



A Gift For You, Courtesy of...
United Jewish Federation

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Laugh Out Loud with Comedian Pamela Rae Schuller

(Courtesy of JCC) The community is invited to The JCC's Early Childhood Scholar-In-Residence program, "An evening with Pamela Rae Schuller" on Thursday, December 1st at 7:30 pm at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Avenue, Stamford.

Comedian Pamela Rae Schuller is relentlessly funny. You may know her from



Comedian Pamela Rae Schuller

Dangerfield's Carolines and Gotham comedy clubs or as one of the "36 under 36" who are changing the face of the Jewish community. Pamela's observations on disability, mental illness, dating, family, and past misadventures have led to brutally honest confessions about what it's

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A New Twist to Super Sunday

(Courtesy of UJF) On November 13, United Jewish Federation (UJF) will host its annual Super Sunday, which will be a "Triple Crown" of activities bringing the community together for a day of fun, learning and giving. All daytime events will take place at the Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Avenue in Stamford.

On Super Sunday, the community is asked to "answer the call" and provide financial

support to UJF's 2022 Annual Campaign for Communal Needs. These funds are used for community organization programs and for aid to those in Israel and over 72 countries around the world.

UJF's Super Sunday phone-a-thon will be in-person, with volunteers manning the phones to reach out to the community. Far more than just a



Dr. Dale Atkins

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As War Continues, UJF Makes a Difference

(Courtesy of UJF) Since the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war, Jewish Federations across North America, along with The Jewish Agency for Israel, Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), World ORT and others, have been on the frontlines, using existing infrastructure and increasing staff on-the-

ground to save the Jews of Ukraine and Russia.

United Jewish Federation aided in providing life-saving support and has rescued Ukrainians and Russian Jews by raising money from you, generous donors, for planes to bring them to safety.

Additional funds, totaling over \$400,000, supported social service needs including food, housing, and medical care.

Within the first month of the war, three locally funded planes took Ukrainians out of neighboring countries to Israel. Community leader Howard Rothman

stated, "It was my greatest honor and privilege to help fund a plane, fly to Poland, visit with Ukrainian refugees, and see the operations on the ground, and then to accompany a plane full of immigrants

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Mayor Simmons Signs Proclamation Against Anti-Semitism

Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons signed a Proclamation Against Anti-Semitism during a ceremony at the Stamford Government Center in Stamford on September 22, 2022, making Stamford the first city in Connecticut to sign an International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance - IHRA - antisemitism declaration. Thank you to AJC for their advocacy.



(l-r) Rev. Winton M. Hill, Diane Sloyer (UJF CEO), David Gordon, Stephne Behrend, Susan Stern, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons, Mona Abramson, Carmen Hughes (Stamford's Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), Susan Frieden, Scott Krowitz, Susan Kostin, Jerry Silber, Rabbi Daniel Cohen, and Myra Clark-Siegel (AJC Westchester Fairfield Director). (CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

From UJF's Chief Executive Officer

What You May Not Know

BY DIANE SLOYER

A few months ago I attended an agency gala and was seated next to a person who also happens to be a Federation supporter. During the evening an agency representative spoke about its LIFE & LEGACY program. My tablemate and I had an opportunity to chat further and one thing became clear to me. There was not an understanding of **Federation's** full involvement in the LIFE & LEGACY program beyond just being its host and administrator. That led to a meaningful conversation which allowed me to explain Federation's significant financial commitment to the program and the community.

Since that evening, I've had an opportunity to speak to a close friend and shared with her the conversation I had had at the gala. "What a great opportunity to remind everyone that Federation is far more than the administrator of the LIFE & LEGACY program," she said. "It's its financial backbone in our community."

In thinking about this month's message, I thought it would certainly be worthwhile to share these thoughts with everyone. So here it goes.

The very generous philanthropist, Harold Grinspoon, believes in leveraging community participation. That is why when he started PJ Library, seventeen years ago, he approached Federations with an incredible opportunity - Grinspoon would match 60 percent of the cost if the communities would contribute 40 percent. And, he did the same thing nine years ago when he created the Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY program. He turned to Federations as the lead in applying on behalf of a community. In order to be accepted into the program, a community requires the buy-in of a minimum of 10 community organizations.

We at UJF began talking about the LIFE & LEGACY program with our community almost four years ago. And with the commitment of 11 of our community organizations, we were accepted into the program. First and foremost, we fund two thirds of our community's total LIFE & LEGACY program.



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

Similar to PJ Library, Harold Grinspoon is about incentivizing communities. A Federation is reimbursed 1/3 of the total costs of its community's LIFE & LEGACY budget, not to exceed \$100,000, only if the community meets the Grinspoon metrics. For years 1 and 2, this means each community organization is required to secure a minimum of 18 Letters of Intent (LOI). The LOI simply states that the participant intends to leave a participating community organization (one or more) some funds in the future. And according to the rules, if the organization secures the stated minimum, they would receive an incentive grant of \$5,000. Obtaining 25 LOIs would result in \$7,500. The grant is intended for the organization to use it as needed.

For our community, we were required to secure a minimum of 198 LOIs for Year 1. In fact, a total of 268 were received. In Year 2, our community secured 211 LOIs. In total today, we have over 480 LOIs and hopefully many many more to follow.

What does Federation do for the LIFE & LEGACY program?

Federation employs a part-time LIFE & LEGACY coordinator, organizes and hosts regular team training sessions, works with team captains on adhering to and reporting metrics, holds an annual recognition celebration, publishes monthly testimonials as part of its New Jewish Voice newspaper and more. Federation's total expenditure on the LIFE & LEGACY program is only covered by a third from the Grinspoon Foundation and the rest is covered by the Federation budget.

As our community has collectively amassed over \$13.5 million estimated legacy gifts, we are proud of our leadership for committing both time and resources to this truly communal initiative that will strengthen all of our organizations in the future.

If you have any questions about the program, please call me or our LIFE & LEGACY Coordinator Lenore Fogel. And if you can do me a favor, share what we at Federation do for this program with a friend. Thank you!

UJF President's Message

UJF Behind the Scenes

BY DAVID GORDON

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season - Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Wow - we really know how to celebrate!

If you celebrated any of the holidays in a synagogue or temple, I hope you felt safe and secure because your synagogue or temple had one or more guards outside and probably had volunteers monitoring the perimeter of the premises. While it may be unfortunate that guards and monitors are necessary in these times, it is reassuring that our places of worship, as well as our other Jewish establishments, are taking security seriously. We need not delve too deeply into our collective memories to understand why this is necessary.

While the guards and volunteer monitors are the visible security, there is a lot more going on behind the scenes. Over the past year, UJF's regional security professional, Michael Shanbrom who is a former FBI agent, met individually with staff of all of our synagogues, temples, and Jewish establishments, to provide guidance on how best to secure each specific facility: staffing requirements, perimeter monitoring, building entrance and exit guidance, and vulnerability assessments. Some of you may have been trained by Mike in how to respond to terrorist incidents. In addition, Mike's organization - the Secure Community Network (SCN) - maintains an operation center and duty



David Gordon, UJF President

desk which continuously scans the "dark web" and other sources and provides timely, credible threat and incident information to both law enforcement and to our community. Indeed, you may have seen a quick tour of the impressive SCN Operations Center on CNN's hour-long special on Antisemitism hosted by

Dana Bash over the summer.

To understand a little more about what SCN and Mike do, you can watch a four-minute video at www.t.ly/hwAE. Hopefully, you will find it comforting that our Jewish community is being secured as best as it can be. And, that is because your United Jewish Federation has brought SCN to our community.

Security is just one of the many programs that UJF provides for our community that benefits all of us. Others, such as PJ Library, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), our Affinity Groups, and LIFE & LEGACY (and there are more - please go to UJF.org to see) may be more visible. But, working behind the scenes to secure our community is critically important.

So, when you receive our call or our mailings or emails to donate to UJF's annual campaign this month or next, please remember that we work both visibly and behind the scenes, and please be generous in your response. Thank you!

Laugh Out Loud with Comedian Pamela Rae Schuller

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like being 4 foot 6 (and a half) and having Tourette Syndrome. As a teen, Pamela had the worst-diagnosed case of Tourettes, a touch of obsessive compulsive disorder, and a whole lot of pent-up anger. She spent years depressed, suicidal, and wishing her differences away. Over time, she started looking at her life differently and turned her obstacles and challenges into the very fuel that propels her. Now an internationally known disability and mental health advocate and professional stand-up comedian, Pamela's stories of growing up in a body she had no control over are engaging, powerful, a little bit heart-wrenching, and unapologetically funny. Pamela has spoken and performed in seven countries, in every state in the US, and for more than 90,000 kids, teens, and professionals. She holds a BA in Psychology and Youth Outreach Through the Arts, an MA in Child Advocacy and Policy, and post-masters certificates in Executive Coaching and Leadership in the Digital Age from MIT.

She has grown that skillset into a repertoire that teaches kids and teens to be proud of who they are, communities to be deeply inclusive, and corporate teams to be innovative and learn to make smart, bold moves. She can be seen on BuzzFeed, Doctor Mike Videos, and NBC, and she has worked on inclusion and accessibility with Disney, Google, Wells Fargo, and United Airlines to name just a few.

Pamela doesn't just "tolerate" what makes her different; she embraces it, loves it, and finds the funny in it... all while challenging her audiences to do the same.

For pricing and tickets, visit stamfordjcc.org. For more information, contact Sandi Waldstreicher, JCC Sara Walker Nursery School Educational Coordinator, at (203) 322-6541 or swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org.

The JCC's Early Childhood Scholar-In-Residence program is underwritten by the Charles M. Karp Memorial Fund, through the generosity of Douglas and Sharon Karp and Arnold and Lisa Karp.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

December 2022 / January 2023

Deadline: Monday, November 7, 2022

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

Schoke JFS Offers Hebrew Free Loan Program

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service, with the support of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien and other community partners, offers an interest-free loan program to community members in need throughout its service area.

The Schoke JFS Hebrew Free Loan Program offers qualifying individuals interest-free loans to support financial needs outside of the emergency assistance program. These loans support immediate, concrete needs including: emergency home or car repairs, medical expenses, funeral costs, camp tuition, participation in a gap-

year or short-term Jewish or Israel education program, or attending a career-advancing vocational or technical program.

To participate in the program, applicants provide financial information, secure a guarantor, submit a statement of need, and commit to a repayment schedule, with the assumption that loans will be repaid within 36 months.

For more information about the Hebrew Free Loan program, contact Leah Schechter at 203-921-4161 or by email at lschechter@ctjfs.org. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

A New Twist to Super Sunday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fundraiser, Super Sunday is a day when staff and volunteers from Federation and its partner organizations come together as one. Super Sunday chairs are Bob Abrams, Nan Gordon, Allison Ostroff and Jonathan Ostroff.

"The dollars raised during Super Sunday make a real impact on our community, and in Jewish communities all around the world. By 'answering the call,' you are ensuring your local and world-wide Jewish communities will stay strong and thrive. Each person can make an impact, no matter the size of their gift. Funds raised go to programs and services, ensuring a Jewish future and care for all those in need. Donors can once again select from a variety of initiatives and programs, putting them in the driver's seat of where their dollars go," said Ellen Weber, UJF Campaign Chair.

An annual highlight of Super Sunday is the *tzedakah* coin challenge. Coins can be dropped off in exchange for a prize at UJF's Family Fun Day, which will be held outdoors, in-person and will include entertainment, crafts and *mitzvah* projects. Family Fun Day will be held from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm and is chaired by Robin Fischel and Simone Zwany. The Family Fun Day event is free and open to the community.

November 13 is also Limmud North America's Global Day of Jewish Learning, where hundreds of communities, large and small, will join together for one day of intercontinental Jewish learning. Launched in 2010 as an effort to connect Jews around the world in mutual appreciation of Jewish wisdom, the Global Day of Jewish Learning is inspired by the vision and leadership of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz z"l. The theme for 2022 is "Rebuilding."

Festivities for UJF's Super Sunday event will begin at 9:15 am with breakfast for the Global Day registrants. There will then be a choice of three breakout sessions for this day of learning, which will conclude with Dr. Dale Atkins' presentation entitled "Rebuilding Our Jewish Community: A Focus on Individual Resilience".

Dr. Dale Atkins is a licensed psychologist with more than 40 years of experience as a relationship expert focusing on families, wellness, managing stress, and living a balanced, meaningful life. She is the author of seven books as well as many articles and journals for popular and professional audiences. She appears regularly on NBC's TODAY and is a featured speaker who lectures and leads seminars worldwide.

"We are fortunate to host Dr. Atkins as part of our Global Day of Jewish Learning. Given the theme, Dr. Atkins and our breakout session leaders will provide a great opportunity for learning and discussion as UJF relaunches our communal learning efforts," shared Bob Abrams, co-chair of UJF's Education Committee.

The cost of the Global Day of Learning is \$18 per person until November 4 and thereafter, \$25 per person. Sponsorship of \$180 includes 2 tickets and a signed copy of Dale Atkins book. Registration and session information are available on the registration site www.ujf.org/Nov13.

Additionally, the registration site includes opportunities for community members to lend a hand and volunteer for UJF's Super Sunday phone-a-thon activity to help reach out to community members and secure gifts for Federation's 2022 Annual Campaign for Communal Needs.

If you have any questions, please call Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373.

Is the Answer Blowing in the Wind?

(Courtesy of UJF) Have you turned to Bob Dylan's music for inspiration? From the Sixties protest anthems that made him a star through to his noirish Nineties masterpieces and beyond, it would be hard to find a contemporary songwriter who has produced such a vast and profound body of work.

Join United Jewish Federation for an evening with author Stephen Daniel



Stephen Daniel Arnoff

Arnoff, who illuminates the intersection of popular culture and religion in his book *About Man and God and Law: The Spiritual Wisdom of Bob Dylan*. The book has been called "evocative," "soulful," "stirring," and "a revelation." Arnoff is a featured author of the Jewish Book Council and will visit Stamford as part of his book tour.

Teaching and lecturing around the world, Arnoff lives in Jerusalem, where he is CEO of the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center. Arnoff has served as a senior

executive in large, successful NGO's for the past two decades in North America and Israel, specializing in cultural innovation, educational and communal programs.

"Stephen Daniel Arnoff will join local resident Rob Hoff in conversation for what promises to be a wonderful evening,"

shared Diane Sloyer. "And rumor has it, there may even be some jamming," she continued.

This Donor Appreciation event will take place on Monday, November 14th at 7:30 pm, at Serendipity Labs, 700 Canal Street, in Stamford. This program is a free thank you event for Federation donors, but registration is required. www.ujf.org/Dylan. For more information contact Dianesloyer@ujf.org.

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Adult Education Series Announced by Agudath Sholom

(Courtesy of Congregation Agudath Sholom) Congregation Agudath Sholom (CAS) is pleased to announce its lineup of speakers for its Fall/Winter Adult Education series.

On the evening of Wednesday, November 2, Jason Greenblatt will deliver a lecture entitled "In the Path of Abraham."

Greenblatt was appointed by President Trump in 2017 as an Assistant to the President and Special Representative for International Negotiations. In his role as the White House Special Envoy to the Middle East, he served as one of the chief architects of the Peace to Prosperity Plan between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and its Arab

neighbors. He was a key player in building the foundation for the Abraham Accords.

On Friday, November 11 and Saturday November 12, join Raizi Chechik for a talk entitled, "Reaching Towards the Infinite: Cultivating Spirituality in Our Children and Grandchildren (and Ourselves!)"

Chechik, Head of School of Manhattan Day School, is a creative and dynamic educator who brings over two decades of school leadership experience and a passion for learning and teaching. She studied *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible) and counseling at Michlalah Jerusalem Teacher's College, holds an MA in Jewish History, and has done doctoral work in both education and Jewish Studies.

On Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3, CAS will host Rabbi Haim Jachter who will deliver a number of lectures such as "An Ashkenazic Rabbi of a Sephardic Congregation. An Ongoing Journey" and "The Most Exciting Stories from Thirty Years of Supervising Countless Eruvin Throughout North America."

Rabbi Jachter serves as a rabbi at Torah Academy of Bergen County, NJ, rabbi of Congregation Shaarei Orah, the Sephardic Congregation of Teaneck, a *dayan* (judge) on the *Beth Din* (Religious Court) of Elizabeth, NJ,



Jason D. Greenblatt

advisor to over sixty communities throughout North America (including Stamford) with their *Eruvin* (ritual enclosures), and is the author of nine books.

On Sunday, December 4 at 7:30 pm, Rabbi Menchaem Leibtag will teach a class on Jewish Bible. Rabbi Leibtag, an internationally acclaimed bible scholar and pioneer of Jewish

Education, is well known in the Jewish community for his essays on the weekly Bible portion. His thematic-analytical approach blends the methods of modern academic scholarship with traditional Jewish approaches to the Biblical text. He is best known for his ability to teach students how to study rather than simply read Biblical passages. As his essays focus on meta-themes in the Bible, his readership has expanded to students of the Bible from all religions and walks of life. In Israel, He teaches at Yeshivat Har Etzion, Matan, Yeshivat Shaalvim, Midreshet Lindenbaum, and MTVA.

Agudath Sholom will feature Rabbi Dr. Jeremy Wieder for its Chanukah *Yom Iyun* (day of study) on Sunday, December 18. He will deliver a "two-for-the-price-of-one" class on "The Jewish View of Abortion and Gun Control"

Rabbi Dr. Wieder is the Joseph and Gwendolyn Straus Professor of Talmud at the



Raizi Chechik



Rabbi Chaim Jachter



Rabbi Dr. Jeremy Wieder



Rabbi Menachem Leibtag

Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) of Yeshiva University and an adjunct Professor of Bible at Yeshiva College. He is the scholar in residence at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in NYC. A graduate of Yeshiva College, he was ordained by RIETS and holds a PhD in Jewish Studies from New York University.

All of these events are open to the entire community. More information can be found at <https://learn.cas-stamford.org>.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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As War Continues, UJF Makes a Difference

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to their new home in Israel. I had no idea of the global reach that being part of the Federation network provided. I have a new appreciation and understanding of the work of Federation and its global partners."

The B.L. Manger Foundation, longtime supporters of local and global Jewry, under the leadership of Vice President Renee Manger, stepped in to sponsor a fourth plane.

"We were asked to divert our Ukrainian plane sponsorship to a rescue flight from Russia as per our response to want to provide urgent aid to people fleeing the war," said Manger.

The flight the Foundation supported arrived in Israel on July 13 with 140 *olim* (immigrants to Israel). Due to the challenging situation with flights from Russia, it is not always possible to arrange a direct flight to Israel from one of the big cities. The *olim* from St. Petersburg traveled to Minsk before arriving in Ben Gurion almost 24 hours later.

"From the onset of the war, we agreed we needed to help. Rescuing Jews from a war zone and flying them

to safety was a tremendous opportunity we overwhelmingly supported," Manger added.

According to The Jewish Agency, over 30,000 *olim* from Ukraine and the Former Soviet Union have been welcomed to Israel since the outbreak of the war, making it the single largest *Aliyah* (immigration to Israel) wave in over thirty years.

The Jewish Agency runs an expansive network to settle these new immigrants.

Programming for teens and young adults who arrive in Israel without parents includes the Na'aleh program, which provides students with up to three years of tuition-free Israeli high school, leading to an Israeli matriculation diploma.

Couples and families are provided a welcoming community at one of 48 participating *kibbutzim* (communal

settlements) for six to twelve months as part of First in the Homeland program. They study in *ulpan* (intensive training in Hebrew) during the mornings and children attend schools on the *kibbutz* or nearby. After completing *ulpan*,

participants have the option to extend their stay, with most *olim* using that time to find employment in the area, continue in advanced *ulpan*, or join vocational courses.

Absorption Centers provide an opportunity for new immigrants to receive housing and participate in intensive Hebrew language instruction while receiving counseling, job readiness and employment assistance, after-school activities for children, and other services to help them acculturate into Israeli society.

"Our community always comes together in a time of crisis, and the war in Ukraine was no exception. UJF's annual campaign, and your generous annual support, makes all of this possible," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer.

DON'T FORGET TO USE THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR.

THE CALENDAR CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTANT TO AVOID CONFLICTS.

WWW.UJF.ORG
QUESTIONS? EMAIL: TALY@UJF.ORG

Gan Yeladim Open House

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan Yeladim invites all families with preschool children to come to its Open House on Sunday, November 6 from 9:30-11:30 am. Exceptional and experienced educators bring insight, warmth, patience and understanding focused on the whole child. Gan Yeladim is a Chabad school whose approach is Reggio Emilia-inspired and child-centered with a strong Jewish value system based on Torah values.

The Reggio inspiration comes from maintaining a philosophy that provides young learners with a lifelong love for learning. Teachers observe children's interests and develop curriculum accordingly. Another feature drawn from Reggio is that the environment the children are in acts as a "third teacher," whether that be the outdoors or using real life materials that bring the learning to life. Gan utilizes hands-on learning with a strong focus on outdoor and nature exploration. They combine this with what they call "wonder-based learning" which fosters creativity and problem solving.

The development of the social emotional dimension of each child is especially valued at Gan, as is fun, play, discovery and exploration. With a strong focus on

Jewish values, science, art and sports, there is something for every child. Experts worldwide acknowledge that today's children need more than the traditional 3 R's (reading, writing and arithmetic) to prepare for their futures. At Gan, they add the 4 C's of education, collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking.

Importantly, the Gan approach is a seamless integration of core Jewish values and learning. There are seven basic areas of Jewish learning at Gan that are integrated into the curriculum and daily classroom routines. The areas are Hebrew literacy, Shabbat and holidays, daily *mitzvot* (good deeds), life cycle *mitzvot*, values and personal growth and the weekly *parsha* (Torah portion, prayer and blessings).

As the children move through Gan from infancy to pre-K, they create unique and beautiful "heirloom" projects to take to their families. These projects express the age-appropriate ideas the children have focused on during a particular Jewish holiday.

To register and for more information about Gan's program, or for a private tour, please email wendy@stamfordchabad.org or visit their website at www.ganyeladim.org.

Welcoming Chanukah with Music



Members of the Jewish Chorale of Westchester County.

(Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society) Please join the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County on December 18, to celebrate Chanukah with Kol Rinah, the Jewish Chorale of Westchester County. The concert will start at 2:00 pm and is being hosted by Temple Beth

El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford. Light refreshments will be served. The concert is partially funded by the Stamford Arts and Culture Commission. More details will be available next month. Please check the Jewish Historical Society website www.jhsfc-ct.org.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

November 4	5:28 pm
November 11	4:21 pm
November 18	4:15 pm
November 25	4:11 pm

Farbrengen and Rosh Chodesh Learning with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) This November, Chabad of Stamford offers two very special evenings for men and women.

On Monday, November 21 at 8:00 pm, the men will celebrate a *farbrengen* in honor of Rabbi Moshe Shemtov's Hebrew birthday. To *farbreng* means to 'spend time', to connect and share on a spiritual level. Chabad invites all to come together to inspire each other, to be inspired, and to reach new heights together through learning in a fun and meaningful way.

On Monday, November 28 at 8:00 pm, a special Rosh Chodesh learning will take place for women, dedicated to the memory of two *shluchim* (emissaries), Gavriel and Rivkah Holzberg, of blessed memory, on their 14th *yahrzeit*. Rosh Chodesh, the first day of each Jewish month, has long been considered a special holiday for Jewish women. Chabad's Jewish

Women Connected has held this class in honor of the Holzbergs for the past 14 years.

Gavriel Holtzberg was an Israeli American Orthodox rabbi and the Chabad emissary to Mumbai, India, where he and his wife Rivka ran the Mumbai Chabad House. He was also a religious leader and community builder for the local Jewish Indian community. The Holtzbergs were brutally murdered during the 2008 Mumbai attacks perpetrated by a terrorist militant group. Morah Leah Shemtov will hold this inspiring women's Rosh Chodesh class in their memory on the eve of the Hebrew date of their passing (Cheshvan 29). This event is free and open to all women in the community.

For more information on all of Chabad's programs and events please email programs@stamfordchabad.org



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Literature, Film and Art at The JCC

(Courtesy of JCC) Although November is known as Jewish Book Month, at The JCC Center for Arts & Culture it is also film and fine art month. "There are so many rich offerings to entertain, provoke thought, create discussion and convene community," says Nancy Schiffman, Director, Arts & Culture at the JCC.

The Jewish Film Festival of Fairfield County kicked off on October 13 and will run until November 20. Each Thursday the community can come to the JCC and enjoy an award-winning film only available through Jewish Film Festivals. If in-person is not



Himalayan acrylic by Nathan Gregoire.

A new installation for November and December will premiere the work of Nathan Gregoire, in an abstract art exhibit entitled "A Vicarious Experience." A Wine & Art reception to open the exhibit and provide an opportunity to speak with the artist will be held on Wednesday, November 2 at 7:00 pm and is free to the entire community. If you or someone you know would like to exhibit their art, contact Nancy Schiffman at nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

To celebrate Jewish Book Month, on Tuesday, November 29 at 7:00 pm, The

The Jewish Film Festival of Fairfield County abbreviated schedule includes:

- Thursday, Nov. 3 at 7:00 pm at the JCC: *Where Life Begins*
- Thursday, Nov. 10 at 7:00 pm at the JCC: *Filmmakers for the Prosecution*
- Thursday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 pm at the JCC: *Persian Lessons*

For full Festival details or to purchase tickets, visit www.stamfordjcc.org.

preferable, the Festival offers a stream-at-home option. A Film Festival would not be a Festival without its enriching talkbacks with film directors and expert speakers.

The Jewish Film Festival of Fairfield County thanks its partner, AJC Westchester/Fairfield, and community sponsors, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County, Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, The Stamford Chapter of Hadassah, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, and Young Israel of Stamford, along with all the Festival's generous benefactors.

JCC Center for Arts & Culture's Book & Author Conversations series will feature Weina Dai Randel, award-winning author of *The Last Rose of Shanghai* in conversation with Lorraine Kveskin, long-time Jewish community leader. A dessert reception will follow. Books will be available for sale and signing. To register or for more information about the book and event, visit www.stamfordjcc.org.

For more information about programs of The JCC Center for Arts & Culture, if you have a suggestion or would like to make a donation, please contact Nancy Schiffman at nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

Youth Programs are Plentiful at Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's youth programming got off to a flying start this fall with a holiday fair and open house. All classes are held at Chabad of Stamford, 770 High Ridge Road.

Weekly offerings include Chabad Kids Club (CKC), Chabad's unique Hebrew school for kindergarten through grade 7, and Chabad's weekly science and cookery class called P.O.G.S. (Parsha and Other Great Stuff) for grades pre-K through 2. In addition, for children aged 6 weeks to 3 years old, Chabad runs a weekly Tiny Treasures music, singing and baking class on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am.

A monthly Chai Five Mitzvah Club

for grades 3 through 7 meets on Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 pm. The Chai club meets to find exciting ways to help people in the community. The Bat Mitzvah club, which also meets once a month, incorporates a fun, interactive and thought-provoking experience for girls in 6th through 8th grades.

Chabad hosts several events for teens throughout the year.

Chabad's next Bat Mitzvah Club meets on November 20 and the Chai Five Mitzvah Club will host a special pre-Thanksgiving mitzvah event on Tuesday, November 15.

For more information about Chabad's youth programs email programs@stamfordchabad.org

Open House to Showcase Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

BY PAUL SILVERFARB

During this year's Open House, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy is ready to showcase everything that makes the school so amazing.

The Lower School's Open House will take place on October 30 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Bonnie Marcus, Director of Admissions at the school, says that the BCHA Lower School is where academic excellence, traditional values, and Jewish heritage combine to create happy and successful students.

On November 6, the Upper School Open House, BCHA's student-focused high school with top college acceptances and confident, successful graduates guided by Torah and Jewish values, will take place, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

"From unique science experiments and creative art projects to delicious baking demonstrations and much more, your children will always remember their first experience at BCHA," said Marcus.



Mrs. Daneet Brill introduces herself to her new third grade class. (CREDIT: PAUL SILVERFARB)

Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, Head of School agrees. "We look forward to the opportunity to bring new families into our school building with great anticipation," said Rabbi Bernstein. "The love and care our teachers have for their students is reflected in the beautiful setup of the classrooms, and the hallways showcase the creativity and educational achievements of the students."

To register for Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Open House, visit www.bcha-ct.org/openhouse. For additional information on the event, email Bonnie Marcus at bmarcus@bcha-ct.org.



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SAVE THE DATE

UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION'S ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 18TH AT 7:30PM
EVENT CHAIRS: STEPHNE AND KERRIN BEHREND

JOIN US IN THANKING DAVID GORDON
FOR SERVING AS UJF PRESIDENT FOR 3 YEARS.

*Welcome Michael Schlessinger as the
New UJF President along with new board members

*Guest Speaker, Sigal Kanotopsky

*Greg Waldstreicher, Harvey Peltz Young Leadership Award Recipient

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW. REGISTER AT
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- ✓ Created Jobs CT program to spur job creation
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Community Continues to Support Refugees

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) director Sharon Lewis delivers a check from the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) to Schoke Jewish Family Service to support its refugee assistance program. UJF is one of seven Federations that comprise JFACT.

Schoke JFS is grateful to receive the support of JFACT, which allows the agency to provide assistance to refugees throughout Fairfield County. With this funding, Schoke JFS provides services such as case management, emergency assistance, and socialization opportunities at its English Cafe events.



(l-r): Matt Greenberg, Schoke JFS President and CEO, Leah Schecter, Schoke JFS Chief Program Officer, and Sharon Lewis, UJF's JCRC Director.

Jewish Federations Help Florida Hurricane Victims

(Courtesy of JCRC) Jewish Federations are responding quickly to the tragedy and destruction in Florida following Hurricane Ian which hit the west coast on September 28 as a Category 4 storm. While several Florida communities were impacted, the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, and the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee were the hardest hit. Jewish Federations of North America's Emergency Committee, a volunteer body that allocates emergency funds to address

disaster relief, has begun to make initial grants to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to these communities from their limited national reserves. Among other relief, JFNA's allocations supported a Jewish senior living center in Sarasota that took in 200 evacuees and, working with the South Florida Federations, JFNA supported more than 900 community members with kosher meals for a Yom Kippur break fast. This is just another example of the importance of supporting Federation to help Jewish communities when disaster strikes.

COMMUNITY NEWS

A Sukkot Farm Field Trip



(Bottom row l-r): Rhonda Greif, Sara Rosenblatt, Paula Montanaro, and Rosanna Begel. (Top row l-r): Lynn Lowin, Janet Rosenthal, Allison Greenbaum, Nancy Mimoun, Yoav Yaron, Lorraine Kweskin, and Sharon Franklin.

(Courtesy of UJF) On October 13, United Jewish Federation's Chapter Two group took a field trip during the week of Sukkot to the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Tarrytown, NY. Participants enjoyed coffee and breakfast while hearing from Yoav Yaron, UJF's shaliach (emissary). He spoke about the harvest process and how farmers rest the fields every seventh year (*shmita*) in Israel.

A Stone Barns guide took the group on a private tour of the door garden, the historic silo and barn, and the Design and Innovation Lab where the group heard about making yarn and leather products, dyeing fabrics, and making soap and bone china. Participants visited the greenhouse and learned about the planting, the various vegetables they grow, and how they collaborate and plan with the Stone Barns's chef at their farm to table restaurant, Blue Hill Farm. The last stop on the tour was the Stone Barns Center farm stand which sells soap, produce, fresh flowers, yarn, leather goods, and much more.

For more information about Chapter Two and upcoming programs, contact

Sharon Franklin, UJF's managing director of campaign & community engagement, at sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373.



A Stone Barns Center farmer spoke to the Chapter Two group in the greenhouse about their harvest and planting process.



Guests learn about research and testing in the Design and Innovation Lab.



WWW.GANYELADIM.ORG



Spicing Up Thanksgiving

BY RONNIE FEIN

We are a traditional family, so when Thanksgiving comes, I always serve a turkey and all the trimmings: stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes and so on. Plus a dairy-free pumpkin pie for dessert.

Although I like to add a few new dishes every year and also like to tinker with the standards --- e.g. I might season the sweet potatoes in a new way or use corn bread instead of sourdough for the stuffing -- the basic menu is pretty much the same from year to year.

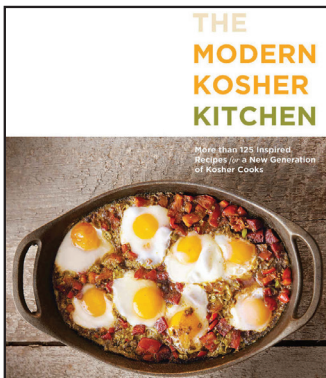
Except that, like most families, our family has expanded over the years and that means there have been some food considerations. I don't use walnuts or pecans anymore (allergies) and I now include some keto-friendly side dishes.

Most of all, I accommodate vegetarians. Usually I make Mujadara because it is so delicious that everyone, even the omnivores, love it. I make this dish for break-the-fast and any other occasion where I need a meatless main course. You can make it ahead and reheat! I have made this using brown rice and sometimes with bulgur wheat. Either way, the dish is a winner.

BROWN RICE MUJADARAH

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 4 large yellow onions, peeled and sliced
- 1 cup brown rice
- water or stock
- 1 cup lentils
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin, optional
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
- salt to taste

Heat 4 tablespoons of the olive oil in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add the onions and cook, stirring occasionally, for about 15 minutes or until the onions are soft and brown. Spoon the onions into a container and cover the container.



Refrigerate when cool if not serving the dish immediately. Place the rice in a saucepan, cover with 2 cups water or stock, bring to a boil, stir and cover the pan. Turn the heat to low and cook for about 30 minutes or until tender. Spoon the rice into a bowl. While the rice is cooking, place the lentils in a saucepan

and cover with water or stock. Bring to a boil over high heat. Lower the heat, cover the pan and cook for about 25 minutes or until tender. Drain and add to the rice. Stir in the remaining 4 tablespoons of olive oil. Add the cumin, if used and the parsley. Toss the ingredients. Add salt to taste. If serving immediately, stir in the onions with any accumulated juices, mix and serve. If serving at a later time, add the onions and juices, place in an ovenproof casserole and reheat, covered, in a preheated 350F degree oven (about 25 minutes).

Makes 6 servings.

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



Brown Rice Mujadara

Schoke JFS Thanksgiving Food Collection Begins

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service is preparing and collecting food donations for the agency's upcoming Thanksgiving distributions. Schoke JFS will distribute prepared Thanksgiving meals and Thanksgiving pantry packages to over 200 households. Many of Schoke JFS's clients are not able to cook for themselves, so the agency responds to their needs by supplying them with a cooked meal rather than a pantry package.

Help provide a reason for everyone in the community to be thankful by donating the following: kosher frozen turkey, canned yams or canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, canned pumpkin pie mix, stuffing mix (Arnold's Brand is kosher and non-dairy), evaporated milk, soup (prepared or mix), turkey gravy mix, canned cranberry sauce or jelly, canned green beans, canned fruit, disposable aluminum foil roasting pans, paper and plastic goods (storage/serving needs), and grocery store gift cards.

Thank you to the food banks, community members and sponsors who donated food, supplies and time to help bring Thanksgiving to those in need this year.

For any questions, please contact: Jen Bernstein, Food Programs Coordinator at jbernstein@ctjfs.org, 203-921-4161.



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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE



Chabad's Betsy's Buddies Spreads Sweetness over Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's "Betsy's Buddies" program volunteers delivered honey cake all over Stamford in honor of Rosh Hashana this year.

Betsy's Buddies facilitates one-on-one visitations between volunteers and home-bound members of the community. Chabad of Stamford is pleased to run its Betsy's Buddies Program in memory of Betsy Polakoff, z"l.



Ruth Roller receives a honey cake from a volunteer.

New School Year Brings Families Together

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan Yeladim and Chabad of Stamford invited the community for a back to school pre-Shabbat party to mark the end of summer and start of the new school year. Families were able to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.



(l-r) Tamara Karniol-Simnan, Julia Levine, and Orli Levine prepare for candle lighting.

Chabad Brings the New Year to Seniors

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Rabbi Moshe Shemtov led a pre-Shabbat service at Waveny LifeCare Network in New Canaan for senior residents, who



came to enjoy challah and grape juice and to hear the shofar blown.

Fall at Gan Yeladim



(l-r) Amira Speter, Eli Edelman, Ava Goldstein and Millie Stein.

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Enjoying the outdoor classroom, Gan Yeladim children welcome the fall season.

Rosh Hashanah Ready with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's Jewish Women Connected (JWC) group met before Rosh Hashana to bake and prepare delicious dishes for the High Holidays to share with friends and family. Leah Shemtov led the cooking event and spoke about the various *simanim* (symbols) pertaining to the holiday and what they each represent. Many of the dishes featured symbolic foods, such as apples and honey, which were added to the challah, and leeks and dates, that were made into a delicious confit. The word for *leek* is related to the word *kareyt* in Hebrew, meaning "to cut". This symbol is linked to the prayer that those who wish to hurt us will instead be cut off. The



Women prepare round challahs for Rosh Hashana.

Hebrew word for dates, *t'marim*, evokes the word *tam*, "to end," and the hope that our enemies' actions will come to an end.

Leah Shemtov also spoke about approaching the High Holidays with joy and feeling grateful and lucky that we have a special relationship with G-d as opposed to approaching the days of awe with dread and guilt.

Back to School Night with Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Parents had a fun night experiencing some of what their children do during the year in a hands-on, experiential way while socializing with other parents at the Gan.

The highlight of the evening was playing a fun, interactive and suspense game of "Gan Trivia" with the grand prizes of Morah Leah Shemtov's "famous" onion challahs going to the winners. Parents also tasted a variety of foods and recited the different blessings attached to them so they would experience what their children learn daily. In addition,



Sara Welp Steckis and Tova Miller Berns enjoy back to school night.

parents were shown photos of children engaged in different activities and were asked to guess what was being taught.

Friendship Circle Teen Training Hosts Capacity Crowd

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) On Sunday night October 2, close to 75 teens attended a Friendship Circle training about working with people with special needs. The evening was chaired by two teens, Sammy Sendersky and Sammy Culhane. The teen chairs began the evening with a Torah trivia game. Afterwards, Jessica Aysseh, who is the mom of a child with special needs, spoke to the teens.

"For ten years of my daughter's life we thought she had the intellect of a toddler. We discovered she was literate and comprehending - trapped in her disabled body - then we discovered a way to teach



Teens volunteers gather for an evening of training and friendship.

her to communicate by spelling. The life lesson that taught me is to always presume

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

BCHA Honors 2022 Math Olympiad winners



BCHA Middle School math teacher Darren Bahar (rear) with students (l-r) Aiden Cooper, Aaron Palker, Aaron Mishal, Elliot Nerenberg, and Yaakov Ostovsky. (PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL SILVERFARB)

(Courtesy of BCHA) Congratulations to the 2022 Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) Math Olympiad winners! The Math Olympiad is a monthly challenge in which many of

BCHA's 4th-8th graders participate. All of the students did very well, with some placing nationally in the top five percent. This year, over 70 Bi-Cultural students will participate in the Olympiad.

Adding Extra Fun to the BCHA Playground



Workers install the new equipment in the BCHA playground area. (ALL PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL SILVERFARB)

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) Thanks to the many donors who supported last year's "Team BCHA" fundraiser, the elementary and middle school playgrounds have been expanded. The new pieces were recently installed and are already being enjoyed by students.

Many thanks to current and former BCHA parents Stephanie Bilinker, Rachel Haron, Liat Karsch, Vered Links, and Meryl Meiteles who walked



A student at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy tests out the new balance beam.

a marathon to fundraise in support of this project. BCHA parent alumni continue to give back to the school, year after year, to help give current students the same great educational experience their children enjoyed. The fundraiser was also graciously sponsored in part by Ruth Teig, a former Bi-Cultural math faculty member.

BCHA Art Students Busy at Work

(Courtesy of BCHA) The hallway next to Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Gildor Child Center is getting a new look, courtesy of Mrs. Yael Shmilovitch's art students. Check out the hallway and get an up close and personal view of the school's logo that was painted by outstanding young artists!



Sixth grader Dani Raich helps to paint the school logo on the hallway wall. (CREDIT: PAUL SILVERFARB).

A Day of Study

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's (BCHA's) Upper School held a *Yom Iyun* (Day of Study) in preparation for Yom Kippur. Speakers included BCHA's Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld, Rabbi Oran Zweiter, Rabbi Naftali Wolfe, Rabbi Yair Daar, and Congregation Agudath Sholom's Rabbi Moshe Kurtz. Sessions were offered on a number of topics and students chose which class to attend based on their interests. It was an engaging



Rabbi Yair Daar, Jewish Studies Teacher at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's upper and middle schools, talks to his students during the recent *Yom Iyun*. (CREDIT: PAUL SILVERFARB)

and meaningful morning at Bi-Cultural and enhanced participants' holidays.

New Around Town

Bonnie Marcus, Bi-Cultural Director of Admissions

(Courtesy of BCHA) It's a busy time of the year for Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's new Director of Admissions, but Bonnie Marcus wouldn't want it any other way.

"The first few months at my new position have been both exciting and rewarding," said Mrs. Marcus. "BCHA is truly the best place to work."

Mrs. Marcus' experience is stellar and it's obvious that she's up to the task. As the Director of Special Events at the 92nd Street Y in New York, she worked very closely with the nursery school, as well as managed the



organization's events and fundraising efforts

"I am very excited to bring my skills to Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy and watch the school continue to flourish in the years to come," said Mrs. Marcus.

To say that Mrs. Marcus knows a thing or two about

the positive and welcoming experience at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy is an understatement. She has two children that have graduated from the school and one that is currently enrolled in the Upper School.



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2022 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FOR COMMUNAL NEEDS

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UJF CAMPAIGN CHAIR **ELLEN WEBER'S** CAMPAIGN LAUNCH REMARKS

So here I am, chairing the Annual Campaign, again. It is an honor and a labor of love and responsibility. Knowing Federation has a crucial role in the strength and growth of our community keeps me motivated!

Our strategic plan, a result of all of your input, will guide us forward. As we step into this next chapter, Federation will be entering its 50th year in our community.

You've heard the saying "You make a living by what you get, you make a life by what you give". What we give to others and use to better the world gives us a life.

And what we all give through our generous support to Federation through the Annual Campaign will not only impact our families and make our lives better but will do so for so many others locally and globally.

Thanks to Federation's financial partnership with the Harold Grinspoon foundation, 11 community organizations and synagogues are actively engaged in the **LIFE & LEGACY**® program. Now entering its 3rd year, the financial and staff commitment of Federation has enabled our community to secure more than 475 Letters of Intent and \$13.5M has been committed for the community's future. **If you have not made your commitment to secure our Jewish future, now is the time!**

Because of Federation, almost 600 children in our community receive monthly Jewish books through **PJ Library**. This program has led to engagement of young families in Darien and New Cannan, who are living outside the Stamford hub. And did you know Federation welcomed over 150 new community members and babies with a personal visit and gift bag?

Thanks to Federation, UJF has hired a regional security advisor, Michael Shanbrom, a Secure Community Network professional. He has made over 50 visits to community organizations, providing training in best security practices, emergency situations, and preparation for the holidays and school openings. **Safety is an ongoing concern and Federation has answered the call!**

Because of Federation, we continue to publish **The New Jewish Voice newspaper** providing every Jewish organization and synagogue in our community with opportunities to present their successes and activities. Nine issues a year continue to arrive in over 10,000 homes free of charge.

Connecting the community is at the core of Federation's purpose. UJF's 8 affinity groups brings our diverse community together. So if your interest is law, business, or medicine, if you are in your 20s, 30s, or 40s and want to stay connected to all things Jewish, perhaps you are a grandparent and want to interact with other grandparents or a Jewish single between 40 and 70 and want to meet new people, **Federation is here for YOU.**

Thanks to Federation, community members have access to outstanding **leadership training**. It's the alumni from Federation's Behrend Institute for Leadership, who serve on agency and synagogue boards throughout our community, while the almost 220 graduates of the Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps have been trained to be the next generation of philanthropists.

I would like to thank Rhonda Schaffer Maron, Vice President of Grants and Allocations, and her team for their incredibly hard work relating to the initiatives proposed by our community organizations. **This year, UJF donors can fund 28 wonderful community-building initiatives.**

And, as in years past and supported by the data of our strategic plan, you may direct your gift, selecting initiatives of importance to you and investing your philanthropy in a meaningful way.

The war in Ukraine continues and each day we pray for a swift end. The reason our Jewish community was able to respond is **because we have been here all along**. We build the foundation for a strong community TODAY so we can respond to the urgent

needs of TOMORROW and help ensure flourishing Jewish communities locally and around the world ALWAYS.

Your Annual Campaign gift to Federation supports Federation's foundational ability to build and strengthen our community both locally and globally and to be ready to respond immediately and effectively in times of crisis. We prepare and organize all year long so we are ready to spring into actions. **And you, our Jewish community and committed donors, make this all possible. Thank you!**

**With the New Year of 5783 upon us,
please answer the call and join me in making
United Jewish Federation's 2022 Campaign
for Communal Needs an even greater success!**

Bits & Pieces



BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

Sandy Golove

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Miriam & Chaim Attar on the birth of a daughter, Penina Nechama Attar; and to the grandparents **Rochel & Hecky Attar**; and to great-grandmother **Yospa Lieberman**.

Carly Dorman & Benjamin Magidson on the birth of their son, Jacob Zander Magidson

Chaya & Rabbi Levi Feller on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, **Malya & Rabbi Zalman Shmotkin**.

Nikki & Brian Freilich on the birth of a son, Andy Isaac Freilich; and to the grandparents, **Maxine and Jay Freilich**.

Becky & Adam Kevelson on the birth of a daughter.

Stephanie & Ari Landon on the birth of a son.

Molly Lederman & Eli Miloslavsky on the birth of a son, Noah Benjamin Miloslavsky; and to the grandparents, **Helen & Boris Miloslavsky**.

Rachel Herold Priem and Richard Priem on the birth of a son, Ezra Sam Priem, and to the grandparents **Betsy and Kevin Herald**.

Carol & Evan Rothstein on the birth of a son, Ryan Andrew Rothstein; and to the grandparents, **Barbara & Steven Rothstein**.

Michal & Mike Rosenblit on the birth of a son.

Aviva & Zev Gassner on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, **Rochel & Hecky Attar**; and to the great-grandmother, **Yospa Lieberman**.

MAZEL TOV TO ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING:

Karen Feinberg on the engagement of her daughter, **Stevi Feinberg** to **Jacob Hertzog**, son of **Michael & Teri Gross Hertzog**.

Heidi & Harrison Ganz on the marriage of their son, **Evan Ganz** to **Ashley Sheridan**.

Caryn Halbrecht & Tommy Haendler on the engagement of their son, **Alex Haendler** to **Rachael Pesce**.

Debra & Richard Nemchek on the marriage of their son, **Kyle Nemchek** to **Annie Gumpel**.

Lisa & Jeff Popper on the engagement of

their son, **Dan Popper** to **Kali Glickman**.
Lisa & Jeff Popper on the engagement of their son, **Michael Popper** to **Casey Manzella**.

Lynn & Gerry Rakos on the marriage of their daughter, **Allie Rakos** to **Jeff Kahn**.

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

Lillian & Sandy Shapiro on the engagement of their granddaughter **Leora Shapiro**, daughter of **Esti & Yitzie Shapiro** to **Yisroel Yudkowsky**, son of **Rivki & Rabbi Chaim Yitzchok Yudkowsky**.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Benjamin Davidson: son of **Amy & Aron Davidson**.

Jason Friedman: son of **Melissa & Michael Friedman**.

Sarah Gilbert: daughter of **Lori & Raph Gilbert**.

Hannah Tobin: daughter of **Laura & Seth Tobin**.

Dean Yurista: son of **Chen & Lee Yurista**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Sally Abbey: mother of **Debbie Morgenthaler** and **Lisa Abbey**.

Lonnie Adelman: father of **Steven Adelman**.

Joseph Bierman: husband of **Riva Alper** and father of **Sarah Alper Bierman** and **Joshua Alper Bierman**.

Norman Blomberg: brother of **Richard Blomberg**.

Douglass Chandler: husband of **Margaret Chandler** and father of **Laura Miller**.

Gail Coffey: sister of **Paula Simon**.

Ted Goldsmith: cousin of **Connie Elkinson**.

Nancy Goodman: mother of **Jeffrey Goodman**.

Bernard "Buddy" Hillman: husband of **Lorraine Hillman**; and father of **Lawrence Hillman**, **Richard Willman** and **Debra Wasserman**.

Dena Olshansky Kaplan: mother of **Mitchell Kaplan**, **David Kaplan** and **Lisa Kaplan Ashenmil** and companion of **Bennett Brooks**.

Helen Lakin: mother of **Linda Lakin**.

Abraham Mizrachi: father of **Michael Rubin**.

Susan Rosen: mother of **Mindy Gazzara** and **Bobbi Dorish**.

Dr. Robert Rosenfeld: father of **Edward Rosenfeld** and **Elissa Levine**.

Zwi Teitelbaum: father of **Marc Teitelbaum**.

The Hebrew Corner

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

Noah and the Flood

In place of thinking about the story of the flood as it was told to us in an age-appropriate manner when we were four or five, let's think about it in an age-appropriate manner for us as adults. For the purposes of these paragraphs, let's focus on the word that the Torah utilizes for the flood waters drying after the ark comes to rest. The word we're addressing comes towards the end of Genesis 8:13. The word is CHahR-Voo. And it is usually translated as the ground's surface was dried. But then in Genesis 8:14 the Torah states that after almost another two months, the ground was really dry, using the word YaV-SHah. And only after that does Noah and his family leave the ark (Genesis 8:15). Why the two words for "dry?"

The root of the second word - Yud, Vet, SHin - means dry. But the root of the first word - Chet, Raysh, Vet - is used to mean destroyed, as in the Hebrew word "CHah-RahV." The same three letter root is used to mean sword, as in the Hebrew word "CHeh-RehV." This is what we feel



Robert Abrams

is the link to understanding what the word CHahR-Voo in Genesis 8:13 truly means. The ground in Genesis 8:13 was not dry or drying; it was destroyed. How so?

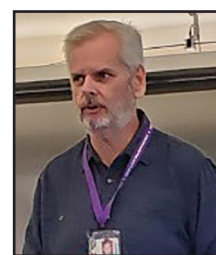
According to the text of the Noah story, the ground was under water for many months. What is the ground like after a steady rain of two or three days? The ground is really muddy. Now imagine what the ground might be like after being submerged for months at a time, and also bear in mind that Noah would be farming in order to grow food. How could he possibly prepare the land for growing food? The land had to dry out for almost two months before Noah and his family could use the ground to walk on, let alone use it for farming. The water had destroyed the land for Noah's intended purposes.

Next time you hear or think of the Noah story, explore the details of what Noah and his family must have gone through in preparing the ark, living in it, and then starting over. The Hebrew text gives us the true meaning and details of the daunting task of beginning again.

Back to School with Reading Partners in 2022!

(Courtesy of UJF) On Thursday, September 29, United Jewish Federation's Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners held its first in-person Back to School Workshop since 2019! Twenty volunteers came to the Government Center to hear Joseph O'Callaghan, Department Chair for Social Work of the Stamford Public Schools, who spoke on the topic "COVID-19 and Its Impact on Our Children, Their Development and Their Relationships."

Before the presentation, the Reading Partners had time to reconnect with each other. Those who are comfortable returning



Joseph O'Callaghan, Stamford Public Schools

to school this year are excited to get started. When she first learned that the schools were ready for the program to continue this year, Northeast School team leader Meg Moor said, "So glad to hear from you and discover that Reading Partners plans to relaunch. Count me in!"

Over the past two years, students at the schools have been deeply impacted by the pandemic. O'Callaghan spoke about children's ability to be resilient, even in the face of a global pandemic. He described to volunteers how a supportive adult relationship is a very important factor in children's ability to cope with difficult circumstances and gave the volunteers strategies to meet the students where they are and connect through the reading sessions.

Reading Partners is actively looking for more volunteers in all the schools for the 2022-2023 school year. Please contact Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org if you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the program.



A Message From UJF's Shaliach Beyond the Borders

BY YOAV YARON

This is a story you probably won't read or hear about in the news. This is a story of real-life individuals living together and trying their best to be good people.

I grew up in the area of the Gaza Strip known as Gush Katif. At the time, the area was a mixed population of Israelis and Palestinians. When the renewal of the Jewish population in the region started (1967), the new neighbors were quite confused about why we would want to come back. Our goal at the time was to strengthen the Jewish communities throughout Israel, including the Gaza Strip. Most of our new neighbors were quite happy with the renewal of the region because it brought more economic and social improvements and opportunities.

My father, Shaia, was and currently is a car mechanic and built his auto repair shop and business in Gush Katif. Most of his employees were our new neighbors, Palestinians who live in Khan Yunis or the villages near us. It was so natural to work together, and when my older brothers, Lior and Ohad, started working at the auto shop they formed friendships with some of their co-workers. Many of my Dad's employees attended our family celebrations, and there is even a picture from my brit milah of my Dad with his whole work crew.



Yoav Yaron

In 2005 the Israeli government decided to uproot the Jewish presence from the Gaza Strip which meant my dad needed to close down his business and let go of all the employees. Sadly, it was hard to stay in touch with our close friends and colleagues, but my dad always did a good job about reaching out to them over the year and particularly during the holiday seasons. Some of the old employees did the same, and I remember one Passover my dad received

a call and stayed on the phone for a long time speaking in Hebrew and some Arabic with one of his old friends from the Gaza area. A few weeks ago, my dad and my older brothers (who now own the auto repair shop and family business near Ashdod) had a visit from Gaza; two of our friends were able to get a visitor visa and spend the day with them. It was great seeing and visiting with them and hearing they are safe and healthy. We are fortunate to be able to form these true, life-long friendships and see each other once more.

This is the story you won't hear or see in the news but an important lesson nonetheless. This story is how I learned the value of my dad's friendships from Gaza and the story of true co-existence between Arabs and Jews.

May we all stay in the same mindset that allows us to form these life-long friendships with one another and to see people beyond the disagreements.

Strengthening UJF's Commitment to Israel

(Courtesy of UJF) In early October, Neta Katz, Chief Programming Officer and Head of the Delegation of The Jewish Agency for Israel North America, made her first community visit to Stamford since arriving in the USA. She was accompanied by Ronit Kott Cohen, a Regional Director of the Jewish Agency who works closely with Stamford's United Jewish Federation community. Prior to this role, Neta spent more than two decades at The Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, serving the global Jewish community.

"Most recently, Neta served as the Senior Director of Implementation at the Strategy Unit with responsibility for

identifying and implementing areas of organizational and programmatic growth. UJF was honored to be Neta's first community visit and we look forward to continued growth under Neta's leadership," shared Diane Sloyer.



Diane Sloyer, Neta Katz, Yoav Yaron, Ronit Kott Cohen.

A Warm Welcome from United Jewish Federation



Darien resident Hannah Blonshteyn receives a Shalom Baby Welcome visit and gift bag.



North Stamford residents Alex and Brett Olsson are welcomed to the community.

United Jewish Federation warmly welcomes both those new to the community and families with new babies with a Shalom Welcome visit. Sharon Franklin, UJF's Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement, personally visits

newcomers with a welcome bag filled with gifts and helpful information about the community. If you know of anyone who is new to town or recently had a baby, reach out to Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

ISRAEL 2023: CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

MARCH 9 - 16, 2023

The Jewish Federations of Greater Hartford & Greater New Haven are planning a community trip to Israel! 100 community members have already signed up... don't miss out! Choose from 5 flexible tracks each day, including: **First-Time Visitors to Israel • Geopolitics and Coexistence • Arts & Culture • Food & Wine • Technology & Innovation**

PRICING

- Adult \$4,750 (ends November 1, 2022)
- Youth (ages 10-17) or triple occupancy \$650 reduced cost
- Single room \$1,465 additional

INCLUDED

- 7 nights in 5-star accommodations in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv & Northern Israel
- Breakfast buffet, most lunches & dinners
- Licensed, English speaking tour guides
- Deluxe bus with AC & Wi-Fi
- Program activities & entrance fees
- Concierge assistance & hospitality desk

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights (airfare)
- Tips & gratuities
- Travel insurance
- Optional Morocco adventure

DEADLINES

Registration closes November 30. \$500 per person deposit due on registration. Trip deposit is refundable through October 1.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER, VISIT:
israel-adventure-2023.eventmagix.com

For more information, contact Diane Sloyer @ Dianesloyer@ujf.org, (203) 321-1373, ext. 1000.



A New Tradition for Temple Sinai

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai)

Throughout history, the Jewish people have survived by remaining nimble and evolving their traditions to address ever-changing circumstances. The Rosh Hashana tradition of *tashlich*, a symbolic casting of sins (breadcrumbs) into a body of water, is an ancient ritual that brings physicality to *cheshbon hanefesh* – an annual accounting of the soul. In years past, Temple Sinai congregants gathered at a local pond; they would sing a bit of the traditional liturgy, listen to the sounding of the shofar and then toss their breadcrumb “sins” into the water. This High Holiday season, when the local drought dried up their water source, they needed to create an alternative ritual, accessible to all ages, that would be both meaningful and effective. But what would this new tradition look like?

As it so happened, congregants Elisabeth Giles and Susan Lauritzen were having coffee one day and got to discussing goats. Yes, goats. Elisabeth had seen a commercial featuring goats being used as therapy animals. Apparently, there are people who pay to have goats walk on their backs as a kind of yoga/massage. Goats are friendly and docile and are fun for young children to pet and play with. Goats are also employed at local parks as a way to naturally and safely combat invasive plant species. Plus, goats are adorable. As it turned out, Susan knew Kristin, the self-proclaimed “crazy goat lady,” and the rest was history. Elisabeth and Susan approached Rabbi Jay TelRav with the idea of bringing visiting goats to Temple Sinai. Rabbi Jay immediately saw the goats as a serendipitous solution to the *tashlich* conundrum. Goats will eat anything. This could be a new take on the ancient concept of the scapegoat – congregants would feed their sins to the goats. Of course, the rest of the Temple Sinai staff and ritual committee loved the idea as well.

The synagogue leadership kept the goats as a surprise for the congregation at large, but told folks that this would be a completely new *tashlich* experience, one they wouldn't want to miss. When families gathered on the back lawn of the synagogue property for the afternoon *tashlich* service, they were met by thirteen adorable little goats, some of which were dressed in costumes – namely fairy wings and unicorn horns. The overwhelming response from children and adults alike was sheer elation. Participants were told they could write their sins on little



Cantor Micah Morgovsky and Rabbi Jay TelRav hold goats at Temple Sinai's innovative *tashlich* experience.



Lauren Goldstein happily embraces a goat.



Oliver Karlitz feeds leaves to a goat costumed with wings.

pieces of paper or on leaves and then feed them to the goats. Kristin, the goat lady, assured everyone this was totally safe for the animals. Paper is basically masticated plant material anyway! Another option was for folks to simply whisper their sins in the goats' ears. Goats are non-judgmental and very good at keeping secrets. Families stayed to hang out on the lawn, long after the sin-casting was done, to talk to one another and to play with the goats. It was a shining moment for Temple Sinai. With vibrancy, whimsy and intention, the community re-formed a traditional Jewish experience for the 21st century.

UJF's Rothschild Society Features Award Winning Author



Author Rich Cohen and moderator Claudia Kraut share a laugh with the audience.

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Rothschild Society held a program in late September at Serendipity Labs, a shared workspace business in Harbor Point. The Rothschild Society, which focuses on the business world, is one of several UJF affinity groups that offer the community professional networking, engaging programs, and leadership opportunities.

After dinner, drinks, and networking, the program featured award winning author, Rich Cohen. Moderator Claudia Kraut guided Cohen through a series of questions that highlighted his book, *The Amazing Adventures of Herbie Cohen: The World's Greatest Negotiator*. The book is about Cohen's father, Herbie Cohen, a dealmaker, risk taker, raconteur, adviser to presidents and corporations, hostage and arms negotiator, lesson giver and justice seeker, and author of the how-to business classic *You Can Negotiate Anything*.

"I was so excited to meet, and hear from Rich because I have been a fan of his books and other writings for years. He did not disappoint! His presentation was just as entertaining, funny, and interesting as his writing," commented Rob Hoff.

Cohen writes for *Rolling Stone*, *Harper's Bazaar*, the *New Yorker*, and is co-creator of the HBO series *Vinyl* with Martin Scorsese and Mick Jagger.

For more information about the Rothschild Society, or UJF's other affinity groups, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



(l-r) Rhoda Freedberg, UJF CEO Diane Sloyer, Avi Freedberg, and Sandy Wiener.



(l-r) Elise Lerner, Carol Brewer, Rich Cohen, and Steve Schwartz.



(l-r) Rob Hoff, UJF's Israeli Shaliach Yoav Yaron, Allison Greenbaum, and Andrew Bein.

NextGen Hosts a Royally Fun Challah Braiding Evening

BY MELANIE VORM, DIRECTOR, NEXTGEN

More than 110 community-dwellers from all over Stamford, Darien, New Canaan and Greenwich gathered together for an evening of challah-braiding community fun with Israeli challah-braiding artist and Instagram sensation, The Challah Prince.

Hosted by United Jewish Federation's NextGen at the social hall of Temple Beth El, the evening saw guests learn how to braid The Challah Prince's famous round "Royal 6" (using 6 dough strands) and take one home to bake, just in time for Rosh

Hashana. The Challah Prince also shared his secrets of how to braid a jaw-dropping 20-strand round challah.

Born and raised in Tel Aviv, The Challah Prince, known formally as Idan Chabasov, started challah baking at the beginning of COVID-19 in the early part of 2020. But what started as a hobby, quickly gained huge momentum after he shared his spectacular challah artistry on Instagram. Within months, his followers grew (as did his techniques!) to tens of thousands and he now has a worldwide following of over 116 thousand. (If you're not following him on Instagram, make sure you do @challahprince). His challah braiding has become an ever-growing community of art, creativity and deliciousness, and everyone was so excited to have him locally in Stamford!

"Like many of us, I took up challah baking through COVID and found The Challah Prince on Instagram when trying to perfect my braiding. Sadly, mine have never turned out as pretty as his, but when I saw that he



Participants have fun working with challah dough.



Jessica Kooris, Leah Shemtov, Mel Vorm, Teresa Herman, Rachel Kaimowitz, Kate Cik, Elior Coleman and Jennie Woltz-Folkinshteyn pose at UJF's challah baking event.



Amy Sroka, Shira Saibel and Rina Miller chat with the Challah Prince as they braid their dough.



Rachel Kaimowitz and Caroline Marciano display balls of challah dough. (ALL PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)



Shushanna Yasgur, Mel Vorm, Challah Prince, Leah Rosoph, Isabelle Gambino, Robin Fischel, Molly Schrag, Becky Kevelson and Chloe Strong show off their braided challah dough.

was coming to Stamford, I was so excited. My husband and I have been admiring his techniques from afar for a while and I am a huge fan!" said Cynthia Gordon, a local mom of three who lives in Stamford.

The Challah Braiding evening with The Challah Prince is the fifth event that has taken place in the newly relaunched NextGen program and there are others planned in the next few months. Stay tuned for the upcoming Chanukah party on December 3.

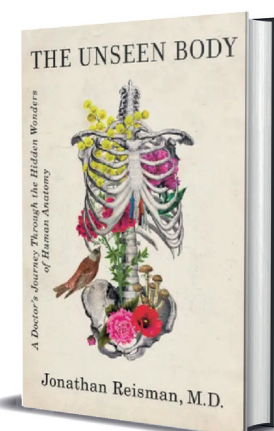
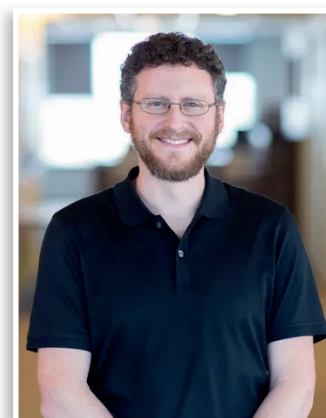
The mission of the NextGen initiative is to serve as a connector for all young Jews,

regardless of background or affiliation. It also seeks to build community through social events, fun and meaningful volunteer programs, educational activities, and philanthropy. To get involved, contact Melanie Vorm at melanie@ujf.org

Thanks to community sponsors who made the evening with The Challah Prince possible – Beldotti Bakery, Temple Beth El, UJA- JCC Greenwich, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Young Israel of Stamford, Chabad of Stamford, Temple Sinai, and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy.

United Jewish Federation's Maimonides Group invites you to:

The Unseen Body: A Conversation with Dr. Jonathan Reisman



NOVEMBER 1ST • OPEN TO ALL!

6:30pm Dinner, drinks,
and mingling, 7:30pm program

Price \$36 per person/sponsor at \$72

The Waterstone,
215 High Ridge Rd., Stamford
Co-chairs: Dr. Stephanie Becker,
Lisa Gavronsky- PA-C, Dr. Shara Israel,
and Dr. Philip Klapper

Sign up at www.ujf.org/body

Contact Sharon Franklin
for more information at sharon@ujf.org

Jonathan Reisman M.D. is a physician, author, and adventurer. His offbeat writing combines his passions for the practice of medicine, nature, travel, wilderness, prehistoric crafts, and food (especially internal organs). He has practiced medicine in some of the world's most remote places, including Antarctica, the Alaskan and Russian Arctic, the Himalayan Mountains of Nepal, rural Appalachia, the urban slums of Kolkata, India, and Pine Ridge, South Dakota among the Oglala Sioux. He is co-creator of the anatomy-based dinner series Anatomy Eats. He runs a non-profit dedicated to improving healthcare and education in India. He has written for the New York Times, Washington Post, Slate, and Discover Magazine.

FEDERATION NEEDS YOU

LOOKING TO
VOLUNTEER?

GIVE US A CALL AND SEE WHAT OPPORTUNITIES
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(203) 321-1373,

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Community Partners Work Together

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Rebekah Kanefsky, Director of Case Management at Schoke Jewish Family Service, met with Jensen Greif at Wheel it Forward to receive medical equipment for a Schoke JFS client, who is tremendously grateful to be able to get the items she needs at a cost she can afford. Schoke JFS is also grateful to Wheel it Forward for being a community partner, ensuring that those in need do not have to wait to receive the help they need most.

Wheel it Forward is a not-for-profit lending library for durable medical equipment (DME). Wheel it Forward offers a convenient destination to enable anyone



Rebekah Kanefsky and Jensen Greif in the Wheel it Forward warehouse.

to easily donate or borrow DME. You can learn more about Wheel it Forward at www.wheelitforwardusa.org.

Good Samaritans Help with Schoke JFS Kosher Food Pantry

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service is grateful to Officer Pete Kalmanidis from the Stamford Police Department and Jake, a local construction worker, for volunteering to help Schoke JFS board member Sally Kleinman carry food distributions from her car, which had food from the Midwest Food Bank New England, to the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry.



Officer Pete Kalmanidis, Sally Kleinman and Jake, a local construction worker.

A Proud New Citizen

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Meet one of Schoke Jewish Family Service's successful new citizens, Vadim Markusov.

Thanks to a grant from Jewish Federation Association of CT (JFACT), of which United Jewish Federation is a member, Schoke JFS was once again able to receive a grant to support their citizenship program.

Throughout the process, Vadim was supported by Schoke JFS Bilingual Program Director Marina Sapir and social worker Susan Loomis. Sapir is also the program director of the Anachnu program and English Cafe and Loomis is the facilitator for the Schoke JFS citizenship program.

Congratulations Vadim!



(l-r) Marina Sapir, Vadim Markusov, Susan Loomis.

L'Dor V'Dor: Educating Youth about Their Jewish Heritage

(Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society) Since 2020, the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's (JHSFC's) L'Dor V'Dor (From Generation to Generation) educational program has taught over fifty 6th-8th grade religious school students in Fairfield County about their Jewish heritage. The program premiered in three religious schools and has expanded to six schools in the 2022-2023 academic year. This year's program will take place at Temple Sinai of Stamford, Keshet Beth El (Stamford and Norwalk), Kulanu (Fairfield and Trumbull), Temple Shalom Greenwich for the second year, and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy for the third year. The program is the brainchild of JHSFC's immediate past President, Dr. Elissa Kaplan and Director of the Archives, Dr. Leah Tillman. Since its inception, educators Rhonda Ginsberg and Leslie Heyison have brought their skills to the team, along with project manager Joan Berkeley and several volunteers who will assist in lesson instruction.

The L'Dor V'Dor program integrates five sessions into the religious school curriculum. The sessions consist of an overview of Jewish immigration to Fairfield County starting in the 17th century as well as a discussion of artifacts, including a walk-through the religious school to sleuth out artifacts as well as a hands-on session from the artifact treasure trove maintained by JHSFC. There is also a capstone project where students interview their grandparents or other elder-relative about their younger days and life journeys, as well as Jewish family traditions and meaningful moments. Independent research has shown that teens develop stronger identities when they connect with their grandparents and learn about their family heritage, which can help them navigate their teen years.

For the capstone project, the L'Dor V'Dor



Leah Tillman and a student work together to examine artifacts.



A student works with artifacts from the JHSFC archives.

team teaches the students interviewing skills and techniques through role playing and other interactive activities. The L'Dor V'Dor team then creates a video montage from all the recorded interviews which is shown at an end-of-session *Siyyum* (celebration) attended by the students, parents and grandparents. The Jewish history and culture that the students and family members learn from listening to other families' stories in the video montage is deeply moving and meaningful for all generations. The videos and video montage are kept by the families and archived at the Jewish Historical Society, located at 900 Hope Street in Stamford, CT.

* These videos are open to the public by appointment. To arrange for a private viewing, please call 203-359-2196 or email info@jhsfc-ct.org.

Friendship Circle Teen Training Hosts Capacity Crowd

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

competence of all people. It's always the safest assumption. We have no way of knowing the inner workings of any other person."

After Aysseh spoke, the evening continued with a screening of the movie *A Smile as Big as the Moon*. This movie expounded more upon the theme of the talk, in assuming the competence of all

people. It is based on a true story of a high school coach who fought to take his students with special needs to participate in NASA's Summer Space Camp. Until then, the camp was offered only to students who excelled academically. Several of the actors in the movie have Down Syndrome or are on the Autism Spectrum. Please reach out to Friendship Circle Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com to learn how you can become involved.

How to Turn Disadvantaged Kids Into Innovative Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneur Rony Zarom founded Unistream to help young people from underprivileged backgrounds prepare for success in business.

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN/
ISRAEL21C

As a 17-year-old from blue-collar Ramla, the only decent summer job Rony Zarom could find was selling books door to door in Tel Aviv, about 12 miles from home.

"I went all the way to Tel Aviv by bus, and they told me I would get a very minimal salary, but if I did well, I would get some percentage commission from the sales. It turns out I was a really good salesperson, and I made quite a lot of money for a young person during the summertime," recalls Zarom, an accomplished entrepreneur.

The following summer, before starting his army service, Zarom founded his own book-selling company.

"I was really shocked about the amount of trust I got from businesspeople who provided me with inventory and guidance and whatever I needed. If you have an experience like that, you feel you can do anything in the world."

Zarom went on to serve in the paratroopers, earn a master's degree in computer science in New York, and return to Israel to establish the country's first Internet provider.

After helming several successful ventures, he felt a calling to help young Israelis from disadvantaged backgrounds find their way in the business world just as he had.

Founded in 2001, Unistream now works with 3,500 male and female high school students each year and has thousands of alumni from across the country from all sectors – Jewish, Arab, religious, secular.

"There are so many different streams in Israel, so many different colors, religions and cultures. But when kids come to our organization, they become united and they become one stream," says Zarom, explaining the name he chose for the organization.

"These are the people who are left behind. They don't have mentors; they don't have the courage and self-confidence to go and break the glass ceiling," he tells ISRAEL21C.

"At Unistream, they all receive tools and skills from the worlds of entrepreneurship and innovation, which allow them to dream big, raise their self-confidence, fulfill their professional aspirations and succeed in life."

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Unistream has close ties to Israel's business and education communities as well as government ministries.

"We operate 22 entrepreneurship centers in a three-year program for ninth, 10th and 11th graders. Three of them are 'shared society,' meaning they have Arab and Jewish participants collaborating together on startup creation," Unistream CEO Ifat Bechor tells ISRAEL21C.

"And we have a one-year program called SUN (Startup Now), which has allowed us to bring the entrepreneurial DNA to over

85 municipalities as an informal afterschool program."

In 2019, the Israel Innovation Authority and Israeli Ministry of Education awarded a five-year contract to Unistream to operate a Young Entrepreneurs program through SUN for seventh- to 12th-graders in northern and southern periphery communities.

Key figures from industry, academia, startups, incubators and entrepreneurial labs help SUN participants transform their tech ideas into products with commercial value.

The culmination of the yearly program is a Youth Entrepreneur of the Year competition where the teams present their projects in English.

Bechor notes that achieving English fluency is difficult for many of these kids but it's an essential asset for anyone starting a business or aspiring to work for multinational corporations like Microsoft, Meta or Google.

At last July's Youth Entrepreneur competition, involving 110 youth startups, a team from Netivot won first prize for "EasyWake," a smart mattress that wakes the sleeper with pleasant sounds and gentle vibration — and interfaces via IoT with smart home devices such as window shades, lights and heaters. A mattress company is developing the concept.

A SPARK IN THE EYES

Bechor said Unistream screens applicants recommended by high schools. Not everyone is accepted.

"If you have the spark in your eyes and you're willing to make the commitment, we want you. Even if you are a shy person, in one year you will pitch your idea — in English — to the best business people in Israel. This is the most amazing impact we can make," Bechor says.

Bechor has been approached by business leaders in several other countries who are interested in replicating Unistream's model to enhance informal entrepreneurship education. In addition, Unistream teens get to dialogue with peers in other countries to improve their communication skills and broaden their horizons.

Along with technical and soft skills, Unistream strives to give participants the ability to believe in themselves.

"We want them to understand that even the most successful entrepreneur in the world heard 'no' many times and it's not about where he was born. It's about persistence, confidence, feeling comfortable in an uncomfortable zone."

'I WAS SAVED BY UNISTREAM'

At last year's Young Entrepreneurs competition, an alumnus came over to Zarom and said, "I have to tell you

something: Before Unistream, I was on the verge of becoming somebody totally different. And now I look at myself and I say, 'Wow, thank God that I was saved by Unistream.'"

As a young teen, he had hung out with the wrong crowd. Now he's finishing his service in Unit 8200, the army's elite technological corps that has spawned a large proportion of Israel's startup founders.

"He's planning on studying in Tel Aviv University and working as a computer programmer in parallel with his studies," says Zarom.

"So you see the immense shift that you can create in one person. And there are so many examples like that."

Bechor remembers a girl who sold sandwiches to make enough money to put food on her family's table. At Unistream, she was encouraged to take a more difficult track in mathematics at her high school, which proved pivotal to her success. "The math itself helped her but it was more about not giving up and going the extra mile."

Another girl used notes from her Unistream sessions as a guide to starting a business with her single and unemployed mother, making pizzas and selling them door

to door. She later became vice president of marketing in one of the largest companies in Israel.

AMAZING HUMAN RESOURCE POTENTIAL

Unistream participants are charged a nominal fee to show their commitment, but the fee is waived if they can't afford it.

"The last thing we want them to think is that the barrier will be money," says Bechor.

Unistream receives about 20% of its funding from various government agencies. The rest comes from the companies that provide volunteer mentors and sponsor its entrepreneurship centers, as well as from Jewish federations, foundations and private donors.

"The business sector has an understanding that their investment in Unistream is symbiotic," says Bechor.

"It's not 'we give and you take.' They understand that investing in our kids is really planting the seeds of their future employees and entrepreneurs of Israel and that there is an amazing human resource potential in the periphery if you just give kids the right tools at the age of 15 and 16."

LIFE & LEGACY

LIFE & LEGACY Testimonial

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

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

BONITA AND STEPHEN RAPOPORT TESTIMONIAL

We arrived in Stamford, Connecticut from London, England in 1996 with our two young daughters and we didn't know anyone. While it was quite an adventure it was also a little daunting at times. We felt the best way to make new friends and feel part of a community was to enroll our children into a Jewish preschool. We then joined the JCC and immediately met some of our dearest friends who included us with their families at every holiday. Without this incredibly warm welcome and support system by the Jewish community we would never have been able to make such a smooth adjustment to life in America.

It is our hope that the Jewish community is as open and warm to future generations as it was to us.



Bonita Rapoport (bottom left) and Stephen Rapoport (right) with their daughters.

We are also concerned about the future of Jewish life in America. Without dedication, volunteering and commitment by the current Jewish community, we fear that the Jewish way of life will dwindle. For these reasons we committed to the LIFE & LEGACY program; a program that allows you to support your chosen Jewish organization and to ensure its future for generations to come.

LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll

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

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

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 Renee Zinn
 Navah & David Zizmor
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**Of Blessed Memory
 This is the list provided to UJF at time of publishing. We apologize for any names that have been omitted. Please let us know and the missing names will be added to the next issue of the paper. Names in blue have finalized their commitment at the time of publication.*

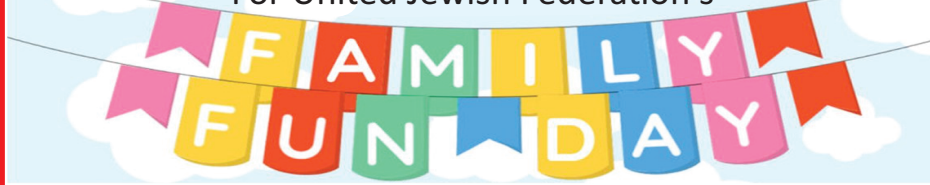

United Jewish Federation
100 STAMFORD - NEW CANAAN - DARIEN
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PJ Library & PJ OUR WAY
A Program of United Jewish Federation



SAVE THE DATE!

For United Jewish Federation's



FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday, November 13th - 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Petting Zoo - Stars of Hope Mitzvah Project - Crafts

Story Time - School Supply Drive for Children in a Local Shelter

Kids - Drop Off Your Super Sunday Coins & Get a Prize

Co-Chairs: Robin Fischel & Simone Zwany - Sign up at www.ujf.org/ssfun

On the patio at the JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford (In the auditorium in case of rain)

For more info contact Sharon Franklin @ sharon@ujf.org



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PJ Library Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN



Sharon Franklin

• Mark your calendar for UJF's Super Sunday Family Fun Day, to be held on November 13 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. A free program open to the entire community, Super Sunday Family Fun Day will include an animal petting farm, crafts, *mitzvah* opportunities, Stars of Hope painting project, snacks, and much more! Sign up today at www.ujf.org/ssfun.

• Did you know that every child in your family can get a subscription for a free monthly Jewish children's book thanks to UJF and PJ Library? Sign up your children (0-8 years of age) and they will receive an age-appropriate PJ Library book each month! It's easy to sign up by visiting www.pjlibrary.org.

• Tweens ages 9 to 12 can sign up for the next phase of PJ Library - PJ OUR WAY. When your child is about to turn nine, PJ Our Way will send you an email inviting you to sign up your tween for free monthly Jewish themed chapter books they get to select themselves. You can also sign up for books directly at www.pjourway.org.

• Have you checked out PJ Library's LISTEN hub? Go to www.pjlibrary.org/listen for all things audio. You will find family-friendly story podcasts, sleepy time tunes, holiday playlists, dance

mixes, and sing-alongs- something for everyone with new featured content each month.

For all things PJ, contact Sharon Franklin, Sharon@ujf.org (203) 321-1373.

PUMPKIN MUFFINS - THE PERFECT BAKING ACTIVITY AND SNACK FOR FALL!

These Pumpkin Muffins are made with oats instead of flour and real maple syrup instead of refined sugar. Healthy and tasty - your Pumpkin Muffins are sure to be a crowd pleaser for Fall!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of rolled oats
- 1 cup pumpkin puree (canned is OK)
- 6 ounces plain Greek yogurt (a small container)
- ½ cup real maple syrup
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon each of salt and cinnamon
- Chocolate chips

Directions:

In a food processor or blender, pulse the oats for about ten seconds.

Add all the ingredients with the oats and pulse until mixed (some pieces of oats may remain). Stir in chocolate chips.

Transfer to a greased muffin tin and bake for 15-ish minutes at 350 degrees. They are best warm, but good the next day, too.

Bake the batter right away! If you wait a long time between mixing up the batter and baking, the oats will absorb a lot of moisture and the muffin texture will get gummy.



This pumpkin muffin recipe is healthy and easy to make- a great fall project for your kids!

PJ Library Feature Family

(Courtesy of UJF) Chen and Lee Yurista, and their three children, Dean (13), Gaia (10), and Lia (8), moved to New Canaan four years ago from New York City. Prior to New York, they lived in Israel for ten years. Chen works for the Claims Conference, a global non-profit that is committed to providing justice to Holocaust Survivors. Lee is the International Social Events Manager for Sesame Street. The children, who attend public school in New Canaan, are big PJ Library and PJ Our Way fans.

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

Lia's favorite PJ Library book is *The Art Lesson: A Shavuot Story*, which tells the story of a girl and her grandmother crafting creating papercuts together.



The Yurista Family love getting PJ Library and PJ Our Way books. (Pictured top to bottom) Chen, Lee, Dean, Gaia, and Lia.

Dean and Gaia share the same favorite PJ Our Way chapter book, *Becoming Brianna*. It is a graphic novel about a girl getting ready for her bat mitzvah, and the challenges she faces, including memorizing her Torah portion. Dean relates to this story, as he celebrated his bar mitzvah in October!

Why is PJ Library important in your home?

PJ Library and PJ Our Way are important in our home because the stories help

us understand and learn more about our Jewish culture and religion, something we treasure in our family. For Dean and Gaia, PJ Our Way chapter books help them understand the meaning behind the holidays and why we celebrate them. We can read stories in English, without understanding Hebrew, while still feeling close to our heritage.

A Musical Sukkot with PJ Library

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's PJ Library held a festive "Sukkot Supper and Song" program at Temple Sinai of Stamford. Families enjoyed dinner and crafts, listened to music by Lizzie Swan of the Swingset Mamas, and created edible *sukkahs* for dessert. Rabbi Jay TelRav of Temple Sinai spoke to the kids about the harvest holiday of Sukkot and made the blessing with the lulav and etrog.

The program was a partnership between Federation and Temple Sinai. Special thanks to Erica Quamily, Religious School & Youth Director, and Shelly Welfeld, Director of Operations, at Temple Sinai.

For more information about PJ Library, contact Sharon Franklin, UJF's Managing Director of Campaign & Community Engagement, at sharon@ujf.org.



Rabbi Jay TelRav shows the children a lulav and etrog.



Volunteer Jake Balinsky helps children create edible sukkahs.

PJ Library in Darien Celebrates Fall Holidays

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's PJ Library held a fall holiday get-together in Darien, hosted by Andy and Meaghan Katz. Fourteen families attended the gathering, offering them a chance to see friends, meet new people, and build community in their town.

Sharon Franklin, UJF's Director of Campaign and Community

Engagement, facilitated holiday blessings with the group, including the blessing over apples and honey and challah. Andy Katz, host of the program, blew the shofar for guests, while children blew the paper shofars they had crafted earlier.

For more information about PJ Library and programming, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



Doug Johnson and his son pass out apple slices and honey.



Host Andy Katz blows the shofar for the group, a skill he learned from his father when he was seven years old.



Participants decorate paper shofars.

WHY I CARE...

Focus On: Erica Quamily

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." - Albert Einstein

Erica Quamily is the Religious School & Youth Director at Temple Sinai in Stamford. In her role, Erica works to build and strengthen the Temple's youth engagement strategy while overseeing all operations of the religious school. Five years ago, she and her husband Rob moved from Stamford to Norwalk. They especially enjoy walking to Stew Leonard's ice cream shop from their home with their four-year-old daughter Parker.

Erica and Rob are New England transplants, as they are both native New Yorkers. In their free time, they love spending time with family.

THIS IS WHY SHE CARES:

Describe your involvement with UJF:

I first got involved with United Jewish Federation on a personal

level when my daughter was born. I signed Parker up for PJ Library books through UJF when she was a baby, recognizing what a wonderful resource it was to bring Jewish stories and ideas into our home. My husband Rob is not Jewish, and together we decided to raise our daughter with Judaism. PJ Library stories provide a quick and easy way to introduce Jewish holidays, customs, values, and stories to my daughter, and also provide great learning opportunities for my husband. I am happy to also utilize PJ Library in my professional role, sharing this great resource with families at Temple Sinai, as well as partnering with UJF for PJ Library programming.

In addition, I have been involved with UJF as a guest at multiple programs for NextGen and PJ Library.

Have you been involved with other Jewish organizations?

Besides my involvement and work at Temple Sinai, I am a volunteer for the Association for Reform Jewish Educators, providing professional development for other Reform educators worldwide at pop up events on Zoom. My family and I also attend tot Shabbat and family programming at Temple Shalom in Norwalk.

Describe your experience as a Jewish community professional:

I have been with Temple Sinai for ten years and enjoy my work very much. My involvement is unique, because I touch a variety of families and ages, including kids from birth to high school, as well as their parents; some of the families even look like mine. I am fortunate to have a panoramic view of both the parents and the children, getting the full experience of the families I serve. This allows me to get an overall big picture as I work to grow Temple Sinai's youth and religious school.



Erica Quamily poses with her husband, Rob, and four-year-old daughter, Parker.

TEEN VOICES

The Little Things in Life

BY SADIE PALKER

The little things in life are what really matter, and I have experienced a ton of little things lately that have made me happy. A couple of days ago, my mom picked me up from school early for an orthodontist appointment. It was the first time I had really spent time with her all week because I'd been busy with school and extracurricular activities. We got Starbucks, went out to lunch, and had a chance to talk and catch up. It was really nice, and I made sure to tell her that. After lunch, we went to Stew Leonard's and bought fruit and flowers for Rosh Hashana. As we looked at the flowers, I told my mom that this little moment with her made me feel very happy.

For Rosh Hashana, my mom and I made challah and dessert to bring to my grandparents' homes. My mom made the dough for the challah, and I braided it; I topped one with cinnamon sugar and the other with raisins. We put the challot in the oven, and it smelled beyond amazing. The scent of challah baking is probably one of my favorite scents. Since it's a tradition to try new fruits on Rosh Hashana, my mom and I made fruit into a cake instead of putting new fruits on a platter, like we usually do. The cake tiers were made of watermelon, and



Sadie Palker

we decorated it with a ton of other fruits, like blueberries, honeydew melon, blackberries, pineapple, raspberries, kiwi, dragon fruit, figs, and cotton candy grapes. Not only was it a unique idea, it was also delicious!

Another little thing that made me happy recently was getting to see my maternal grandma three times in one week. On Friday night, she made Shabbat dinner for us, which was delicious. For the Jewish new year, my mom's side of the family always invites my paternal grandpa for a meal, and vice versa. We went to her house for one night, and to my paternal grandpa's home on the second night. I got to spend quality time with her both nights by talking to her, helping her with dinner, and talking about the book, *Where the Crawdads Sing*.

I feel very lucky that I'm able to recognize the small things in life that make me happy. It's important to focus on the positive rather than the negative things that happen in our lives, because we all know we see the latter more often. Maybe we should all change our mindset, especially in the light of a new year, when we have a new start.

Sadie Palker is an 8th grader at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. She enjoys playing soccer, dancing, acting, and spending time with friends and family.



Please contact me if you have any questions with respect to the real estate market in Lower Fairfield County.

I can assist with every aspect of the transaction and have a plethora of resources to make your move as smooth as possible, whether you're buying, selling, leasing or investing.

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