a writing workshop in the first session open to all Tapestry participants. During the second session, Café Tapestry, Lustig will give an exclusive performance for UJF's Young Leadership Division. YLDers will enjoy food and drinks as part of the café experience.

Admission to Café Tapestry is included in the cost of Tapestry general admission (\$25 in

at Congregation Beth El in Norwalk, will shine a light on one of the Talmud's women, Beruriah, the wife of Rabbi Meir. Cantor Micah Morgovsky will explore the complex story of women's voices in the cantorate, and educator Michal Smart will delve into the Book of Ruth for lessons about kindness.

Tapestry will begin with a communal *Havdalah*, led by Cantor Micah Morgovsky (Temple Sinai) and Cantor Magda Fishman (Temple Beth El), and will conclude with a dessert reception and time for everyone to share experiences. See the back page for more details.

Tapestry, a Community Celebration of Adult Jewish Learning, is a program of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, in partnership with the Stamford Jewish Community Center. General admission is \$25 in advance and \$36 at the door.

advance, \$36 at the door). Admission to the 8:30 pm Café Tapestry only is \$18 for YLD members.

For more information about Tapestry, contact Cantor Marcia Lane at [Marcia@ujf.org](mailto:Marcia@ujf.org). For more information about Café Tapestry, contact Sharon Franklin at [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org).

## Maccabi . . . . Continued from page 3

This is the second time that the Stamford JCC has been selected to host the JCC Maccabi Games. The first time, in 2006, was considered a rousing success and brought Jewish culture and enthusiasm to Stamford.

"After a decade, we are delighted that the Stamford JCC has been selected to host JCC Maccabi again in August of 2016," said Jonathan Fass, director of JCC Maccabi for the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America. "The strength, growth and passion for community engagement that the Stamford JCC has shown over the past decade makes it an ideal host. This summer, teen athletes will be joined by artists in the JCC Maccabi ArtsFest program. By hosting these programs together, the Stamford JCC is a partner in hosting the world's largest summer program for Jewish teens."

"The JCC movement creates connections to Jewish life in all its different forms and experiences," said Gold. "For so many teens, the journey to connect to their heritage, homeland and Jewish future begins with JCC Maccabi."

"After seeing how the Games and ArtsFest have been life-changing experiences for hundreds of young people from Stamford," Krifcher concluded, "we are honored to host a new generation of Jewish teens from around the country and around the world."

For more information about participating, volunteering, coaching or serving as a host family for the 2016 Stamford JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest, contact Games and ArtsFest Director Rachel Rothman at 203-487-0949 or [rrothman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:rrothman@stamfordjcc.org).

The Jewish Community Center is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

## Relatives . . . Continued from page 1

Felder is a licensed psychologist in West Los Angeles. He has written 12 books on Jewish spirituality and personal growth that have sold more than one million copies and have been translated into 14 languages. His newest book is titled "Here I Am: Using Jewish Spiritual Wisdom to Become More Present, Centered, and Available for Life."

He has appeared on more than 200 radio and television programs, including "Oprah," "The Today Show," CNN, "The CBS Early Show," "NBC Nightly News," National Public Radio, Canada AM and BBC London.

Felder's books have also received numerous national awards, including the "985 Non-fiction Book of the Year Award" from Medical Self-Care Magazine, "Best Jewish Writing 2002" from Jossey-Bass, "2008 Nonfiction Book of the Year" from Body and Soul Magazine, and "2008 Best 5 Psychology Books" from The Books for a Better Life Foundation in New York.

"We are extremely fortunate to be able to secure someone as knowledgeable and respected as Leonard Felder," said Matt Greenberg, CEO of JFS. "He combines a captivating speaking style with a deep understanding of how families and individuals can overcome divisiveness. We look forward to seeing everyone at the lecture."

Prior to the community lecture at the Ferguson Library, a select group of JFS donors will be thanked at a Patrons' Reception with Felder. Anyone wishing to become a patron should contact Claudia Brenner, JFS donor relations coordinator, at 203-921-4161.

A book signing and dessert buffet will follow the lecture. Dinner and drinks will be served to a gathering of Jewish Twenties and Thirties in a private home in Stamford on Wednesday, November 4, at 7:30 pm. Those attending will have the opportunity to speak with Felder. For details and to RSVP, contact Leah Schechter at [LSchechter@ctjfs.org](mailto:LSchechter@ctjfs.org).

For more information about the lecture, the gathering for Jewish Twenties and Thirties, or to find out about the Patrons' Reception, contact Jewish Family Service at 203-921-4161, or visit [www.ctjfs.org](http://www.ctjfs.org). Follow it on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CTJFS](http://www.facebook.com/CTJFS). Jewish Family Service serves Greater Stamford, Greater Westport and Eastern Fairfield County.

Lynn Saltz is the JFS marketing communications coordinator.

Jewish Family Service is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

# JCC Center Women's Annual Gift Show

BY NANCY SCHULMAN

The Center Women of the Stamford Jewish Community Center will present its annual gift show on Thursday, November 19, from 5:30-9:30 pm, at the Stamford JCC.

"This is everyone's favorite shopping night out," said Co-chair Amy Davidson. "It's a great chance to sip some wine, have a nosh and shop with friends."

Vendors from past years will return, along with many new vendors offering gifts, hand-crafted jewelry, Judaica, clothing and more. As they did last year, Center Women hopes to offer tastings from local kosher caterers and restaurants. Attendees at last year's gift show enjoyed samples from Abel Caterers, Fairway Market, Joseph Craig Caterers, Main Event Caterers, Mike's Center Café and Navaratna. At the time this article went to press, Center Women was in the process of inviting these caterers, restaurants and others to showcase their food at the 2015 Gift Show. Interested caterers and restaurants can contact Center Women at [CenterWomen@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:CenterWomen@stamfordjcc.org).

Childcare will also be available, with the staff of the JCC's youth department offering pizza and a movie for children at a nominal fee.

The event raises funds for JumpStart, the JCC's therapeutic early-childhood classroom experience for 2-4-year-olds with special needs. The only program of its kind in the Greater Fairfield County area, JumpStart follows the pattern of a typical nursery school classroom, offering social and educational experiences in a group setting.

Each vendor's table fees will be donated directly to the JumpStart program. Co-chair Ellen Laichtman said, "We feel fortunate to be able to help this marvelous education program for children, and hope that all of Stamford will turn out to shop and support JumpStart."

Beth Baer is also serving as co-chair of this year's Gift Show for the second year.

The suggested admission for the event is \$5 and parking is free. The JCC is located at 1035 Newfield Ave., at the intersection of Vine Road. For more information, visit [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org) or

contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or [nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org). The Jewish Community Center is a

recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

# Local Forgotten Hero

## Remembering Varian Fry

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

Do you know someone who lived in Connecticut and who fits this category: he saved many people during the Holocaust; he is called the American Oskar Schindler; he was named Righteous Among the Nations by Israel; and he was a part-time teacher in New York City and Connecticut? The answer is Varian Fry.

Fry was an American journalist who ran a rescue network in France during the Holocaust. Using black-market funds, forged documents, secret mountain passages and sea routes to spirit endangered refugees to safety, Fry's efforts saved some 2,000 people. Although some people do know about him and his work, he remains a largely unrecognized "Righteous Gentile." The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, in partnership with the JCC Jewish Arts and Film Festival of Fairfield County, will host a program on Fry on Sunday, November 8, at 1 pm, for the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht. The program will be held at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Admission is free and all are welcome. Refreshments will be served at the beginning of the program.

Guest speaker Marion D. Percy, who has been active in promoting recognition of someone she calls "America's unsung hero," will present informa-

tion, along with a short film, about Fry and his rescue operation in France, beginning in 1940. Fry is responsible for rescuing many artists, writers, scholars and scientists who were living in France under the Nazis. Thanks to Fry, the following people were among those rescued: painter Marc Chagall, Nobel laureate and physiologist Otto Meyerhof, mathematician Jacques Hadamard, writers Hannah Arendt and Heinrich Mann, sculptor Jacques Lipchitz and artist Max Ernst. Fry also rescued the photographer Fred Stein, who took a well-known photo of Albert Einstein. The photographer's son, Peter Stein, an American cinematographer and recently retired cinematography professor in the graduate film program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, will also attend the talk to discuss Fry and his own father, Fred Stein.

Those with questions about the program should contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148, [elissa@de-kaplan.com](mailto:elissa@de-kaplan.com), or Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or [nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org). For additional information, visit the JHS website at [jhsfc-ct.org](http://jhsfc-ct.org) or the Jewish Arts and Film Festival website at [www.jewishartsandfilm.org](http://www.jewishartsandfilm.org).

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation.

SAVE THE DATE!

Rothschild Society Event

Wednesday, December 2 at 7pm

The Rothschild Society is a Business Affinity Group providing educational, leadership and networking opportunities with the objective of benefitting both the local and global Jewish communities.

For more information for both events contact Sharon Franklin  
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**BITS AND PIECES**

BY SANDY GOLOVE  
To submit information to Bits and Pieces, call 321-1373, ext. 107, or e-mail me at sandy@ujf.org.



MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:  
**Cara and Ben Friedlander** on the birth of a son, Eli George Friedlander; grandparents are **Janie and Edward Friedlander**.

**Brooke and Daniel Gray** on the birth of a son, Noah Samuel Gray; grandfather is **Bob Gray**.

**Lior and Haim Helman** on the birth of twin sons.

**Nicole and Jack Jacob** on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Jodi and Richard Boxer**, and **Batya and Mike Jacob**.

**Rachel and Daniel Schilowitz** on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Shelley and Jeff Cooper**, and **Tobi and Alan Schilowitz**.

MAZEL TOV TO:  
**Liz and Bill Gilbert** on the engagement of their son, **Ben Gilbert**, to **Kendall Gladstone**.

**Judy and Howard Goldstein** on the engagement of their son, **Bradley Goldstein**, to **Avielle Movsas**, daughter of **Tammy and Benjamin Movsas**.

**Lizabeth and Paul Sachs** on the marriage of their daughter, **Monica Sachs**, to **Sean Breslin**.

**Karen and Larry Tobias** on the marriage of their daughter, **Erica Tobias**, to **George Brunner**.

UJF Tribute Cards are a wonderful way to connect with your family and friends and mark any occasion while supporting the extraordinary work of UJF. To send a tribute, go to [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org).

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:  
**Noah Dorfsman**, son of **Beth and Michael Dorfsman**.  
**Shoshana Epstein**, daughter of **Tova and Josh Epstein**; grandparents are **Deena and David Bessaleli**.

**Samantha Hass**, daughter of **Lauren and David Hass**; grandparents are **Peggy and Alan Kalter**, and **Carol and Allen Krim**.

**Douglas Herman**, son of **Jacqueline and David Herman**.  
**Nathaniel Herman**, son of **Jacqueline and David Herman**.

**Talia Kunin**, daughter of **Susan and Len Kunin**.

**Naomi Listokin**, daughter of **Elissa Stein and Ted Listokin**; grandparents are **Sissy and Gary Stein**.

**Andrew Patashnik**, son of **Dayna and David Patashnik**.

**Ita Bracha Shapiro**, daughter of **Esti and Yitzi Shapiro**; grandparents are **Lillian and Sandy Shapiro**.

CONDOLENCES TO:  
**Marc Becker** on the loss of his brother, **David Becker**.

**Ellen Carter and Robin Champion**, **Rachel Seligson**, **Ruth Stringer** and **Rosalind Wertheim** on the loss of her husband and their father, **Mark Carter**.

**Sharla Davis and Felice Grein** on the loss of their mother, **Deborah Kahan**.

**Irene Meltzer**, **David Meltzer**, **Doug Meltzer** and **Deidre Meltzer Goldberg** on the loss of her husband and their father, **Henry Meltzer**.

**Mitch Pomerance** on the loss of his mother, **Annabelle Pomerance**.

**Danny Prince**, **Jimmy Prince** and **Melissa Prince Quisenberry** on the loss of their mother, **Phyllis Prince**.

**Barbara Shanen** on the loss of her husband, **Allen Shanen**.

**Dorothy Zelinsky Jaiven** on the loss of her sister, **Charlotte Zelinsky Rubenstein**.

**JEEP\* TRACKS: MUSINGS ON EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT Talking to Schwartz**

BY CANTOR MARCIA LANE



There's an old joke:

A guy goes to visit his elderly father and the father insists on going to Shabbat services. So the son goes along and it seems that everyone greets his dad. After the service, it seems everyone knows his dad and everyone mentions that he comes every Shabbat. "Dad," the son says later, "I'm so impressed with how pious you are! You come every week to talk with God." "Pious?" the father replies. "Not me! Schwartz comes to talk to God. I come to talk to Schwartz!"

I was thinking about the genius of Shabbat. (Maybe it's because we're deep into preparations for Shabbat Across Stamford! More about that later.) The institution of Shabbat serves so many purposes. If you want to meditate, you can close your eyes and just breathe. No one will bother you. Find your *makom kavu'ah* (your appointed place) and just be there. If you want to have the company of other people, you can wander in and out, chat with your neighbor when the Torah is going around, or schmooze at the dessert or at the luncheon. Be social or be solitary; either is fine.

If you like to sing, you don't have to

worry whether you have a good voice or not. No one will tell you to stop. If you have a great voice, belt it out! If you have a lousy voice, you can belt that out, too! If you want your Judaism to be intellectually challenging, you can engage with the sermon or *D'var Torah*, or with the Torah reading. If you want poetry, you can read the psalms.

When you are part of a real community there's an additional benefit: people will notice when you aren't there. Being part of a community, whether at a Tapestry class or at a Chapter 2 event,

can foster good health. The companionship grows your circle of friends. *klal Yisrael*—the people Israel—is strengthened by you and you by them.

It seems counter-intuitive, but showing up week after week makes you part of a non-homogenous community—different ages, different interests, different levels of knowledge or observance. But every time you show up, you imprint your own unique self on the group. You alter the congregation by your presence.

And, like another old joke says, "It couldn't hurt!"

*JEEP\** = Jewish Education and Engagement Project of United Jewish Federation

Cantor Marcia Lane is UJF's director of education and engagement.

**KLEI KODESH**

**A MONTHLY COLUMN FROM OUR CLERGY Supporting the Choice to Make Aliyah**

BY RABBI DAVID ISRAEL



Rabbi David Israel

A dear childhood friend blogging about his impending *aliyah* told of his recent encounter with a (typical) talkative Israeli cab driver who, when hearing of my friend's plans, not so subtly shared his opinion: "Are you crazy?!" The image of the garrulous and candid Israeli taxi driver was very familiar and brought a smile to my face. The cabbie's reaction, however, startled me. In reflecting back on my first trips to Israel, I remember a very different response. Back then, the taxi drivers used to press me and my friends, "When are you coming to live here?"

Today, ongoing struggles with the Palestinians, the uncertainty of the Arab spring (and subsequent winter), the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran, tensions between the religious and non-religious, and a host of other domestic and political problems cloud the clarity with which we once embraced the miracle of the state of Israel. And so goes today's shift in the philosophical discussions between Israel's visitors and its sage taxi drivers.

Our daughter made *aliyah* two years ago and entered the Israel Defense Forces, where she continues to serve. When she left for her gap year in Israel, the writing was literally "on the wall." Indeed, the day after her departure, I wandered into her empty room and, somewhat wistfully, looked around. There I noted the Israeli and B'nai Akiva flags prominently displayed. On her dresser was

a pastoral water coloring of Israel, in the middle of which was written the famous statement of Theodore Herzl, the visionary of the modern state of Israel, "If you will it, it is no dream." Had I never noticed that?

If you ask my daughter why she made *aliyah*, her answer will be clarion clear: "Israel is a modern day miracle. It is where the future of Jewish history will be written." She might even quote the famous opinion of Nachmanides (RamBan) that it is a mitzvah to live in Israel even when under foreign rule—how much more so when we have a sovereign Jewish state.

We are, of course, supportive of our daughter's choice. What are we supposed to do, tell her that all that stuff we said about our connection to Israel was only in theory? Yet, we are cautious when telling others. We are trying to avoid confronting the question asked by my friend's taxi driver: "Is she crazy?!" Worse yet, we might be asked, "How could you let her do that?!" And so, we openly share the information with our friends and like-minded individuals; others receive a more "round-about" answer.

We recognize how hard life in Israel can be and how much we will miss our daughter. We worry about her life in the IDF and the shifting geo-political scene around her. We also know that with all Israel's problems, Israel is a modern-day miracle filled with opportunities for spirituality, family-oriented lifestyle, creativity and entrepreneurship.

Is my daughter crazy? No, just idealistic.

Are we crazy? No. We are very proud.

Rabbi David Israel is the rabbinic dean of Bi-Cultural Day School.

**Interactive Workshop on Improving Family Relationships CAS Scholars-in-Residence**

BY MICHAEL FELDSTEIN

Rabbi Tsvi Blanchard, an Orthodox rabbi, psychologist and a senior associate at CLAL (the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership), and his wife Naomi Mark, a psychotherapist on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, will conduct a series of workshops and presentations on improving family relationships on Shabbat weekend, November 6-7, at Congregation Agudath Sholom.



Rabbi Tsvi Blanchard



Naomi Mark

On Friday night, November 6, the congregation will host a traditional Shabbat dinner at the synagogue at 6 pm, after which Rabbi Blanchard and Mark will moderate an interactive workshop, "The Ten Commandments of Good Communication." Reservations are required.

On Shabbat morning, Rabbi Blanchard will give the sermon during morning services upstairs in the main sanctuary, "The Story Behind the Story—How Rabbinic Midrash Tells Us What the Torah Text Does Not." Services will begin early at 8:45 am.

Following *kiddush*, the synagogue will host a lunch at 12:15 pm (reservations also required), at which Rabbi Blanchard and Mark will lead a second interactive session—a cooperative collaboration in which they will moderate a discussion on a positive approach to building deeper, stronger connections within family relationships.

Finally, Rabbi Blanchard will conclude the weekend with a short *d'var Torah* at *shalosh seudot* following *Mincha* at 4:15 pm.

An ordained Orthodox rabbi, Rabbi Blanchard holds a Ph.D. in psychology and philosophy, and was the director of the Ida Crown Jewish Academy in Chicago. He has taught at Washington, Northwestern and

Loyola universities, as well as at the Drisha Institute for Women, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Wexner Heritage Foundation. Mark is a psychotherapist in private practice, where she specializes in work with couples and families. She was trained at the Ackerman Institute for the Family and at Columbia University School of Social Work, where she also was an adjunct clinical professor of social work.

The weekend is being sponsored by Ron and Barbara Ashkenas, in memory of Barbara's parents, Edward and Evelyn Weinberger, of blessed memory.

"We are delighted to be able to sponsor a weekend focusing on family and relationships at our congregation," said Rabbi Daniel Cohen, spiritual leader of the synagogue. "Building stronger relationships and improving communication skills is a universal issue, and we are fortunate to have two experts share with us their wisdom and understanding on the subject."

For more information and/or to make a reservation for the meals, visit the synagogue's website at [www.agudathsholom.org](http://www.agudathsholom.org) or call the synagogue office at 203-358-2200.

► **Collecting Thanksgiving turkeys for those in need**

KinderPlace, the JCC's child care program at the JCC, will hold its annual JCC Turkey Drive on Sunday, November 22, from 8-11 am. Everyone in the community is asked to share Thanksgiving cheer with those who otherwise would go without by donating a turkey and fixings, which will be distributed by the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County.

Food should be dropped off at the JCC on No-

**"Happily Ever After"**

**Cantor's Concert at Temple Sinai**

The entire community is invited to take a musical journey to "Happily Ever After" during Temple Sinai's annual Cantor's Concert on Sunday, December 6, at 4 pm. Micah Morgovsky, cantor at Temple Sinai, will perform favorites from Broadway shows, Gilbert and Sullivan, Disney and more in a program designed to appeal to people of all ages. In celebration of the first night of Chanukah, those attending will light the *chanukiah* together and enjoy holiday refreshments.



Cantor Micah Morgovsky

Tickets are available in advance at Temple Sinai or at the door; the suggested donation is \$36/adult and \$18/child under age 12. Sponsors donating \$180, \$360, \$500 and \$1,000-plus will receive added benefits and recognition. All proceeds from the concert will support music programming at Temple Sinai.

The concert will be held in Temple Sinai's social hall at 458 Lakeside Dr., Stamford. For more information, call Temple Sinai at 203-322-1649.

November 22 before 11 am. Gift cards to area supermarkets can be dropped off any time. The JCC is located at 1035 Newfield Ave., at the intersection of Vine Road.

For more information, contact Liz Gebert at 203-487-0968 or [lgeb@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:lgeb@stamfordjcc.org).

The Jewish Community Center is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

**Future Philanthropist**

Dr Sam Maryles poses with his daughter and new baby girl - Stamford's newest future philanthropist!

Shalom Baby is a UJF program providing families with new babies a welcome gift bag and a visit. For more information, contact Sharon Franklin at [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org) or 203-321-5364.

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TEEN TALK

# FROM THE CONNECTICUT REGION OF BBYO BBYO Teens “Stand UP” for a Cause

BY TYLER PEPE

It is early in the school year, but Jewish teens leading their local BBYO chapters across the state of Connecticut are already accomplishing so much. To end the summer, 250 Jewish teenagers from all over the Northeast came together to plan the year that lay ahead and set goals at B'yachad – a training retreat for BBYO members to prepare to make a great impact in their community in the year to come.

This year BBYO, which is a worldwide movement for Jewish teens, is setting the platform to make positive contributions in Connecticut's Jewish communities. The BBYO program focus is on community service, Israel advocacy, peer leadership and creating meaningful experiences for as many Jewish teens as possible. This year, BBYO is increasing the focus on community service by implementing year-long service projects, as well as a dedicated community service month.

This year, in the Connecticut Valley Region of BBYO chapters are choosing a cause to advocate for and spread awareness around, called a “Stand UP” cause, that they are aligning with and committing to for the year. Each chapter will spend the year creating fun,



There was standing room only for Leviticus AZA's first meeting of the year at the Stamford Jewish Community Center.

social program experiences that will also be influenced by these Stand UP causes. The causes will be officially announced by each chapter at the BBYO CVR 2015 Fall Convention, a spirited retreat in November where chapters come together to celebrate each other's success, compete for bragging rights and give back to the community.

The official end of BBYO CVR 2015 Fall Convention will mark the official beginning of BBYO CVR's dedicated Stand UP month. Though chapters participate in community service projects all year, the last two weeks in November and first two weeks in December will be chock full of Jewish teens in Connecticut making lasting impacts on our own communities. Here's to our teens – off to a great start and looking ahead to an even better finish!

In Stamford, the Leviticus AZA (boys) and Tikvah BBG (girls) chapters are comprised of more than 150 local Jewish

teens. The chapters take part in peer-led programs that include education, social, athletic and community service elements. The chapters meet every other Monday night at the Stamford JCC and are open to all Jewish teens in eighth-12th grades. For more information on BBYO, contact Josh Cohen, area field director, at J.Cohen@bbyo.org.

For more information about BBYO chapters, contact Tyler Pepe at tpepe@bbyo.org.

BBYO is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

## YOUNG VOICES Friendship Circle is Off to a Great Start

BY CHARLOTTE KRIFTCHER

Volunteers at the Friendship Circle are ready to kick off an awesome year. On October 20, a group of nearly 100 high school volunteers gathered at Chelsea Piers for an amazing kickoff event including inspiring speakers, moving videos, yummy Chinese food and fun activities. Teen volunteer Daniel Silverstein summed up the participants' attitudes in four words: “How can I help?” Everyone involved was eager to make this a remarkable year for the Friendship Circle. With countless events and volunteer opportunities, there is a role for everyone in the organization that matches teens with individuals who have special needs.

Jamie Krug, a mother of two kids who have been touched by the help of Friendship Circle, came in to speak to the volunteers, offering them touching words and advice for the future. The teenagers who volunteer with her two children were also present and both parties remarked about “how rewarding this organization has been for them.” Jamie expressed how the Friendship Circle has been such a positive asset to her family. She shared the joy of the moment when her son was able to call his volunteers by their name and how their visits are truly a highlight of her family's week.

There were also a number of Friendship Circle representatives there who were visibly impressed with the teens'



L-r: Simone Nachman and Leah Voytovich, two volunteers, participated in the fun.

enthusiasm and positive energy, all of whom couldn't wait to volunteer with the organization this year. One of them, Chanie Kamman, shared some of the group's hopes for this coming year. They are “really excited for a wonderful year ahead and feel the energetic spirit of the awesome group of volunteers.” Everyone who got to enjoy Sunday night's activities agrees that they are confident that, together, the Friendship Circle team will make a strong impact in our community.

For more information, or to sign up as a volunteer, visit FriendshipCT.com, e-mail Malya@FriendshipCT.com, or call 203-329-0015, ext. 131.

Charlotte Kriftcher is a Friendship Circle volunteer and an 11th-grader at Westhill High School.

Friendship Circle is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.



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TEEN TALK

# Third Place Goldman Memorial Essay Contest Winner

Jenna Plotzky was the third-place winner of the 12th annual Rabbi Alex Goldman Memorial Essay Contest for high school students this past June.

The contest assignment was to write an essay, based on the student's Jewish experience, that completes the sentence “I never thought I would...” and discuss

how the experience has affected the student's Jewishness. Plotzky graduated from Westhill High School in June and is now a college freshman at Bentley

University in Boston, MA. Below is her essay. (First and second place essays were printed in previous issues of The New Jewish Voice.)

## My Jewish Experience

BY JENNA PLOTZKY – THIRD PLACE WINNER

Once upon a time, there was the classic Disney animated film, “Cinderella,” about a girl who was forced to work for her evil stepmother and stepsisters. It is only when her fairy godmother comes along and works her magic, does Cinderella find true love and leave her evil stepfamily behind. However, this year, Disney chose to change their tune and created a live-action version of the classic fairytale, Cinderella. In this new film, we see Cinderella not as a fairy tale or a story of how a young girl falls in love with a prince, but of how an underdog uses her courage to go after what she wants despite life's challenges; a story about an empowering, brave, and smart girl whose potential is exponential.

“Have courage and be kind,” is the motto of the new and improved Cinderella. Despite her immense suffering, she has the courage to stand up, and teach others to stand up, for what they believe in. While imprisoned by her stepmother she values forgiveness, kindness, and always holds her head up high.

Just like the classic Cinderella, I felt forced by society to try to fit in and pretend to be someone I'm not. I was blinded and chose to push religion away, treating it as more of a chore than a privilege. However, just like the new Cinderella movie, I too was renewed and empowered; only my renewal happened a few years ago.

At the beginning of seventh grade, I became a victim of anti-Semitism. A large swastika was given to me as my secret Santa holiday gift. It was my first and last secret Santa, not just because of the incident, or that fact that I am Jewish, but because in that moment I realized that the only person I needed to be was myself. I had only signed up for the gift swap because I had this preconceived notion that I had to mirror my friend's actions if I wanted them to continue being my friends. I finally realized just how important my Jewish identity was to me and how special it is.



Jenna Plotzky

This defining moment in my life has brought clarity to my dreams and goals. It is the reason I am no longer afraid to excel in my studies, or to be the only girl brave enough to speak her mind. But most importantly, it is the reason I have courage and a strong Jewish identity today. I have roots all over Stamford in various Jewish programs and schools, and I am fighting for other teens to find the courage to step outside of society's restrictions and explore what their Judaism means to them. Society is so caught up in fighting and wanting, that we never stop to

appreciate what we already have. In a world filled with hate, prejudice, and bigotry, it is crucial that people are reminded of Cinderella's, and Judaism's, important words of wisdom on courage, kindness, and appreciation.

Fairy tales aren't just meant to evoke dreams and wishes, they are to explore the possibilities, activate our individual and collective agencies, and create identities. Cinderella's message to have courage and be kind is what I associate with Judaism. Being Jewish to me is having courage and being kind. I never thought I would appreciate (or even have) a Jewish identity and I am eternally grateful to have the opportunity for Judaism to be part of my life.

## Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps Teens in Charge of Giving

BY CANTOR MARCIA LANE

September marked the beginning of a new teen philanthropy project. The Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps was begun in 2009 with a grant from the Louis J. Kuriansky Family Foundation. The purpose was to educate the next generation of philanthropists by giving them the tools to apply Jewish values to the act of giving. For the past four seasons, 10th grade teens have learned

together about Jewish concepts of tzedakah, chesed and tikkun olam (giving, kindness, repairing the world), and have applied those principles to charitable giving. Last year, the KITC gave out a total of \$3,000 in grants to the Friendship Circle and to 3 Square (a program to provide food support to needy children).

This year, the redesigned KITC has a cadre of more than a dozen teens in

ninth, 10th and 11th grades. They will meet 10 times during the year, and they will be doing the work of fund-raising and allocating for both Jewish and non-Jewish local organizations. The process of deciding on a mission statement, defining grant-making parameters, raising funds and reviewing grant proposals will take the group through the entire cycle of a not-for-profit board. The Kuriansky

See “Teen” on page 11

## Looking for a Mitzvah Project? partner with 3 SQUARE

Approximately one out of every five children in Connecticut is either hungry or food insecure. Many of these children are chronically hungry and are not getting enough food outside of the free meal programs in their school. Women's Philanthropy of United Jewish Federation has established 3 SQUARE to improve the lives of these hungry children. 3 SQUARE provides “in need” children with a bag of food to sustain them through the weekend.

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For more information contact  
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# YLD Gets a Kick Out of Thursdays

Based on the success of the YLD (Young Leadership Division) Dodge Ball tournament event last July, at-



Allie Zur and Arielle Krause stood by to play at the premier kickball game held on September 10.

tendees asked to form a kickball team. United Jewish Federation quickly acted on the request and the YLD Kickball Team was formed. Games are played through the Stamford City Recreation Department and are open to anyone in the Stamford community.

If interested in joining the spring 2016 team, contact Sharon Franklin at 201-321-1373, ext. 109, or at Sharon@ujf.org.

At right: Team members (l-r) Courtney Blahosky, Alex Vaidyan, Allie Zur, Spencer Ginsberg, Morae Christian, Jason Thrope and Loren Steinfeld. Not pictured are Arielle Krause (captain), Andy Rosen (captain), Isabella Archibald and Stacey Hunter.



## Deal

use of force" against Iran. Likewise, he is urging the United States to provide Israel with the military aircraft needed to "take out" Iranian installations built into mountainsides. "No one doubts that Israel will use force if Iran dashes toward a nuclear weapon," noted Ross, implying that supplying Israel with such capability would force Tehran to think twice before making serious violations of the agreement.

Ross then turned his attention to the status of U.S.-Israel relations, commenting that there have often been times when the U.S. president and the Israeli prime minister did not have a warm relationship. And yet, disagreements have always been followed by periods of continued cooperation - Ross cited President George H.W. Bush's work to have China recognize Israel after his contentious disagreement with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir over loan guarantees, and President Jimmy Carter's push toward

Camp David, and massive military aid to Israel, after his disagreement with Prime Minister Menachem Begin over the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia.

"Dennis Ross' presentation was the most thorough, engaging and balanced discussion on Iran that I have heard to date," said UJF Vice President Ricky Arbron upon leaving the auditorium. "He was able to explain complex components of the agreement in a way the layman could understand. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

UJF CEO James Cohen remarked that "Bringing Ambassador Ross to the community is part of UJF's continuing effort to help educate its constituents on the most important issues facing Israel and the greater Jewish community. From President Obama to Prime Minister Netanyahu to the Israeli deputy consul general, UJF has provided numerous opportunities for Stamford citizens to hear from opinion leaders on this critical



Pictured with Ambassador Dennis Ross (center) were (l-r) James A. Cohen, UJF CEO; Peter Lilienthal, UJF board president of the Jewish Education and Engagement Program; James Schreiber, Greenwich community member and event sponsor; and Pam Ehrenkrantz, CEO of UJA Greenwich.

subject. I am so glad we were able to co-sponsor this event with our colleagues in Greenwich."

JBS (Jewish Broadcasting Service) recorded the event. Broadcast details will be provided when available.

Continued from page 1

# Chabad Kids Club Aids JFS Food Pantry



On September 20, children from Chabad Kids Club, in conjunction with Jewish Family Service, met outside of Stop and Shop in Stamford to help collect food for the JFS Kosher Food Pantry and Holiday Food Drive. Back row (l-r): Nate Sigman, Isabel Sigman, Jacob Sigman, Leah Shemtov, Claudia Brenner (JFS development director) and Rebecca Sigman. Front row (l-r): Levi Shemtov, Shayna Shemtov, Rivka Shemtov, Gavriel Shemtov and Shternie Shemtov.

## Teen

Foundation has agreed to match 3-to-1 all funds raised by the teens.

The KTTC is one of more than 100 Jewish teen philanthropies in the United States and Canada, and together these groups have given a total of almost \$1 million. They gave in the areas of youth and education, but they also allocated funds toward alleviating poverty, homelessness and chronic illness. In an article in eJewishPhilanthropy.com, Stefanie Zelkind, director of the Jewish Teen Funders Network, speculates that teen philanthropists are more focused than their adult counterparts. "By participating in values clarification exercises, teens identify the values that matter most to them - first as individuals, and then as a group. This is, in and of itself, a meaningful activity and opportunity for self-reflection, self-awareness, and

learning. Pairing these top values with the impact area(s) they'd like to focus on, teens then craft a mission statement for their foundation."

Zelkind notes that the creation of a mission statement is a teen board's first collective decision. It sets the stage for consensus-building in future decisions. It's not an easy task to come to consensus, but it's considered essential for effective foundations. In addition, the building of group dedication to a shared value is one that can carry over into adult philanthropies and other adult activities. The KTTC intends to be a model for growth and development of the individuals, and also for the next generation of Jewish philanthropists.

For more information about the KTTC, contact Cantor Marcia Lane at Marcia@ujf.org.

# Friday Night Live!

BY TALY FARBER

Chabad Stamford is launching a new program called Friday Night Live. Having started on October 9, and continuing once a month, Friday Night Live will be held on 10 Friday nights throughout the year, providing a Shabbat experience for families, singles and couples of all ages.

Each Friday Night Live will entail a *Kabbalat Shabbat*, or welcoming of Shabbat, with songs; a children's program with entertainment, service and snacks. There will also be a themed *kiddush* - upcoming themes include Fruit and Absolut on November 13, from 5:30-7 pm, and Latkes, Babkes and Beer on December 11, from 4:30-6 pm, with a menorah lighting.

"These Friday nights are being held in honor of the *hakhel* year," says Rabbi Moshe Shemtov.

The *hakhel* year is a year to promote Jewish unity through gathering and learning. In ancient Israel, every seventh

year was a *shemita* or sabbatical year. For an entire year, the nation's economy came to a standstill while everyone studied and focused on spiritual, rather than physical, needs. "At the onset of the eighth year (the first in the new seven-year cycle), the nation would be ready to head back to work, but first, on the second day of Sukkot, everyone would gather in the Holy Temple for a dose of inspiration to tide them over for the next six years of work and business," notes Leah Shemtov. The gathering was known as *hakhel* and became the basis of the *hakhel* year.

In modern times, the Lubavitcher rebbe encouraged these assemblies on or around Sukkot, as a time to promote Jewish unity and gatherings. In this vein, Chabad Stamford extends the invitation to everyone to attend Friday Night Live. There is no charge for the event; sponsorship is available.

For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org.

## JHSC Open House

The Jewish High School of Connecticut will hold its Open House on Sunday, November 1, from 1:30-4 pm, at the Stamford Technology Center, 1937 West Main St., Stamford. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sarah Rich at srich@jhsct.org or 203-357-0850.

The Jewish High School of Connecticut is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.



## Temple Sholom

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Registration for 2016-2017 is Now Open!

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For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact  
Phyllis Lyons at 203-622-8121 or phyllis.lyons@templeholom.com.



For information about any of these JEEP programs, contact Marcia Lane: (203) 653-2668 or email Marcia@ujf.org.

## Save the Date

Join the Young Leadership Division for:

# CHAI SOCIETY

## DECEMBER 12, 2015

6:30 - 8:00 PM  
Chairs: Seth Tobin & Peter Wolly

Food, Drinks and a Meet & Greet with *TV personality Joshua Malina (Scandal, West Wing, Sports Night)*

Attendees of Chai Society are members of the Young Leadership Division who are committed to a minimum tax deductible contribution of \$180 per household to the 2015 Better Together UJF Campaign.

For more information, contact Rebekah Raz at 203.321.1373 x102 or Rebekah@ujf.org



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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

The Young Leadership Division presents:


## CAFÉ TAPESTRY

Featuring Andrew Lustig

Slam Poet and YouTube sensation


November 21, 2015 at 8:30pm


at the Stamford JCC  
1035 Newfield Avenue  
Shuttle parking available




\$18 for just Café Tapestry or \$25 for the entire Tapestry event at 6:30pm.

For more information or to RSVP to Café Tapestry contact Sharon Franklin [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org)/203-321-5364 or go to [www.ujf.org/tapestry2015](http://www.ujf.org/tapestry2015)





## Maimonides Society Event



**"Wellness Beyond Borders"**

A panel discussion about Medical & Dental Hospitals

Featuring Dr. Ilan Fogel, MD, MBA,  
Dr. Allen Helfer, DDS and  
Dr. Liran Raz, MD

Food, Drinks & Schmooze

Tuesday, November 17, 2015  
7pm at Tully Health Center  
32 Strawberry Hill Court, Stamford

Maimonides Society Chairs:  
Dr. Shara Israel and Dr. Marc Silver

To RSVP: Sharon Franklin at (203) 321-1373 x109 or [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org)  
Register: [www.ujf.org/maimonidesnov15](http://www.ujf.org/maimonidesnov15)

Dietary law observed

The Maimonides Society is a medical affinity group providing educational, leadership and networking opportunities with the objective of benefitting both the local and global Jewish communities.



A French family makes aliyah to Israel with the support of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). Every year, JAFI helps relocate over 26,000 Jewish immigrants looking for a better life.



Shabbat in Israel.



Many critical programs improve the daily lives of Ethiopian-Israelis in UJF-supported Afula/Gilboa.

## Federations Helped Build Israel. Now We Help Keep Her Strong.

For more than six decades, we've helped strengthen the State of Israel. And our commitment continues today. Unwavering.

At United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (UJF) we are dedicated to ensuring that all of Israel's citizens have equal access to educational and economic opportunities. And the Federation system works tirelessly to deepen connections between the Jewish state and the global Jewish community. Despite Israel's economic success, one in five Israeli families lives in poverty. UJF provides a safety net for the most vulnerable, and we advocate for those in distress.

Your Federation donations help fund the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), an organization that connects the global Jewish family, bringing Jews to Israel, and Israel to Jews, by providing meaningful engagement and facilitating aliyah. JAFI has helped millions of immigrants move to Israel and start new lives—26,000 in the past year, with a huge wave of Jews coming from France alone.

Thousands of elderly Israelis benefit from innovative services they receive right in their homes. Poor families know their children will have a brighter future thanks to our Federation-supported programs

such as World ORT's cutting-edge Kadima Mada program, bringing science and technology into the classrooms of the most underprivileged children. Job training programs tackle high unemployment among the one million Israelis with disabilities.

When Israel is threatened, we mobilize our networks at home and overseas to come immediately to her aid. The money we raise during times of crisis—like the \$55 million the Federation system allocated during and after the conflict in Israel in July 2014—helps keep Israelis safe during conflicts and funds post-trauma counseling for tens of thousands living on the front lines and beyond.

Federations have helped hundreds of thousands of young Jews forge a personal connection to Israel through programs like Taglit-Birthright Israel, and we've built strong relationships between our community and Afula/Gilboa, our sister city in the Partnership2Gether program. That global connection is fostered through immersive experiences for Jews in the greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien communities, such as our upcoming mission to Israel on March 31- April 7, 2016. We hope you will join us!

We stand by Israel's side. Always. Won't you help us?



**United Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

BETTER TOGETHER

UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION | WWW.UJF.ORG | (203)321-1373



This photo shows a Federation Solidarity mission to Israel. Participants are visiting victims of terror in Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon. We hope to see you on our mission to Israel March 31 - April 7, 2016!

# Bi-Cultural's Daycare Program Booming

BY DINA BERGER

Bi-Cultural Day School welcomed not only students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grades this school year, but also five infants and toddlers into its nursery daycare program. In a specially equipped and private wing of the

building, Bi-Cultural seeks to ensure the school workplace helps meet the childcare needs of its teachers with infants and small children.

Many parents discover that quality daycare and a conveniently located facility can be difficult to find. A

workplace option at Bi-Cultural offers parent-teachers a chance to meet their personal needs by enabling them to check up on their children throughout the day. For Bi-Cultural, the benefits include heightened staff morale, reduced turnover and absenteeism, increased productivity and an enlarged pool of qualified candidates. Currently in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, Bi-Cultural offers onsite daycare to its faculty and staff for infants and toddlers up to 2-years-old, employing a child-to-teacher ratio of 2-to-1.

"Having a daycare in-house shows a personal investment in our staff and our belief in the need to make sure that teachers have a happy work/life balance. We want our staff to have the peace of mind they need to focus on their teaching," said Jackie Herman, Bi-Cultural's principal and head of school.

Staff members consider that peace of mind invaluable. "Having daycare at the school really fosters a more collaborative atmosphere and gives me more of



Eight-month-old Meital Hazony attends daycare at Bi-Cultural's onsite daycare program available to Bi-Cultural's faculty and staff. (Photo by Dora Salm)

a family feeling," said teacher Lauren Hazony, herself a Bi-Cultural graduate. "My daughter is thriving here."

Bi-Cultural Day School is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

# Day Schools Celebrate Back to School Barbecues

**BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL**

On September 20, the Bi-Cultural Day School gathered for the annual Back-to-School Barbecue and Picnic, organized by Bi-Cultural's Parents Association. More than 500 parents, children, teachers and family members had a chance to connect for games, sports, arts and crafts, face painting, a bouncy house and the barbecue picnic.

**CARMEL ACADEMY**

More than 300 members of the Carmel Academy community – students, parents, alumni and faculty – kicked off the school year with a Parent Association Council Back-to-School Barbecue. CA students navigated the inflatable obstacle course, danced and sang with a DJ, and enjoyed the barbecue. New and veteran families had a chance to connect as they celebrated the start of a new school year.



L-r: Carmel Academy students Annabelle Raz, Talia Moss, Lily Famwick and Joel Goldman at the Carmel Academy Parent Association Council Back-to-School Barbecue.



The Grunberg family gathered for a photo during the annual Bi-Cultural Barbecue (L-r): Ava (front), Rebecka, Sydney, Reina, Lilly and Michael. (Photo by Kathryn Grunberg)

At right (L-r): Eric Kwalwasser, Julius Kurtz and Remy Chamerlain played a game of soccer during the annual Bi-Cultural Barbecue. (Photo by Kathryn Danner)



L-r: Dana Roth, Rebecca Lieberman, Caryn Siegel Moss and Andrew Moss at the Carmel Academy Parent Association Council Back-to-School Barbecue.

## FAMILY CENTRAL NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2015 & JANUARY 2016

### BIRTH through PRESCHOOL

**Got Shabbat! Tiny Treasures Mommy & Me**  
Birth - 30 months with a parent or caregiver. Fridays from 9:30-10:30 am at Chabad (winter session begins Jan. 8) \$15 per class. (First Timers FREE). For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

**JCC Mommy & Me Class: Movin' and Groovin'**  
12-30 months with parent or caregiver. Tuesdays through Dec. 22 (No class 11/3). Contact Galit Roloff at (203)487-0974 or groloff@stamfordjcc.org.

**Music and Movement with Rachel Bahar and Jonathan Cahr**  
Thursday, Nov. 10, Dec. 1 & 15 & Jan. 5, 19 from 1:30- 2:15pm at Bi-Cultural Day School. Free of charge. For further information, contact Joanne Karow at 203.329.2186 ext. 1310 or jkarow@bcds.org.

**Music, Movement and Yoga, Mommy & Me Inclusion Program at the JCC**  
2- 4 years with parent present. Sunday through Dec. 13 from 9:30-10:10am. To register, contact Inclusion Coordinator Dinushka De Silva at 203.487.0946 or ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org.

**Pizza & Pajamas**  
Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 5:00pm. Dinner and fun for kids up to 8 years old and their families. For further information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

**Tiny Treasures - Nurturing the seeds**  
Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30am. For further information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

**Wonderful Ones: Mommy & Me Class at the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School**  
1-2 years. Thursdays through December 17 from 9:15-10:15am. Fee: \$216 for 12 sessions / JCC members \$180. Contact Sandi Waldstreicher at 203.322.6542 or swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org.

### GRADES K-8

**BBYO**  
For Grades 8-12. See description under Grades 9-12.

**Bat Mitzvah Club & BMC Beyond**  
For girls. Sunday Nov. 22 from 5:30-7:30pm or Sunday Dec. 20 from 5:30-7:30pm. For further information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

**Chai Five Mitzvah Club**  
Wednesday, Nov. 18 & Dec. 16 from 5:00-6:30pm. Dinner included. For further information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org.

**Kids Fun Night**  
For Grades K-6. Saturday, Dec. 5 from 6-8pm at the JCC. \$18 per child / JCC members \$16. For further information, contact Emily Eisen at 203.487.0973 oreisen@stamfordjcc.org.

**Mother-Son Game Show Night**  
For 5-10 years old. Saturday, November 7 from 6-7:30pm at the JCC. \$45 per "couple" \$5 per additional child / JCC members: \$36 per "couple" \$5 per additional child. For further information, contact Emily Eisen at 203.487.0973 or eeisen@stamfordjcc.org.

**Pizza & Pajamas**  
See description under Birth through PreSchool.

**PJ Library at the JHS Judaica Library at the JCC**  
Grades K-2. Second Tuesday of the month, Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan 12 from 4-4:45pm  
Grades 3-5. Third Thursday of the month, Nov 19, Dec. 17, Jan 21 from 4-4:45pm  
Parents and caregivers welcome. For further information, contact Marcia Lane at 203.321.1373 x104. Program in partnership with UJF and Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County. Free.

### GRADES 9-12

**BBYO**  
For Grades 8-12. Leviticus AZA (Boys) & Tikvah BBG (Girls). Every 2nd Monday • 7-9pm at The J. Information: contact Josh Cohen, Area Field Director, at J.Cohen@bbyo.org..

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**  
For volunteers in Grades 9-12 at Chabad. Information: Malya Shmotkin at 203.329.0015 #414, Malya@friendshipct.com or www.friendshipct.com

**Jewish Student Connection**  
For Grades 9 - 12. Tuesdays at 2:15 pm at Stamford High School or Thursdays at 2:15 pm at Westhill High School. For further information, contact rebecca@myjisc.org

### FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**Challah Club Launch**  
For all ages. Weekly. Thursday Jan. 7, 14 & 21 from 4:45-5:45pm. \$5 per person.

**Chanukah party at Harbor Point**  
Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7pm. Location TBD. For further information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

**Chanukah Wonderland and Community Concert Celebration**  
Sunday, Dec.13 from Chanukah Wonderland from 1-3pm and Concert from 3-5pm at Rippowam Middle School, 381 High Ridge Road. Featuring the amazing Benny Friedman.

**Family Day Brunch & Loaves of Love Cooking**  
Friday, Dec. 25, 2015 from 10:30am-12:30pm Pancakes, waffles, eggs and all the trimmings. Activities and fun for all ages!

**Friday Night Live**  
Fridays, Nov. 13 from 5:30-7:00pm; Dec. 11 from 4-6pm and Jan.15 from 5:30-7pm at Chabad. Kabbalat Shabbat, special children's program and Kiddush.

**Giant Menorah Lighting**  
Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4:30pm at Latham Park. Fairfield County's largest Menorah, joined by dignitaries and community leaders. Donuts, apple cider, latkes and gelt for the kids.

**Kids Health Day & Gan Open House**  
Sunday, Nov. 15 from 9:30-11:30am. For further information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org.

**OPEN HOUSES**  
Bi-Cultural Day School  
Sunday, Oct. 25 at 10 am. For information, contact Joanne Karow at 203.329.2186 x1310 or jkarow@bcds.org.

**Carmel Academy Open House**  
Sunday, Nov. 1 from 10am-12pm. To RSVP, contact Daneet Brill, Director of Admissions, at daneet.brill@carmelacademy.com or 203. 983.3503

**Jewish High School of CT (JHSC) Open House**  
Sunday, Nov. 1 from 1:30-4pm at the Stamford Technology Center, 1937 West Main Street, Stamford. For further information, call 203.357.0850.



**Edward Schrank:**

Edward joined the Marine Corps in 1996 and served in a wide variety of project management positions in the Department of Defense. In 2006, he suffered a head injury while attached to 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Infantry Regiment. During the CT scan that followed, a brain tumor was discovered within millimeters of the brain stem. Since then, he was named Marine of the Year and served as the first military liaison to the Mayor's Office of the City of Chicago.



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015  
5:00PM  
STAMFORD MARRIOTT  
243 TRESSER BLVD, STAMFORD, CT**

FIDF WESTCHESTER/CT CHAPTER'S  
*Annual Dinner*

TO BENEFIT THE SOLDIERS OF THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES

FEATURED SPEAKERS:  
Edward Schrank & Ziv Shilon

FEATURED PERFORMANCE BY:  
IDF Musical Ensemble



**Ziv Shilon:**

Ziv's life was forever changed when, in October 2012, the Givati battalion commander lost his arm in an explosion on the Gaza border. Now, despite a paralyzed right hand and a prosthetic left hand, Ziv is hopeful that he will soon return to active service and continue defending his country.

For more information, please contact Ali Picheny, Development Associate at 646.274.9645 or ali.picheny@fidf.org

THEIR JOB IS LOOK AFTER ISRAEL. OURS IS TO LOOK AFTER THEM.

Visit [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org), [facebook.com/stamfordFederation](https://facebook.com/stamfordFederation), or tweet UJF at [ujfstamford](https://twitter.com/ujfstamford)

## Carmel Students Enjoy Edible Science Lesson

BY JULIE LAPIN

Carmel Academy's fifth grade has come full circle. Last spring, as fourth-graders, the students planted a plethora of vegetables, herbs and flowers in Carmel Academy's organic garden as part of their life sciences curriculum.

Now, as fifth-graders, the same students are harvesting the fruits of their labor. The autumn garden is bursting with more than 20 different fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Not only are the students continuing their life cycle learning, they are also using the organic produce as part of their health curriculum, said Carmel's fifth grade teacher Darren Bahar.

"It's been an amazing learning experience for my students," said Bahar about the garden. "They are seeing first-hand how the small seeds they planted have grown, and now that the vegetables and fruits are ready for harvest, the students are incorporating these organic healthy foods into their diets.

"We have picked various types of carrots, Swiss chard, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, kale, tomatoes, pumpkin, zucchini, basil, potatoes, peppers, sage, dill and other leafy vegetables. We've been making salads and eating them without any added sugars or preservatives, and are also learning how to prepare the produce in healthy ways," Bahar said.

The students are trying vegetables they may not have been inclined to eat before and many of the students have been inspired by this experience and have begun growing gardens at home, Bahar said.

"I was so surprised when I saw how big they grew," said fifth-grader Ela Dynner. "Trying the new vegetables has been fun. This is the first time I tried eggplant right from the garden. It was really amazing. I had never tried radishes before and now I love them."

The organic garden, which sits between the school's lower and upper school campuses, was cre-



Carmel Academy fifth-graders Ariela Hope, Atara Ivri and Francesca Margolius held a Cinderella Pumpkin, which was growing in the school's organic garden.



Carmel Academy fifth-graders Evan Roth and Ela Dynner with their teacher Darren Bahar. The students picked vegetables, fruits and herbs that they grew last spring as part of a science life cycle unit and are now using them as part of their health curriculum about eating healthy.

ated two summers ago by CA alumus Elias Boyer for his Eagle Scout service project.

"It was quite an undertaking," said Head of School Nora Anderson. "Elias met with me and other members of our educational and administrative leadership team to plan the project. He then organized the temporary donation of tools, as well as a team of volunteers to work on the project."

Over the course of many days, Boyer cleared the site's overgrown vegetation and debris. He and the volunteers then built garden beds, lay down weed tarp and top soil, and created wood chip paths.

"The garden has been a wonderful addition to our campus," Anderson said. "Students of all ages now have an opportunity to tend a garden, and learn first-hand about ecosystems, life cycles and nature."

Bahar and his students couldn't agree more. "You can tell kids about eating healthy, but giving them a chance to experience healthy eating in this continuum has been invaluable. I hope these are

lessons they will carry forward into adulthood," Bahar said.

Carmel Academy is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

### ► JFS Support for Families Living with Autism

Jewish Family Service will offer a monthly support group for families of a loved one with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Specific challenges and opportunities, for both parents and siblings, are often a part of being in a family with a loved one on the Autism Spectrum.

Talia Ben-Joseph, M.A., M.Ed., BCPC, LPC, an expert in Integrative Psychotherapy and Family Counseling Services, will facilitate. "A variety of stress-related issues accompany the demands of raising a child with autism," notes Ben-Joseph. "At times, the family dynamic is altered. Feelings of resentment may also be fostered amongst other family members because of the time devoted with dealing with the loved one on the spectrum. The importance of families having a strong support system and a sense of well-being has often been ignored while the focus of treatment is on the child with autism."

The group was to hold its first meeting on October 18. The group will meet on Sundays, November 15 and December 13, at 10 am, at the Stamford JFS office, 733 Summer St. To register, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@cjfs.org.

Jewish Family Service is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

### ► Take a Peek Inside a Carmel Classroom

Carmel Academy announces its Take-A-Peek Tuesdays Program for parents interested in an informal introduction to school life at Carmel Academy. The new program will give parents of prospective students an opportunity to spend some time inside a Carmel classroom.

"We are thrilled to offer Take-A-Peek Tuesdays and give parents an experiential window into the dynamic learning that takes place at Carmel each day. This program is a chance for parents, who are considering a day school education for their children, to see Carmel's engaging, integrated curriculum taught by our outstanding faculty," said Head of School Nora Anderson.

The series runs through March and is open to parents of children entering all grades – transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. Upcoming dates and details about the series can be found at [www.carmelacademy.com](http://www.carmelacademy.com).

Reservations are required, so e-mail or call Carmel Academy's Director of Admissions Daneet Brill at [daneet.brill@carmelacademy.com](mailto:daneet.brill@carmelacademy.com) or 203-983-3503.

Carmel Academy is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

## Inspiration Strikes for Bi-Cultural "Makers"

BY DORA SALM

For students who thrive on learning by doing, the opening of a "Makerspace" lab at Bi-Cultural Day School is a milestone for the school and the community. Makerspace is a forum for hands-on invention and creation, melding DIY (do-it-yourself) methods with modern technology. The teaching format combines STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math), with hands-on building and discovery. Makerspace at BCDS is the creation of third-grade teacher Beth Fritz and middle-school teacher Adrienne Robinson, who said that parents can expect their children to bring home Makerspace projects ranging from crafts to circuitry and from woodworking to wearable technology.

"The Makerspace Movement encourages student exploration, collaboration and forward thinking. Students will be able to fine-tune their problem-solving skills in an environment where there are no limits to their creativity. Each session asks students to question the world around them. These students are going to be the artists and engineers of the future," said Robinson.

Students will be able to take classes in robotics, coding, fashion technology, knitting and circuitry during Bi-Cultural's Lunch and Learn period, with projects designed according to grade, curricular units and the students' own interests, explained Robinson. "We have assembled a Makerspace team of teachers who are excited to participate in this groundbreaking program. Also, several of our parents have approached us, eager to help by donating their talents for our projects." The first Makerspace project will involve the upper school students planning, creating and building the actual work tables for the lab.

The first project that Fritz and Robinson tackled was the lab space itself. Fritz and Robinson said they imagined that a Makerspace lab would be "a great addition" to BCDS. They brought the idea to the

BDCS administration and were given a large space being used for storage. "We are so excited about the response that we have received so far from parents – it's been an outpouring of support and energy," said Fritz, who, with Robinson, reached out to the Bi-Cultural community and found an audience of parents willing to embrace a new way of applied learning.

"The space itself was renovated with a little old-fashioned elbow grease and a few late nights with a paintbrush in hand," explained Robinson. "When we announced the launch of this Makerspace initiative, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our parent body. Within the first 24 hours, one family donated the funds for us to purchase our 3D printer.

Donations continue to come in through Home Depot gift cards, cash, web allocation and even tools." Currently, Bi-Cultural is one of only two Jewish day schools with this collaborative lab.



"I think one of the greatest assets the Makerspace lab brings to our school is the fact that we are not only asking students to think outside the box, we are asking them to completely redesign the box, said Robinson. "It's the perfect venue for student cross-curricular engagement. It's a great platform for students who excel in areas outside of the traditional classroom setting to shine a little brighter."

Bi-Cultural Day School is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

## JHSC Sophomore's Singing Internship



The president, "The Donald" and the pope all have one thing in common. Jewish High School of Connecticut's sophomore Natalie Shclover has sung for all three. Shclover (third to last on the right) is part of The Young People's Chorus of New York City, which includes young singers from throughout the region. The chorus performs at numerous events and occasions, the most recent one being during Pope Francis' visit to the 9/11 Memorial in New York City. JHSC's guidance program helps students like Shclover find summer internships that enable them to explore their interests and passions.

**PJ LIBRARY RETURNS TO THE JHS JUDAICA LIBRARY!!**

Join storyteller Marcia Lane for monthly after-school story programs in the JHS Judaica Library at the JCC.


**For Grades K through 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Second Tuesdays**  
 November 10, December 8 & January 12


**For Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Third Thursdays**  
 November 19, December 17 & January 21

**4:00 to 4:45 pm**  
**Free**

Join us as we share holiday stories, songs, folktales and legends, and loads of great books from the PJ Library and the Jewish Historical Society Library. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to stay.

For more information, please call Marcia Lane at (203) 653-2668.

 PJ Library programs are produced with support from Linda Spilka, Ed Spilka, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



**United Jewish Federation**  
 OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN  
 BETTER TOGETHER

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Teacher Beth Fritz painted the walls for retrooled space for the newly-created Makerspace lab at Bi-Cultural. (Photo by Adrienne Robinson)

**NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT... YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!**

For information on advertising, please contact Bonnie Rozen at (800)779-7896, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereportergruop.org](mailto:bonnie@thereportergruop.org)


**THE NEW JEWISH VOICE**



**SIGN UP TODAY!**  
[www.PJLIBRARY.org](http://www.PJLIBRARY.org)

**JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS**

A GIFT From Your Local JEWISH COMMUNITY




**JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS**

**WHAT?** The PJ Library ("PJ" for "pajamas") program offers the gift of free, high-quality Jewish books and music each month to children ages 6 months through 8 years.


**WHY?** PJ Library books celebrate important aspects of Jewish culture, values and traditions and become cherished bedtime stories.

**HOW? Signing up is easy!** To sign up for PJ Library, visit [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org) or email Marcia Lane, PJ Library Director for Stamford, New Canaan and Darien at [Marcia@ujf.org](mailto:Marcia@ujf.org)

PJ Library is a gift from your local Jewish community in partnership with local philanthropists and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



**203.321.1373 x104**  
[marcia@ujf.org](mailto:marcia@ujf.org)  
[www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org)  
[www.PJLIBRARY.ORG](http://www.PJLIBRARY.ORG)



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On September 21, students in Bi-Cultural Day School's upper school participated in a Tashlich service at Stamford's Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens. Meaning "to cast off," Tashlich is a ritual that involves symbolically casting off the sins of the previous year by tossing pieces of bread or another food into a body of flowing water. Students in grades six, seven and eight took part in the service. Above: Rabbi Eli Kohl began the seventh-grade Tashlich service with song. (Photo by Gina Fass)

**Carmel Academy Welcomes  
 Visiting Jewish Community Leaders**



Carmel Academy's students welcome visiting rabbis and leaders within the larger Jewish community throughout the school year. The visitors share their personal perspectives on Jewish living with the students. In September, Rabbi Eli Kohl of Young Israel of Stamford spoke to Carmel's sixth-graders (pictured above) about Rosh Hashanah and the meaning of the holiday. Morah Leah Shemtov from Chabad of Stamford visited and led Carmel's seventh- and eighth-graders in learning about the holiday.

**Thanksgiving Turkey Leftovers, Middle-Eastern Style**

BY RONNIE FEIN

On Thanksgiving you can count on three things: football on TV, turkey for dinner and a lot of leftovers. A few hours after dinner's done, many of us will nibble on the pie, or slip in a spoonful of marshmallow-topped sweet potatoes every time we open the fridge. And, of course, the turkey slices get stuffed into a sandwich.

But in my house there are usually leftover leftovers. You know, what remains after the initial indulgence in the meal-after-the-feast. There's usually enough for the entire weekend. We always have plenty of turkey leftover because I buy a huge bird. Also, we all love the soups and salads that come from the bits and pieces that we didn't yet get to.

Here's one of our favorite salads,

perfectly fine when made with leftovers. It's sufficient for a lunch or light dinner meal. You can make this with chicken, too.

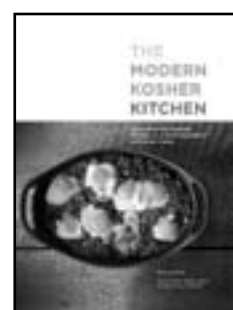
**TURKEY COUSCOUS SALAD WITH ORANGES, DATES AND PISTACHIOS**

- 1 pound cooked turkey, chopped into bite-size pieces
- 1 1/4 cups chicken or turkey stock
- 1 cup Israeli style couscous
- 1 cup chopped dates, preferably medjool
- 1/2 cup chopped dried apricots
- 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- 1/4 cup minced fresh parsley, preferably flat leaf
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh mint
- 3/4 cup pistachio nuts
- 2 navel oranges
- 6 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 to 1 tsp. harissa
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Place the turkey pieces in a bowl. Bring the stock to a boil and stir in the couscous. Cover the pan and simmer for about 8-9 minutes, stirring once, or until liquid has been absorbed. Spoon the couscous into the bowl with the turkey.

While the couscous is cooking, chop the dates, apricots, red onion, parsley and mint, and add them to the bowl. Add the pistachio nuts. Peel the oranges, cut them into thick slices and trim the white pith



The cover of Ronnie Fein's newest cookbook, "The Modern Kosher Kitchen"

from around the edges. Cut the oranges into segments and add to the bowl. Toss ingredients gently. Combine the olive oil, orange juice, lemon juice and harissa, and whisk vigorously, then pour over the salad. Toss the ingredients and season to taste with salt and pepper.

from around the edges. Cut the oranges into segments and add to the bowl. Toss ingredients gently.

Combine the olive oil, orange juice, lemon juice and harissa, and whisk vigorously, then pour over the salad. Toss the ingredients and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Makes 6 servings. Ronnie Fein is a cookbook author, food writer and cooking teacher in Stamford. She is the author of *Hip Kosher* and *The Modern Kosher Kitchen*. Visit her food blog, *Kitchen Vignettes*, at [www.ronniefein.com](http://www.ronniefein.com) and friend on Facebook at *Ronnie Vail Fein*, Twitter at *@RonnieVFein*.

November, December 2015 & January 2016

**Senior Adult Happenings**

**KOSHER LUNCH AT THE JCC**

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 12 pm. \$4 suggested donation. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

**TRANSPORTATION TO JCC SENIOR PROGRAMS**

Call every Monday. \$1 each way, suggested donation. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

**AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE AT THE JCC**

Reservations required. Wednesday, Nov. 4 • 8:30 am-1 pm. AARP member \$15 / All others \$20. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

**BLIND AND VISUALLY-IMPAIRED ADULTS SUPPORT GROUP AT THE JCC**

Tuesdays & Thursdays, Nov. 24 & Dec. 29 • 1-2 pm. Free of charge. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING AT THE JCC**

No appointment necessary. 1st Tuesday of the month, Nov. 3 & Dec. 1 • 9:45-11:15 am. Free of charge. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

**EXERCISE YOUR BODY – CHAIR EXERCISE AT THE JCC**

Tuesdays & Thursdays through Dec. 31 from 10:15-11am. Free to all seniors. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

**GAMES & GAB AT THE JCC**

Thursdays & Fridays, 1-3 pm. Free of charge. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

**LIFE ENHANCEMENT CLASSES AT THE JCC**

Tuesdays & Thursdays (No class Nov. 26) from 11-11:45 am. Free to all seniors. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

**LEARN TO PLAY MAH JONGG AT THE JCC**

Thursdays, 1-3 pm. Member \$25 / Community \$35 (5 sessions). For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

**LET'S TALK**

Thursdays at 11:00am at the JCC. Free. In cooperation with JCC Seniors program. Engage in meaningful conversation about a wide variety of topics that are important in our lives? For more information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or email at [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org)

**JCC MORNING MOVIE MATINEE/GAMES**

Fridays at 10 am • Free of charge. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

**UJF Chapter Two Upcoming Events**



CHAPTER TWO

Are you retired?

An empty nester?

Are you interested in writing the next chapter of your life with a great group of women while learning about the worthy works of UJF?

Join Chairs Sue Frieden and Sari Jaffe as we take day trips, visit exciting exhibits, listen to fascinating authors, go to UJF agencies and learn about how UJF benefits the entire Jewish community.



BENEATH THE HELMET  
 From High School to the Home Front

November 12

**Beneath the Helmet:**

From High School to the Home Front

Followed by Discussion with

Lieutenant D of the

Israel Defense Forces

Jewish Community Center

1035 Newfield Ave.

*Beneath The Helmet is a movie that follows five young Israeli high school graduates, who are drafted into the army to defend their country.*

This event is co-sponsored with The Jewish Community Center and Tzahal Shalom



YIVO INSTITUTE  
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יידישער וויסנשאַפֿטלעכער אינסטיטוט · יונוא

December 17

Join Chapter Two for a tour of the YIVO Rare Book Room, current exhibitions and introductory talk about the new Vilna Collections Program. Hear from authors Wendy Waxman and Barbara Mazur about their recovery of The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook and learn the history behind the discovery of this incredible book.



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CHAPTER TWO

For More Information about these programs, Contact Rebekah Raz  
 Email: [Rebekah@ujf.org](mailto:Rebekah@ujf.org); call (203)321-1373 x102 or go to [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org)

# Who's Behind Broadway's Hip-Hop Hit "Hamilton"? Jewish Biographer Ron Chernow

BY CURT SCHLEIER

(JTA) – Historian Ron Chernow has written successful biographies of the likes of J. P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller and George Washington. So it's fair to say that at this point in his career, the Alexander Hamilton biographer knows the drill: There's the author tour, the positive reviews, the making of the best-seller lists. There are scads of awards, including a Pulitzer, a National Book Award and the American History Book prize. But the transformation of his book into a hit Broadway musical? Not so much.

Yet that's exactly what happened to his tome about the nation's first secretary of the Treasury. "I never imagined that Hamilton would be turned into a musi-

cal, much less a hip-hop musical," Chernow said in a telephone conversation with JTA. "I think I can safely say that that's the last thing I would have expected."

Nevertheless, the hottest ticket on Broadway today is "Hamilton," which received "rapturous reviews" and has played to full houses since it opened in August. The musical is the brainchild of Lin-Manuel Miranda, considered one of the brightest young lights on the Great White Way. Miranda's first Broadway show, 2008's "In the Heights," was nominated for 13 Tony Awards, winning four, including for best musical and best score. It



Ron Chernow has won numerous awards for his biographies. (Photo by Nina Subin)

was a seemingly unlikely hit about growing up in the largely Dominican Washington Heights section of Manhattan.

But it certainly was no more unlikely than hip-hop Hamilton. "Through a mutual friend, I learned that he'd read the book," Chernow said of Miranda. "He was still starring in 'In the Heights' at the time, and I attended a matinee. I went back stage afterward and met Lin. He told me as he was reading the book, hip-hop lyrics started rising off the page. I was completely astonished by his response."

See "Broadway" on page 22

November, December 2015/January 2016

## SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### JFS Financial Education Workshops

Tuesday, Nov. 17 (Preventing Identity Theft) at 11:00 am. No Fee. In conjunction with LifeBridge of Bridgeport at the Westport office, 432 Post Road East, Suite 11. To register, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or email rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

#### JFS Workshop: The Race to College

Mondays, Dec. 7, Jan. 25 & Feb. 29 from 6-7 pm.

Co-sponsored by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, College Ahead! will feature a panel of prominent college admissions deans exploring the essential issues all high school students and their parents need to know as they begin the process. Moderated by Claire D. Friedlander, JFS College Consultant, the program will take place at no cost at Congregation Beth El, 1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield. For more information, contact, Claire D. Friedlander at clairef@ctjfs.org or call 203.921.4161.

### COUNSELING, MEDIATION & CRISIS

#### JFS For Children/ Adolescents Diagnosed With ADD/ADHD

Wednesday afternoons. Finding Your Focus with Dr. Lee Combrinck-Graham MD. Service includes psychiatric evaluation, review of previous evaluations, family assessment, on-going support, and medication management. Qualifies for insurance reimbursement. For more information, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.

#### JFS College Counseling

Need help navigating the college admission and application process? Qualified, experienced assistance provided by Claire D. Friedlander, JFS College Consultant. Competitive fees. For more information, contact Claire Friedlander at 203-921-4161 or clairef@ctjfs.org.

#### JFS Counseling

Qualified, licensed professionals provide counseling and psychotherapy to individuals, children, adolescents, families, couples and groups. For emotional support while unemployed, see Life Transitions below. Affordable fees, based on income; no one is "turned away". Insurance accepted. For more information, contact JFS at 203-921-4161.

#### JFS Individuals / Families in Crisis

Comprehensive services. Assistance with basic necessities, housing, medical, social, legal and financial matters. Fees based on ability to pay. For more information, contact: Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 #128 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

### CARING FOR SENIORS

#### JFS Caregiver Support Group

Sundays at 10:30 am with facilitator, Rona Wall, LCSW at JFS Westport, 431 Post Road E. Fee: \$10 per session or \$50 for 6 sessions. Do you find yourself stressed between the needs of your children and your parents? JFS will offer an open forum to provide support and help in dealing with the difficulties and stresses of caring for your loved ones. Groups will be held at the JFS Westport office, 431 Post Road E, Westport. Rona Wall, LCSW will facilitate. For more information or to register, contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

#### JFS Home Companion

A program placing fully trained and vetted home companions and CNAs matched to the needs and specific circumstances of senior clients. Trained aides assist seniors with daily activities, chores, and socialization. Certified Nursing Assistants can provide personal care, toileting, and medication management. Services are provided hourly, daily or up to 24/7 at competitive rates. Full supervision by professional JFS staff. For more information contact Isrella Knopf, Director of Senior Services at JFS at 203-921-4161 or email at isrellak@ctjfs.org.

#### JFS Residential Cleaning

Employ professionally trained individuals to clean your home and at the same time help support Jewish Family Service. Rates lower or competitive than other service providers. For more information, contact Jodi Maxner at 203-921-4161 or residentialcleaning@ctjfs.org.

#### Jewish Senior Services

Jewish Senior Services is one of the premiere providers of senior care in Connecticut serving clients at their two Fairfield locations and in clients' homes throughout Fairfield and New Haven Counties. Their 5-star skilled nursing and short term rehabilitation facility has been serving the community for over 40 years with an unparalleled level of quality and personalized care. Other services provided include home care, hospice, day services, advocacy and education, and long term care protection. To find out more about the many services of Jewish Senior Services, please call 203-365-6400 or visit www.jseniors.org.

### DIVORCE & BEREAVEMENT

#### JFS Bereavement Support Group

Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Free of charge. Are you searching for a safe haven to explore your thoughts and feelings about grief? JFS provides an environment of emotional, physical and spiritual support. For more information, contact Rosemarie Delia at 203-921-4161 or rdelia@ctjfs.org.

#### Parent Education Program (PEP)

State-mandated workshop for divorcing parents with children at JFS Stamford. Fee is \$125 per person. Call for date and to register at 203-324-3167.

#### JFS Focus on K.I.D.S.

For divorced or separated parents experiencing high conflict around parenting decisions. Teaches both parents strategies for communicating in a non-hostile manner. For more information, contact Erika Garcia at (203) 921-4161 or erikag@ctjfs.org.

#### JFS New Beginnings

Tuesdays from 7:30-8:30 pm in Stamford. Fee: \$10/session or \$50 for 6 sessions. For adults who would like to discuss all aspects of separation and divorce, JFS will provide a support group in the JFS Stamford office, 733 Summer Street, 6th Floor. To register, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at rkanefsky@ctjfs.org or call 203-921-4161.

### SUPPORT

#### JFS Brain Fitness Program

Working with clients experiencing early stage dementia or Alzheimer's in the client's home. Each volunteer will work with an aide or family member present. For more information about the program or to participate, please contact Matt Greenberg at 203-921-4161 or mgreenberg@ctjfs.org.

#### JFS Kosher Food Pantry

Non-perishable staples for those in need. Donations welcomed. For more information, contact JFS at 203-921-4161.

#### Living with Autism

Sundays, Nov. 15 & Dec. 13 at JFS Stamford. Time and Location TBA. Monthly group to share the joys and challenges of living with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Facilitated by Talia Ben-Joseph, MA, M.Ed, BCPC, LPC. For more details, contact Eve Moskowitz, JFS Director of Clinical Services at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.

### EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

#### JFS Computer Training Courses

Variety of courses - all levels, individuals or small groups. Nominal fee. For more information, contact Ilene Locker at 203-921-4161 or iklocker@ctjfs.org.

#### JFS Life Transitions

Wednesdays at 11:00 am. Support group for the unemployed at Stamford JFS office. The groups will provide a forum to discuss and explore the concerns and issues related to job loss and to find alternative solutions for career satisfaction. The group is a collaborative effort between JFS Counseling and Employment & Training Departments. For information or to register, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

#### JFS Seniors2Work

Job Bank for age 50+. Lower Fairfield employers can list full/part time jobs for dedicated, skilled mature workers. No fees. For more information, contact Ilene Locker or Jodi Maxner at 203-921-4161 or www.seniors2work.org

# What's On for Adults

November, December 2015 & January 2016

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Cantor's Concert at Temple Sinai

Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4pm at Temple Sinai. For more information, contact the Temple office at 203.322.1649.

#### Annual Saul Cohen Lecture – "When Difficult Relatives Happen to Good People"

Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7:30pm at the Ferguson Library. Guest Speaker: Leonard Felder, Ph.D. Open to the community at no charge. Dessert reception to follow. For more information, call 203.921.4161.

#### Hyacinthe and Harold E. Hoffman Memorial Lecture – "What We Don't Talk About When We Focus on Israel's Security."

Wednesday, Nov 11 at 7:30pm at Temple Beth El. For more information, contact the Temple office at 203.322.6901.

#### Louis J. Kuriansky Conference

"50th Anniversary of Vatican II." Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 7pm in the GenRe auditorium at UConn-Stamford. Donation of \$10 per person is suggested and the conference is free to local educators, students and non-profit professionals. To register or for more information, go to www.stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu or 203.251.9525.

#### Tapestry: An Evening of Adult Jewish Learning

Saturday, November 21 at 6:30 pm at the JCC. For further information, contact Marcia Lane at 203.321.1373 x104.

### OTHER PROGRAMMING

#### Beginners Adult Hebrew

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm with Fran Schechter. Fee: \$180. This course will follow the school calendar. For further information, contact Temple Sinai office at 203.322.1649.

#### Beginners' Torah Study

Taught by Rabbi Jay TelRav, Cantor Micah Morgovsky and Amy Ritell. Fridays, 12-1pm with Rabbi Jay TelRav, Cantor Micah Morgovsky and Amy Ritell. No Fee. Bring your lunch. For further information, contact Temple Sinai office at 203.322.1649.

#### Bible Study with Rabbi Eugene Borowitz

Saturdays, 9am at Temple Sinai. No Fee. For further information, contact Temple Sinai office at 203.322.1649

#### Annual Fall Sampler - The Brandeis Women's Committee

Monday, Oct. 12 at Temple Sinai. For information, contact Betty Baer at 203.324.7972

#### "The American Schindler"

Sunday, Nov. 8 from 1-3pm at the JCC. Free. Speaker: Varian Fry. All are welcome. For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203.487.0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

#### JHS Book Talk

Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 10am. Kandinsky - A New World of Art: A Visual Presentation of the work of Wassily Kandinsky. Presenter: Dr. Elissa Kaplan. Free and open to the public. Refreshments at the beginning of the program

#### Hadassah Book Club

Wednesday Nov. 18 at 7pm. Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman. For more information, contact Rhonda Greif at rhonda.greif@gmail.com. Sponsored by Hadassah

#### "Supervised Bridge" at the JCC

Mondays through Nov. 16. "Supervised" lesson at 11 am - 1 pm. Free play at 1-3pm. Members \$54 / Community \$66 (6 sessions). Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

#### Brunch and Learn with JCC Shaliach Or Berger

Sundays, Nov. 22 & Dec. 20 from 10-11:30am. No Fee. Contact Or Berger at 203.487.0961 or oberger@stamfordjcc.org.

#### Center Women Gift Show

Thursday, Nov. 19 from 5:30-9:30pm at the JCC. Admission: FREE. All are welcome. Babysitting available, 5-10 years. \$12 / JCC members \$10. For further information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203.487.0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org

#### Chabad Annual Gala

Sunday, Jan. 10 from 5-9 pm. Location TBD.

#### JCC Center Women Chanukah Giftique

Tuesday, Dec. 1 – Wednesday, Dec. 9 at the JCC. One-stop shopping for all your holiday needs: dreidels, candles, menorahs, cards, wrapping paper, decorations, gifts and more. Visit stamfordjcc.org or call 203-322-7900 for hours.

#### Crochet at the JCC

Tuesdays, 1-2 pm. Member \$24 / Community \$30 plus cost of materials (purchased separately). (3 sessions). Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

#### 20s and 30s & FC Alumni Shabbat Dinner

Friday, Jan. 15 at 7pm.

#### Hadassah Walking Program Culmination

Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 10am-12pm. For further information, contact Melissa Bildner at Melissa@livebettertraining.com or 203.554.6446.

### OTHER PROGRAMMING

#### Inside Israel with JCC Shaliach Or Berger

Mondays, 7-8:30pm at the JCC. Nov. 9 – Celebrating Sigd: Ethiopian Heritage; Nov. 16 – Hussein Aboubakr, Egyptian Political Refugee; Nov. 23 – Yom Kippur: Personal Stories. Free of charge. Contact Or Berger at 203.487.0961 or oberger@stamfordjcc.org

#### Introduction to Judaism – Not Only for Non-Jews and Jews-by-Choice!

Wednesdays, through Mar. 30 at 7:00-8:30pm with Rabbi TelRav (Temple Sinai) & Rabbi Hammerman (Temple Beth El) with occasional guest presenters. Fee: \$180 and includes all materials (including books). For further information, contact Temple Sinai at 203. 322.1649 or Temple Beth El at 203.322.6901.

#### Israel Folk Dancing with Leng

Thursdays at Temple Beth El. Let's dance! Connect with Israel while reaping the mental and physical benefits of dance. For other locations and schedule, call 203.912.4086, www.ctisraelidance.com or twitter: @Israeli\_Dance

#### JHS November Program - Kristallnacht Commemoration -Varian Fry

Sunday, Nov. 8 at 1pm at the Stamford JCC. Presenters: Marion D. Percy and Peter Stein. Free and open to the public. Refreshments at the beginning of the program. In Partnership with the Jewish Arts & Film festival of Fairfield County

#### JLI Fall Semester "The Final Journey"

Tuesdays, Oct. 27 from 8-9:30pm or Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 9:30-11am. 6 weeks. For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

#### JWC Chanukah Package Party

For Women. Wednesday Dec. 9. Meet, mingle, nibble at 7:15pm. Program starts at 8pm. Bring a wrapped gift (worth \$10 or more) to benefit "Loaves of Love" at the home of Alix Eben.

#### JWC Fashion Event

For Women. Monday, Nov. 2 at 6pm. For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

#### JWC Rosh Chodesh Learning

For Women. Thursday, Nov. 12 at 8pm at Soosh. For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

#### JWC Trip to the Ohel

Wednesday Jan. 6 from 9:15am-1pm Special trip in honor of Leah Shemtov's birthday! Visit to the Lubavitcher Rebbe's gravesite for a day of prayer and introspection, inspiration and brunch.

#### Judaica Needlework - The Keshet Chapter of the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework

Second Sunday of each month, Nov. 8 & Dec. 13 from 10am-12pm at the JCC. For further information, contact keshetpg@gmail.com or visit www.pomegranateguild.org.

#### Lunch and Learn (weekly Torah portion)

Wednesday, Nov. 18 & Dec.16 from 11:30-12:45pm. Open to everyone. Lunch.

#### Men's Fabrengen

For Men. Monday, Nov. 9 at 8pm. For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

#### Parenting Club

Open to all. Monday, Dec.1 from 9:15-10:15am at Chabad. For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

#### Torah and Tea

Tuesdays from 11am-12:00pm. For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org.

#### Why Reform Judaism

Saturday mornings, Dec. 5, 12, 19 from 10:30-11:30am. Taught by Rabbi Jay TelRav. Coffee and bagels will be served. Open to all.

#### Healthy Morning (Yoga)

Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 10am-12pm. Family Tree Yoga. For further information, contact Melissa Bildner at melissa@livebettertraining.com

#### Neshama YogaTM

Wednesdays, Nov. 4, 11, 18 from 6:30-8:00pm in the Temple Sinai Sanctuary. Taught by Jackie Tepper. Fee: \$136 for the series or you can drop in on a class-by-class for \$25 per class. No prior experience is necessary. For further information, contact Temple office at 203.322.1649.

#### Neshama YogaTM at the JCC

Fridays through Dec. 18 (no class 11/27) from 9-10:30am. Members \$252 / Community \$294 (14 sessions). For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203.487.0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

#### Shal-Om Yoga

Wednesdays at 6pm at Temple Beth El. Fee: \$20. Please contact Pamela Tinkham MSW, LCSW, RYT for more information at pamelatinkham@gmail.com or visit www.YogaPsychHealth.com.

#### Yud Shevat Fabrengen

Open to All. Tuesday Jan.19 at 8pm.

#### Yud Tes Kislev Fabrengen

Open to All. Monday Nov. 30 at 8pm.

# Broadway.....

Miranda assured him that he was serious. "He made a complete believer out of me," Chernow said. "The story

of Alexander Hamilton lends itself to hip-hop treatment. Hamilton's personality is driven and unrelenting, and the music has that same quality. The music and the man mirror each other."

Miranda purchased theatrical rights to the book and signed on Chernow as historical consultant. "He wanted me to tell him when something was wrong," Chernow said. "He said, 'I want historians to take this seriously.'"

There were very few instances where Chernow intervened; most were related to dramatic license to condense Hamilton's life story into a manageable two-and-a-half hours. So, for example, characters Hamilton met over many years in real life meet during the same scene in the play.

"A lot of people might have started off with the unspoken assumption that history is boring—Lin-Manuel Miranda felt exactly the opposite," Chernow said. "He felt the most dramatic way to tell the story was to stick to the facts. He felt the story was so sensational you couldn't improve on it."

Still, Chernow admits he was a little taken aback the first time he attended a rehearsal—the cast was made up almost exclusively of people of color. But he soon decided the casting was "a stroke of genius," he said.

"The actors had a special feel for the material, in addition to being very talented. From the moment the cast walks out, it immediately shakes your preconceptions about the Founding Fathers," Chernow said. "Conversely, that sense of excitement is felt by the actors, who never thought they'd have a chance to play George Washington or James Madison. This show is not only theatrical, [it's] a cultural and political phenomenon, showing us who we are as a country now and at the same time showing us what it was then. Black and Latino performers suit a story about young outsiders who created this country, including an estimate that 5 percent of Washington's army was made up of free blacks."



Christopher Jackson (center) as George Washington in "Hamilton." (Photo by Joan Marcus)

The casting is appropriate, too, in the sense that there is a sizable revisionist movement when it comes to the Founding Fathers. Hamilton, who was an abolitionist, is on the rise, while Jefferson is on the decline, in part because he was an unrepentant slave owner. "I started the book in 1998. I felt Hamilton was largely overlooked and, among the Founding Fathers, the one most demonized," Chernow said. "Jefferson was considered the pure and virtuous tribune of the common people and Hamilton was the stooge of the plutocrats."

"Jefferson's vision for the country was of small towns and traditional agriculture," he added. "Hamilton thought in terms of a stock exchange and factories and large cities, which is pretty much the way it turned out. Hamilton would feel much more at home today than Jefferson."

A lifelong theatergoer, Chernow previously had a preference for dramas. "One of the things that's come out of this experience that's very pleasant is a greater understanding and respect for musicals as an art form," he said.

His taste in music, which previously ran from classical to jazz to the American songbook, may have changed as

well. He's become a fan of rap – or, at least, an admirer of Miranda's "rhymed couplets that very much reminded me of Cole Porter."

Chernow points out that in addition to a hip-hop persona, Hamilton had several Jewish connections: His mother's husband, Johann Michael Lavien—when Hamilton himself wrote the name, he spelled it the more traditional "Levine"—was likely Jewish. She left him in St. Croix, met James Hamilton in St. Kitts, and the two moved to Nevis, where Alexander was born out of wedlock. As a result, he could not be educated in church schools.

"Largely self-taught, he had little formal schooling but received individual tutoring" at a school run by a Jewish headmistress, Chernow said. He used to brag that he could recite the Ten Commandments in Hebrew.

"Perhaps because of this exposure," Chernow suggests, Hamilton had a particular "reverence for Jews," he said, speaking from his home office in Brooklyn, a copy of his biography at hand. He leafs through his book to find several examples, including one from a trial, where Hamilton said, "Why distrust the evidence of the Jews? Discredit them and you destroy the Christian religion."

For the record, Chernow – who grew up in an "overwhelmingly Jewish middle-class area" of Forest Hills, Queens – cannot recite the Decalogue in Hebrew. "I have in recent years not been observant, but have a strong sense of Jewish cultural identity," he said.

Chernow is currently working on a biography of Ulysses S. Grant, but things have changed. "Ever since Hamilton, there's been more interest expressed in all my other books, if only because my visibility is greater than before the show," he said. "Some of the interest is pretty dramatic."

No matter what the future holds, "Hamilton" is something special. "In all likelihood," Chernow said, "this is my last hip-hop musical."

Continued from page 20

## THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

"The New Jewish Voice" (USPS #189) is published monthly by the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Inc., 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT 06905-2521.

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# Adult Volunteer Opportunities

## CHABAD STAMFORD

### Betsy's Buddies Volunteers

Weekly or bi-monthly commitments available. Betsy's Buddies is a program looking to facilitate one-on-one visitations between volunteers and homebound members in the community, and a great opportunity for retirees and families. For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org.

### Loaves of Loves Deliveries

Every Friday after 10 am. Help distribute Loaves of Love packages to new neighbors, friends, new moms, the sick and ANYONE who could use a "Taste of Shabbat". For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org.

## FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE Adult Circle Program

Sundays, Nov. 8, Dec. 20 & Jan. 24 from 1-4 pm at The Friendship Circle Center. Serving adults with a full range of physical, mental and cognitive needs through one-on-one friendships and social opportunities with other adults in our community. Opportunities this year will include a Vocational Readiness Program and Community Integration Employment. For more information, contact Sarah@friendshipct.com.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC or The J)

Kosher lunch Program for Seniors. Help set up and serve HOT Kosher lunch to seniors. Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at the JCC. For more information or reservation: Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS)

Drivers needed to deliver food from the Kosher Food Pantry to individuals in the community. For information: Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org

## JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY (JHS)

Harry Rosenbaum JHS Judaica Library at the JCC. Cover 2-hour slot (or more) once a week. You'll be trained on the computer system and the arrangement of books in the library. Call 203-487-0957.

## The Archives at the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County

Help protect the pieces of our Jewish history. Do you enjoy finding out about our region's early Jewish settlers? Do you want to help Jewish organizations retain their history and documents? Call 203-359-2196

## UJF's READING PARTNERS

Read one-on-one with Stamford public school children. One hour a week, mornings or afternoons. 12 elementary schools and 2 community centers. Training, literacy, focused workshops and support network provided. Contact Marlyn Agatstein 203-321-1373 x115 or Readingpartners@ujf.org

# CHANUKAH GREETINGS THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

Once again this year, *The New Jewish Voice* is inviting its readers and local organizations to extend Chanukah greetings to the community by purchasing a Chanukah greeting ad, which will appear in our December issue (Deadline: Nov. 6). Chanukah begins this year on the evening of Dec. 6. You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$18 (styles B & E), the larger one is \$36 (styles A, C, D & F) and the largest one (style G) is \$72.

To ensure that your greeting is published, please contact Bonnie Rozen at 1-800-779-7896, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereporter.org. Checks can be made payable to *The Reporter* and sent to: *The New Jewish Voice*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

**Chanukah Greetings!**  
Your Name(s)  
Style A - \$36 • Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

May you and your family be blessed during the holiday and throughout the year!  
Your Name(s)  
Style C - \$36 • Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

May the lights of Chanukah shine in your hearts forever  
YOUR NAME(S)  
Style D - \$36 • Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

Wishing you a Happy Chanukah!  
Your Name(s)  
Style F - \$36 • Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

HAPPY CHANUKAH!  
YOUR NAME(S)  
Style B - \$18 • Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

From Our Family to Yours, Happy Chanukah!  
Your Name(s)  
Style G - \$72 • Actual Size: 3.2222" x 3.95"

Happy Chanukah  
Your name(s)  
Style E - \$18 • Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

**CHANUKAH GREETINGS THE NEW JEWISH VOICE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Greeting Style \_\_\_\_\_  
Message \_\_\_\_\_  
How you would like it signed \_\_\_\_\_

We accept  Visa  Mastercard  American Express  Discover (if applicable)

Print Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address, City, State, Zip (Registered billing address of card) \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE is Nov. 6**

Checks should be made payable to *The Reporter*, 500 Clubhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

# CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

**BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS):**  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford 06903 • 203.329.2186 • www.bcds.org

**BBYO - Leviticus AZA (Boys) and Tikvah BBG (Girls):**  
Regional Office 203.389.2127 or CVR@bbyo.org • www.cvrbbyo.net

**CARMEL ACADEMY:**  
270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich 06830 • 203.863.9663 • www.carmelacademy.com

**CENTER FOR JUDAIC & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES AT UCONN-STAMFORD (CJMES):**  
University of Connecticut, Stamford Campus, One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901 • 203.251.9525 or stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu • www.cjmes.stamford.uconn.edu

**CHABAD OF STAMFORD:**  
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford 06905 • 203.3.CHABAD x102 • Leah Shemtov: marahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadstamford.org

**CHAVURAT AYTZ CHAYIM:**  
203.322.6676 • www.chavurah.org

**CONGREGATION AGUDATH SHOLOM:**  
301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford 06902 • 203.358.2200 • www.cas-stamford.org

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE:**  
203.329.0015 X414 • malya@friendshipct.com or www.friendshipct.com

**HADASSAH STAMFORD CHAPTER:**  
203.829.9341 or rhonda.greif@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook: Stamford Hadassah

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J):**  
1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford 06905 • 203.322.7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS):**  
733 Summer Street, Stamford 06902 • 203.921.4161 • www.ctjfs.org

**JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL OF CONNECTICUT (JHSC):**  
1937 West Main Street, Stamford 06902 • 203.357.0850 • info@jhsct.org • www.jhsct.org

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY (JHSFC):**  
General Information: P.O. Box 16918, Stamford 06905-8901 • (203) 321.1373 x150 (messages only) • Archives: 990 Hope Street (Rear), Stamford 069805 • 203. 359-2196 • archives@jhsfc-ct.org; The Harry Rosenbaum JHS Judaica Library: JCC, 1035 Newfield Avenue, Stamford 06905 • (203) 487-0957 • library@jhsfc-ct.org

**JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES:**  
175 Jefferson Street, Fairfield 06825 • 203.365.6400 • info@seniors.org • www.seniors.org

**JEWISH STUDENT CONNECTION:**  
Rebecca Ruberg: rebecca@myjsc.org

**TEMPLE BETH EL (TBE):**  
350 Roxbury Road, Stamford 06902 • 203.322.6901 • execdir@tbe.org • www.tbe.org

**TEMPLE SINAI (TS):**  
458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford 06903 • 203.322.1649 • www.templestamford.org

**UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF):**  
1035 Newfield Avenue, Suite 200, Stamford 06905 • 203.321.1373 • www.ujf.org

**YOUNG ISRAEL OF STAMFORD:**  
69 Oaklawn Avenue, Stamford 06905 • 203.348.3955 • www.yistamford.org

# Save The Date!



celebrating our 12<sup>th</sup> year  
**tapestry**  
a community celebration  
of Adult Jewish Learning

Presented by  
United Jewish Federation  
of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien,  
and the Stamford Jewish Community Center

**Saturday Evening**  
**November 21, 2015**  
**at 6:30 pm**  
**Jewish Community Center**  
**1035 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, CT**

In cooperation with the Stamford Board of Rabbis, The Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at UConn Stamford, The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, and Jewish organizations throughout Fairfield County.

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#### TAPESTRY PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

**Bob Abrams** – Bi-Cultural Day School, **Or Berger** – JCC Shaliach, **Professor Joel Blatt** – UConn Stamford, **Phillip Brodsky** – The David Project, **Rabbi Daniel and Diane Cohen** – Congregation Agudath Sholom, **Michael Feldstein** – Young Israel of Stamford, **Lisa Gittelman Udi** – Temple Beth El, **Rabbi Mark S. Golub** – Chavurat Aytz Chayim, **Rabbi Joshua Hammerman** – Temple Beth El, **Rabbi David Israel** – Bi-Cultural Day School, **Miri Kornfeld** – StandWithUs, **Ryan Stark Lilienthal** – Family Historian, **Dena Levie** – Jewish Papercutting Artist, **Barbara and Joel Levitt** – The Grandparents Circle/Jewish Outreach Institute, **Andrew Lustig** – Performance Poet, **Alexandra Moller** – Family Historian/Bookmaker, **Cantor Micah Morgovsky** – Temple Sinai, **Rabbi Ita Paskind** – Congregation Beth El/Norwalk, **Rabbi Elisha Paul** – Jewish High School of CT, **Dr. Tali Aldouby Schuck** – Carmel Academy, **Prof. Jeffrey Shoulson** – UConn Judaica Road Show, **Michal Smart** – Bi-Cultural Day School, **Rabbi Jay TelRav** – Temple Sinai

Admission: \$25 in advance • \$36 at the door • For Cafe Tapestry only \$18