



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Commemorating October 7 Together - As One

BY NANCY SCHULMAN

As we near the one-year anniversary of the atrocities of October 7, and the horror that has unfolded since, our community will gather in remembrance and solidarity to mark the date.

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, the Stamford Board of Rabbis, and a host of supporting organizations invite the community to join together to commemorate the tragic events of October 7, 2023. This gathering, and others in Jewish communities across North America, will honor the lives lost and the hostages in peril, while also standing in solidarity with Israel. The commemoration will take place on Monday, October 7 at 7:00 pm at the Stamford Jewish Community Center (JCC).

There will be an opportunity to mourn, reflect and remember along with a ceremony to memorialize the victims of October 7: the murder of some 1,200 people, the injury of thousands more, the soldiers who continue to defend Israel, the Jewish homeland, every day, and the kidnapping of more than 250, — nearly



half of whom remain in captivity. It will also recognize with gratitude the community's overwhelming continued response in Israel's hour of need.

"It is hard to fathom that we are planning a commemoration to mark one year since the atrocities of October 7, 2023," says UJF Chief Executive Officer Diane Sloyer. "It has been a continuous shiva...a time of mourning for Jews all over the world as well as those who value truth and justice and stand together against terrorism. I am grateful to our community rabbis and community organizations for working together to uplift us all in these most trying times."

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The Big Give: A Day of Unity and Philanthropy

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation (UJF) is excited to present "The Big Give," formerly known as "Super Sunday," on November 3, beginning at 9:30 am. Co-chairs Robin Fischel and Wendy Siegel are delighted to lead this annual event for the second year, bringing together the community for a day of philanthropy and celebration.

The Big Give is a vital opportunity to support programs that strengthen and unite the community AS ONE. UJF of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien serves as the essential link that connects and supports the Jewish community while also fostering ties with Israel and global Jewry. Federation is pivotal in safeguarding the community, including enhancing security measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every Jewish institution in the area.

"Growing up in a Federation family, I'm proud to serve on the UJF board as well as the NextGen board," said Robin Fischel. "Co-chairing The Big Give with Wendy Siegel for the second year is an honor. This day of fundraising and unity is crucial, especially as we stand with Israel while ensuring our local Jewish institutions continue to thrive."

Much like a firehouse ready to respond to

emergencies, a strong Federation enables the community to swiftly meet local needs and address crises effectively. From responding to the October 7 atrocities to combating rising antisemitism and providing a full-time security director for local institutions, Federation remains the glue that binds... AS ONE.

The Big Give is a day when volunteers, partner organizations, and staff unite to build and strengthen the community while raising essential funds for local and global Jewish needs.

Wendy Siegel, UJF Board member and Big Give Co-Chair, shared, "Asking fellow Jews to support our community is critical, especially in these challenging times. By contributing, you help sustain the vital programs and services that benefit us all. This year has underscored the importance of coming together and supporting one another, making your involvement essential for our collective wellbeing."

The local youth also play a crucial role in The Big Give. Children are encouraged to decorate Tzedakah boxes and complete

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Community Town Hall Meeting



On September 12, United Jewish Federation in conjunction with the Stamford JCC, convened a community townhall to allow for Mayor Caroline Simmons, Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools Dr. Tamu Lucero, and members of the Stamford Police Department to address the rise in antisemitic and hate acts on the Jewish community and beyond. Close to 200 participants listened to updates and had the opportunity to ask questions. Many interfaith leaders and elected officials were in attendance all working together for a safe and diverse Stamford.

From UJF's Chief Executive Officer Hopes for 5785

BY DIANE SLOYER

As we approach the Jewish New Year, I find myself reflecting on the challenges and triumphs our community has faced over the past year. Despite the social turmoil and divisions we have witnessed, I am filled with hope for our future and the strength of our Jewish community. If we don't work for a better tomorrow, who will?

Rosh Hashana offers us an opportunity to come together, to heal, and to renew our commitment to our shared values. It is my hope that 5785 will be a year of fostering unity, understanding, and peace within our community and beyond.

Our strength lies in our diversity. We are a tapestry of different backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences. Yet we are united by our shared heritage and values. This new year must be one where we celebrate this diversity while focusing on what binds us together as Jews and as human beings. Let us channel our energy and resources towards acts of kindness, respect for all, and community service. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need, both locally and globally.

As we approach the one-year anniversary



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

of the atrocities of October 7th, our hearts and prayers remain with Israel and all those working towards peace in the Middle East. My days are filled with numbness and despair. However, while the path forward may seem challenging, we must not lose hope. I keep my faith (most of the time) with the dream that this horrific tragedy will take us to

a place where we work together for a better tomorrow. After a year, there is not much else to keep me (and so many of you) going!

Our Federation remains committed to strengthening our Jewish community through education, cultural programs, and support services. In the coming year, we will continue to invest in each of you... from our youth to our elderly, and ensure that every member of our community feels valued and connected.

As 5785 draws near, may this new year bring blessings of health, happiness, and peace to you and your loved ones. May we go from strength to strength, united in our commitment to Jewish values and our shared destiny.

L'Shana Tova Umetuka - Wishing you a good and sweet new year.

UJF President's Message Shanah Tovah U'metukah!

BY MICHAEL SCHLESSINGER

As we reflect on a tumultuous 5784, our spirits continue to be buoyed by immense pride in our common Jewish heritage. From our ancient traditions to our modern accomplishments, our collective journey is a testament to eternal values, resilience, wisdom, and unity.



Michael Schlessinger, UJF President

- **Our Rich Heritage and Traditions:** From the Torah and Talmud to the observance of Shabbat and the High Holy Days, our religious practices have bound us together spiritually.
- **Our Commitment to Tikkun Olam:** The Jewish principle of repairing the world drives us to prize justice and engage in philanthropy and acts of kindness, making a positive impact wherever we go.
- **Our Intellectual and Cultural Contributions:** Jewish thinkers, scientists, artists, writers, and athletes have made groundbreaking contributions to global culture, science, and the arts, enriching the world.
- **The State of Israel:** The miraculous rebirth of the modern State of Israel embodies the dreams and aspirations of the generations.
- **Our Resilient Community:** Through centuries of challenges and triumphs, we have maintained our identity and sense of oneness.

That unity continues to be sorely tested. "Anti-Zionism," so seductive to some in our community, reeks of the world's oldest hatred to most of us. Heartbroken protestors have returned to the streets of Tel Aviv. A divisive US election evokes disbelief from each side that any sentient Jew could vote for the other. Worse, we are so hamstrung in finding common ground - living as we do in media "bubbles"

curated to eliminate any facts inconveniently at odds with our views - that we mostly don't even try. I recently attended a wedding involving a "mixed marriage" between two remarkable and profoundly Jewish individuals - the four rabbis present from across the Jewish spectrum were

well versed in giving and perceiving intra-Judaic slights. One ultimately remarked "we have to find a better way."

There are only 15 million of us; we have to stick together. I've taken to invoking this phrase recently and it usually inspires at least a polite pause in whatever controversy is raging. The Reform liturgy for the High Holidays asks, "Whose tongue shall be a thrusting sword, whose words shall make for peace?" Most years, that line has triggered some amount of personal guilt and atonement. Despite our diverse perspectives and backgrounds, our shared values and history bind us as one people. The Talmud teaches us, "*Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*" - "All of Israel is responsible for one another." We must remain one, especially in times of division and uncertainty.

As we dip our apples in honey and listen to the shofar's call, let us commit to fostering understanding, compassion, and solidarity within our community. May we engage in meaningful dialogue, respect our differences, and work together toward a brighter future for all.

Wishing you and your loved ones a year filled with joy, health, and the fulfillment of our deepest hopes and dreams. May we be inscribed and sealed for a year of peace and unity.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu V'Techatemu

Commemorating October 7 Together - As One

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In addition, the program will include Tal Chaika, an Israeli who, along with a dedicated team of volunteers, compiled the book, *October 7: Voices of Survivors and Witnesses*. This book contains unedited stories that document the events of October 7. The book will be on sale at the event for \$18, and all proceeds go toward supporting the victims and their families. More information on the book is available at <https://www.oct7book.com>.

Thank you to the following organizations for co-sponsoring this event: ADL of Connecticut, AJC of Westchester

and Fairfield Counties, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Chabad of Harbor Point, Chabad of New Canaan, Chabad of Stamford, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Friendship Circle, Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, Schoke Jewish Family Service, Stamford JCC, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, and Young Israel of Stamford.

To register to attend the October 7 commemoration at the Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, please visit www.ujf.org/oct7. There is no charge, but registration is required.

For more information, contact Gary Jones, UJF JCRC Director at gary@ujf.org.



May the coming year bring us all peace, health, happiness, and fulfillment, and may we all be blessed with the privilege of using our shared values to transform the lives of others.

Thank you for your continued generosity and compassion.

Happy New Year!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT



Tapestry: Rediscovering Joy in Judaism

BY ERIC ROSS,
UJF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

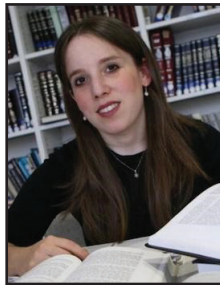
On Saturday evening, November 16, United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) will host its annual evening of communal Jewish learning, *Tapestry 2.0*.

This year's *Tapestry 2.0* theme will be "Rediscovering Joy in Judaism" – with each presenter focusing on different ways to discover and treasure joy in the Jewish religion. The evening will begin at 7:00 pm with a wine and cheese reception, followed by a communal Havdalah ceremony. Attendees will then participate in two learning sessions, with several class options available per session. The evening will close with a dessert reception, as all gather to celebrate the unity of the community.

Examples of some class options include:

- Keynote address by Dr. Shira Weiss, editor of the book *An Ode to Joy: Judaism and Happiness in the Thought of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks*
- Rachel Gordin Barnett & Lyssa Kligman Harvey, authors of the book and blog *Kugels and Collards*
- Marc Weber providing a hands-on Jewish cooking lesson
- Exploring the beauty of Jewish poetry with Rabbi Evan Schultz
- Community Shlichah Eden Refaelovich
- Cantor Micah Morgovsky teaching an "Interactive Session on Zentangle Art"

"We couldn't be more excited to be holding this amazing communal evening of learning once again. I just love



Dr. Shira Weiss

seeing every corner of our community come together!" said Bob Abrams, UJF's Education Committee Chair. "Watch out for invitations in your mailboxes and email inboxes, flyers and posters around town, and social media, too. And please, help us spread the word."

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

Tapestry will take place at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford. Tickets purchased by November 5 will be \$30 per person, and \$36 per person thereafter. Event sponsorship is available for \$180, which includes two tickets, recognition during the event, and guaranteed choice of class selection. Please visit www.ujf.org/tapestry to register.

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



Rachel Gordin Barnett and Lyssa Kligman Harvey

Yizhar Hess, Vice Chair of WZO, to Speak at TBE

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) On Shabbat, November 2, Temple Beth El (TBE) will host a "Shabbat Talk" with special guest Dr. Yizhar Hess, Vice Chairman of the World Zionist Organization (WZO). Dr. Hess will speak on "Israel and the Diaspora After October 7th: Israel's Next Chapter and Our Role in Shaping It."

Dr. Yizhar Hess earned a BA in Political Science and Hebrew Literature



Dr. Yizhar Hess

at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A member of the Israeli Bar, his law degree is from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya. He holds an MA in Jewish Studies from the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem and a PhD in Sociology and Education from Sussex University in Brighton, England.

Dr. Hess has a broad

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October 7 Mitzvah Day at Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Please join us on October 7 at Chabad of Stamford for a special day of *mitzvahs* and "commUnity" to honor and commemorate this important date. This "Mitzvah Day" will be dedicated to Torah study, *Tefilah* (prayer), and *Tzedakah* (charity), offering an opportunity to bring light and goodness into the world.

Throughout the day, Chabad of Stamford invites everyone to drop by at 770 High Ridge Road for various *mitzvah* opportunities including packing for their "Loaves of Love" project, creating cards for soldiers, baking honey cakes for seniors or dropping off *tefillin* and *mezuzahs* to be checked.

The day will begin at 10:00 am with a Torah class led by Morah Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov titled "An Hour for Israel," open to both men and women. This hour of learning will focus on unity, strength, and support for Israel through the study of Torah.

At 11:00 am, Chabad will host a community activity where participants will make and pack honey cakes for their Betsy's Buddies senior program. Volunteers can also sign up to deliver these around town. This hands-on *mitzvah* project will allow participants to spread sweetness and care to seniors in the community.

At 5:00 pm, all are invited, men, women and children to gather for a special time of prayer, *mitzvahs*, and positivity, coming together to create an uplifting experience of unity.

Through these shared activities, Chabad of Stamford seeks to channel the spirit of community and compassion in remembrance of all the holy souls who lost their lives on October 7. For more information please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org.

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

Open House

Lower School
Pre-K to 4th Grade
Sunday, November 10th
10:00 AM

Upper School
9th to 12th Grade
Sunday, November 17th
10:00 AM

For additional information, please contact Bonnie Marcus, Director of Admissions, at 203.883.8968 or bmarcus@bcha-ct.org



Chabad of Stamford's Adult Study Opportunities

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) As we approach the new year, Chabad of Stamford is excited to present a rich lineup of events and learning opportunities for adults designed to inspire spiritual and intellectual growth for all. The community is invited to join in what promises to be an incredible year filled with meaningful connections and personal development.

Chabad's programs aim to ensure that everyone feels connected, engaged, and included. Women in the community are invited to participate in weekly learning sessions with Leah Shemtov. On Tuesday mornings, the "Torah & Tea" classes, offered both in person and via Zoom,

provide insights into the weekly Torah portion, the Jewish calendar, and relevant contemporary issues.

On Wednesday evenings, women are offered a Torah class focused on building trust through the teachings of *Shaar Habitachon* (Gate of Trust). Thursday mornings feature a Zoom session dedicated to the study of *Tanya* (foundational work of Chabad philosophy), where Leah Shemtov encourages participants to "connect with their deeper spiritual core." As the cornerstone of Chabad philosophy, *Tanya* blends mystical teachings with practical wisdom, covering themes such as Jewish spirituality, psychology, and theology while

offering guidance on integrating divine service into daily life.

Leah Shemtov also leads special *Rosh Chodesh* (start of the month) learning sessions throughout the year, with the first session scheduled for Monday, December 2 at 8:00 pm at a private home in Stamford.

For men, Sunday mornings at 8:00 am are an opportunity to gather for "Tefillin Club" wrapping, the recitation of Shema, Torah insights, and inspiration, all followed by bagels and lox with Rabbi Moshe. Additionally, Rabbi Moshe leads engaging *Tanya* study sessions at 7:30 and 9:00 am. every Sunday. On Thursday nights, Tzemach Shemtov hosts a weekly Torah

class at a private home in Stamford.

Chabad of Stamford also organizes group visits to the *Ohel* (Rebbs's resting place) in Queens, several times a year. The first visit is set for Sunday, October 13, with departure from Chabad at 9:30 am. Individuals can also request assistance in organizing personal trips to the Ohel.

For those seeking personalized study sessions, arrangements can be made upon request. For more information or to participate in any of these learning opportunities, contact programs@stamfordchabad.org or call Chabad at 203-3CHABAD.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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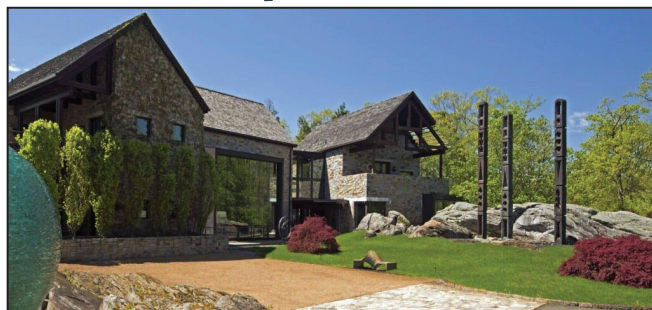
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Enjoy an Art Stroll with UJF's Chapter Two



Seven Bridges Foundation, Gallery and Sculpture Garden in Greenwich, CT.

(Courtesy of UJF) Please join United Jewish Federation's (UJF's) Chapter Two affinity group for an Art Stroll at Seven Bridges Foundation, 71 North Porchuck Road, Greenwich, on Monday, October 21, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Participants will enjoy a private guided tour of the stunning art gallery and the sculpture garden, and will also have a chance to meet Eden Refaelovich, UJF's new Community *Shlichah* (Israeli Emissary).

The Event Committee includes Barbara Brafman, Debby Goldberg, Meryl Gordon, Rhonda Greif, Linda Hurwitz, Lorraine Kveskin, Toby Lazarus, Nancy Mimoun, Paula Montanaro, Caryl Ferber Poser, Arlene Rosen, Joan Rosenthal, Eileen Rosner, Gayle Rothman, Cathy Satz, Nancy Schulman, Beverly Stein, Dara Tyson, and Ellen Weber.

Chapter Two is UJF's affinity group for women in Fairfield County who share the common experience of being "empty nesters," and are looking to create a network through shared interests and an appreciation for community.

The cost is \$36 early bird rate until October 14, and \$40 thereafter. Space is limited, carpooling is highly recommended. Please register today at www.ujf.org/ChapterTwo. For more information, please contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at eric@ujf.org.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

October 4.....6:15 pm
October 11.....6:03 pm
October 18.....5:53 pm
October 25.....5:43 pm

Calling All Jewish Veterans

(Courtesy of Jewish War Veterans) Join the Fred Robbins Post #142 Jewish War Veterans (JWV) for monthly meetings that will be held at the Stamford JCC at 10:00 am on October 6 and December 1, 2024, and January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 1, 2025.

All veterans are invited to attend and enjoy coffee and a bagel.

For more information, check out the website at www.stamfordjwv.org, email info@stamfordjwv.org, or call (203) 803-1979.

The Big Give: A Day of Unity and Philanthropy

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Mitzvah Bingo Cards, which will be distributed at local Jewish schools and are also available at the UJF office. Children who bring a completed Mitzvah Bingo Card or Tzedakah box to The Big Give will receive a special surprise gift from UJF.

To qualify for a surprise gift:

- Submit Tzedakah boxes to teachers or the UJF office (2009 Summer Street, Suite 302, Stamford, CT 06905) by November 3.
- Complete Mitzvah Bingo Cards.

During these times, action is a powerful way to uplift spirits. Join us, AS ONE, in participating in The Big Give on November 3.

To register for The Big Give, visit www.ujf.org/bg24 or scan the above QR code.

For a detailed list of the beneficiaries supported by UJF and to learn more about the impactful programs, please visit www.ujf.org/give/donation-directory.

For questions, contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at eric@ujf.org or (203) 321-1373.

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



UPCOMING DEADLINES

November 2024 - Thanksgiving Edition
Deadline: Monday, October 7, 2024

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org
You should receive notification that your submission was received!

JCRC Update

**BY GARY JONES,
UJF JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL
DIRECTOR**

There is no doubt that in the wake of the October 7 attacks and the outbreak of unapologetic and unabashed antisemitism in our country, the work of Jewish Community Relations Councils (JCRCs) is becoming even more crucial to the work of Jewish Federations and Jewish communities everywhere.

Even here in our own little corner of Connecticut, the Jewish community has recently experienced instances of antisemitism in our schools, repeated episodes of antisemitic graffiti, and an elected official who has engaged in making a number of antisemitic statements. Thankfully, the leadership of United Jewish Federation (UJF) has committed to enhancing its efforts to combat these problems.

I am delighted that David Gordon, immediate past President of UJF, has agreed to take on the volunteer role of Chair of UJF's JCRC, and I look forward to working with him in that important capacity. Although we have a strong group of committed lay leaders currently on the Council, David and I agree that given the increased challenges to the Jewish community, we could use more leader participation. In particular, this council would benefit by securing volunteers with experience and relationships in the areas we have targeted as being most responsive to these challenges. We are hopeful that others in our community will recognize



Gary Jones,
JCRC Director

the need for an increasingly engaged JCRC and will agree to be part of the effort.

As we look to enhance the committee structure, we will emphasize two core components of our mission.

1. Relationship Building - Building relationships with interfaith and intergroup partners, as well as with other organizations and groups within the Jewish community
2. Advocacy - Advocating for the Jewish community locally, on a statewide and on a national basis.

Accordingly, we are looking for JCRC members with ties to interfaith and intergroup leaders, as well as those who have relationships with the various components of our own Jewish community, such as those with disabilities. In terms of our advocacy work, we are looking for JCRC members who have ties with local, state, and federal governmental leaders.

The current expectation is that each JCRC member will serve on a subcommittee with assigned responsibilities in pursuing a component of our relationship building or advocacy efforts. We have confidence in the quality and dedication of our community members and believe that, together, we will be able to make a real difference in enhancing our relations with the entire community and in fighting for Jewish values and the safety, security and betterment of the Jewish community.

To learn more or to let me know of your interest in becoming a JCRC member, please email gary@ujf.org or call me at 203.1373, ext. 1005. Thank you!

Yizhar Hess, Vice Chair of WZO, to Speak at TBE

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range of experience in Jewish communal service. After holding the Deputy Director position at the Shorashim Centre for Jewish Studies, he served as the Jewish Agency's community *shaliach* (emissary) to Tucson, AZ. On his return to Israel, he worked for the Jewish Agency as Director of Partnerships.

He is a regular contributor to the Israeli press on the subjects of religion and state and is the co-editor of the book, *Questions About God*, published by Ma'ariv.

Between 2007-2020 Dr. Hess served as the Executive Director of the Masorti Movement in Israel - part of the worldwide Conservative / Masorti Movement dedicated to a traditional, egalitarian and pluralistic vision of Israel and Judaism. He represented the Masorti Movement in the negotiations with the Israeli government regarding egalitarian prayer at the Kotel, and he is one

of the leading voices in Israel promoting Jewish pluralism. Dr. Hess is a member of the Executive of the Jewish Agency, the Board of Trustees of Keren Hayesod and the Board of Governors of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the senior representative of MERCAZ in the National Institutions.

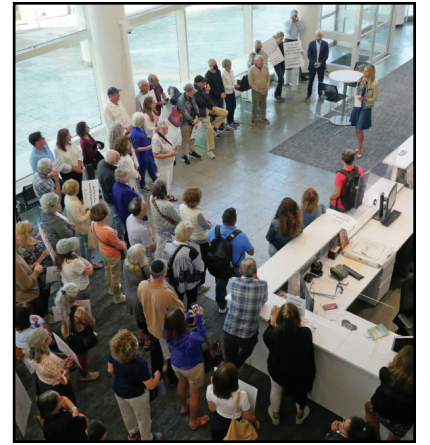
Dr. Hess is a 10th generation Jerusalemite. He lives in Modi'in with his wife Yael, a former colonel in the IDF.

Services at TBE begin at 10 am. A kiddush lunch will follow services at approximately 12:15 pm, followed by a "Conversation with Dr. Hess" from approximately 12:45 to 1:45 pm. The community is welcome to attend. RSVP by calling the TBE office 203-322-6901, ext. 300.

For further information on the program, please contact Steven Lander, 203-322-6901, ext. 304.

Anti-Hate Rally Held In Stamford

(Courtesy of UJF) On Tuesday, September 3, close to 100 members of the Jewish and interfaith communities gathered together for an Anti-Hate Rally at the Stamford Government Center with opening comments from Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO and Stamford Mayor, Caroline Simmons. Those gathered carried signs proclaiming "No Place for Hate in Stamford" as they responded publicly to the recent decision by a board of representatives official to rescind her resignation after having made statements regarded as antisemitic. Rabbi Jay TelRav of Temple Sinai also addressed the crowd, noting the recent posting of antisemitic symbols at the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering (AITE).



Community members gather at Government Center.



Participants join Mayor Caroline Simmons (third from left) to show they are against hate.

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Life with Community



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Filled with Health & Happiness!**



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Contact us at **203-396-1140** or info@mozaiccl.org.

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Apple Season - Just in Time for Rosh Hashana

BY RONNIE FEIN

It's apple and honey time – but not just because these are the two iconic ingredients that we eat on Rosh Hashana (which begins at sundown on October 2), but also because this is the exact time



of year when apples are harvested. That means that after months and months of mealy, dry, tasteless supermarket apples, we can finally find some that taste fresh, juicy and wonderful. Like maybe the kind that tempted Eve.

There's one dish that perfectly pairs

these two ingredients and is an all-around perfect recipe for the Jewish holidays: Baked Apples.

Few foods are as easy to prepare as baked apples, few that fill your home so delightfully with the fragrance of caramelizing fruit. Baked apples are homey, and yet they are also so festive looking. With all this going for them, what could be a better dessert on Rosh Hashana? (Of course, they are also mighty good for breakfast!)

And here's a bonus -- if you stuff the apples, they're perfect for Sukkot!

To make baked apples, look for Cortland or Rome Beauty apples, which are tasty when baked and have firm flesh that softens but holds together after baking. Honeycrisp works too, though they are sweeter, so you may want to use less honey (or sugar).

BAKED APPLES WITH RAISINS, HONEY, ORANGE AND PISTACHIOS

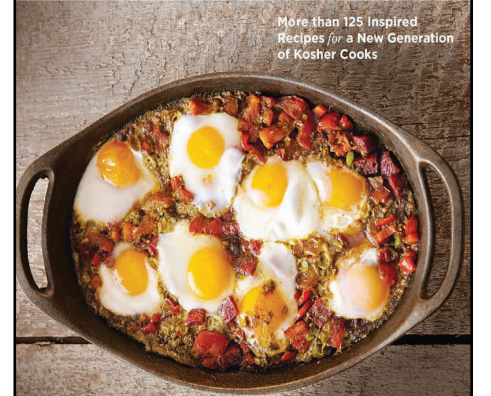
- 4 large baking apples
- 6 tablespoons golden raisins
- 1/4 cup chopped pistachios
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh orange peel
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 6 tablespoons honey
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tablespoon butter, cut into 4 pieces (or use coconut oil)

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Wash the apples and remove the cores, leaving about one-half inch at the bottom. Peel the apples about halfway down from the top. Place the apples in a baking dish. Mix the raisins, pistachios, orange peel, ginger, cinnamon, 3 tablespoons honey and 3 tablespoons orange juice in a small bowl. Spoon equal amounts of this mixture into the hollowed apple cores. Combine the remaining honey, juice and water and pour over the apples. Dot the tops with butter. Bake for 45 minutes, or until the apples are tender, basting occasionally with the pan juices.

Makes 4 servings

THE MODERN KOSHER KITCHEN

More than 125 Inspired Recipes for a New Generation of Kosher Cooks



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).

B" H

CHABAD OF STAMFORD

JWC

JEWISH WOMEN CONNECTED

 ROSH HASHANAH READY 09/30  JWC WOMEN CREATE 01/22	 LUNCH IN THE SUKKAH 10/22  JWC LAG BA OMER EVENT 05/15	 CHANUKAH PACKAGE PARTY 12/18  JWC SUMMER SOIREE 06/25
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 CHALLAH CLUB 04/25 • 06/20 • 06/27
 ROSH CHODESH LEARNING 12/2 & 04/28
 TORAH & TEA TUESDAYS @ 10:30AM
 SHAAR HABITACHON WEDNESDAYS @ 8:00PM
 WOMEN'S TANYA THURSDAYS @ 11:00AM

• 203 3 Chabad • www.stamfordchabad.org • moreahleah@stamfordchabad.org

Friendship Circle Gets Ready to Welcome Rosh Hashana

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) The Friendship Circle of Fairfield County is ready to celebrate the Jewish New Year, beginning with a pre-Rosh Hashana program at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center on Sunday, September 29. Adults and children with special needs will join for a morning of exciting holiday activities with their volunteer

friends. These will include holiday crafts, shofar-blowing, apple and honey-dipping, as well as spending time with the animals, which is always a Friendship Circle favorite!

To learn more about this event or the Friendship Circle, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com.

May the year 5785 bring peace and harmony to the community of Stamford and the family of Israel

 **JCC Stamford**
www.stamfordjcc.org

Jed Selkowitz,
President

Marshall Kurland,
Chief Executive Officer



Rugelach for the Jewish Holidays!

BY RONNIE FEIN

You can rhapsodize about s'mores and write odes to chocolate chip cookies, but honestly folks, when it comes to the Jewish holidays, is there a better kind of cookie than rugelach?

Absolutely not!

Rugelach wins by a lot. Years ago they were familiar mostly to Ashkenazi Jews. Today they are ubiquitous in all sorts of neighborhoods because everyone loves these butter-rich, sugar-dense, flaky-crumby crescent cookies stuffed with jam and raisins and fragrant with cinnamon and nuts and maybe even with a swirl of chocolate.

I defy anyone to say no to them.

You can buy rugelach in bakeries (or packaged in supermarkets). But during the Jewish High Holiday season, thoughts go to grandma and how wonderful it was to feast on the ones she actually made by hand at home and you think, "I wish I had Grandma's recipe!"

Well folks, I am Grandma. I have a good recipe. I make this recipe every year for Rosh Hashanah, and by Yom Kippur they're already gone, so for the last several years I've doubled up on the first batch and hide some in my secret place in the freezer. Otherwise I have to make more so we can have some at my annual break-the-fast.

In days gone by, like when *my* grandma baked, rugelach were made from yeast dough. The benefit was that the dough was parve and therefore more versatile. But dairy-based rugelach like mine have become more popular over the years because they are so fabulously rich and flaky. They are also much easier to prepare. And they are the ideal dessert after a smoked fish or vegetarian-based break-the-fast meal.

You have to plan ahead when making rugelach because the dough has to be cold in order to roll it properly. It keeps well in the fridge for several days. I've even frozen unbaked dough for as long as two months.



Classic rugelach are crescent shaped: roll sections of the dough into circles, spread the surface with filling, cut the circle into wedges and roll each wedge starting with the widest side. There's an easier way to shape them though: roll each dough section into a circle, spread with filling, roll the dough jelly-roll style and slice into bite-size pieces. They taste exactly the same.

I usually stuff rugelach with some combination of jam, cinnamon and raisins. But there's no magic formula. Use what you like: chopped nuts, shaved chocolate,

candied cherries, crystallized ginger, dried cranberries, orange peel, halvah, toffee chips. I bake them plain, but if you like fancier, brush the tops with beaten egg and sprinkle with crystal sugar and/or finely chopped nuts.

CREAM CHEESE - SOUR CREAM RUGELACH

- 1/2 pound butter
- 1/2 pound cream cheese
- 4 cups flour, sifted
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup dairy sour cream

Beat the butter and cream cheese together in a mixer at medium speed until smooth and uniform, about 2-3 minutes. Add the flour and salt, blend them in slightly, but not completely. Add the sour cream and mix until a soft, smooth uniform dough has formed. Cut the dough into 6 equal pieces. Wrap each piece and refrigerate for 5-6 hours or until thoroughly firm and cold. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Roll each piece of dough on a lightly floured surface about 1/4-inch thick. Spread equal amounts of filling on top. Cut each circle into 8-10 wedges. Roll the wedges from the wide end to the pointy end. Curve slightly to form a crescent. Tuck in the pointy end so it is on the bottom. Place the crescents on an ungreased cookie sheet. If they feel soft, refrigerate them for 30 minutes before baking. Bake for about 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes 48-60

FILLING

CINNAMON-RAISIN-NUT:

- 6 tablespoons butter
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 3/4 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup finely chopped nuts

Melt the butter and set it aside. Mix the sugar and cinnamon together and set aside. Spread equal amounts of the melted butter on each of the dough circles then sprinkle each circle with equal amounts of the cinnamon sugar, raisins and nuts. Cut and roll.

CHOCOLATE:

- 6 tablespoons butter
- 8 ounces finely chopped chocolate
- 3/4 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup finely chopped nuts
- cinnamon-sugar if desired

Melt the butter and set it aside. Spread equal amounts of the melted butter on each of the dough circles then sprinkle each circle with equal amounts of the chocolate, raisins and nuts. Sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar if desired. Cut and roll.

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).

Celebrate Sukkot and Simchat Torah with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford invites the community to celebrate Sukkot and Simchat Torah with a series of meaningful and joyful community events.

The fun begins on Thursday, October 17 at 12:00 pm, with the highly anticipated annual "Sukkah Hop." After holiday services, embark on a culinary adventure, moving from one family's sukkah for appetizers to another's for main courses and more.

On Monday, October 21, the festivities continue with a family-focused "Supper in the Sukkah" at 5:00 pm. Families are invited to come and enjoy an evening of delicious food, hands-on crafts, and entertainment, with activities led by the Gan and JUDA (Hebrew school) teachers.

The following day, Tuesday, October 22, is reserved for the women and teens of the community. The JWC (Jewish Women

Connected) Women's Luncheon in the Sukkah at 12:15 pm is an annual favorite offering a gourmet meal, a thought-provoking class and a chance to connect with fellow participants. Later that day, teens in grades 9 through 12 are invited to an exciting adventure of "Kosher Squid Games in the Sukkah" starting at 6:30 pm.

On Thursday, October 24, children and families can enjoy the fourth annual "Kids' Hakafot in the Park" at Barrett Park, located at Burdick Street and Newfield Avenue. Beginning at 4:00 pm, the event will feature joyful singing and dancing to celebrate the holiday in an outdoor setting.

As always, services at Chabad of Stamford are free and open to all. To purchase your *lulav* and *etrog* or for further information please email programs@stamfordchabad.org.

TBE Men's Club Welcomes Everyone to Sukkot Events

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) The Men's Club of Temple Beth El (TBE) invites the community to the "TBE Sukkah Dinner" in the TBE sukkah on Friday, October 18 at 6:00 pm. Enjoy a dairy dinner followed by Kabbalat Shabbat services led by Rabbi Michael Knopf and Cantor Katie Kaplan. As part of the event, the TeeBeE's (children under 5 and their older siblings) will make edible sukkahs, and United Jewish Federation's PJ Library will be there for stories and information.

Also enjoy "Steak, Sushi and Scotch

in the Sukkah" (adults 21 and over) on Tuesday, October 22 at 6:30 pm in the TBE sukkah. This annual event is always a fun night to celebrate the holiday together. The cost before October 15 for Men's Club members is \$36/person and \$45 per person for non-Men's Club members and \$45 per person for all after October 15. RSVP and pay online: at www.tinyurl.com/steak10-22.

For information, please contact Steven Lander, Temple Beth El 203-322-6901, ext. 304.

Shake a Lulav with PJ Library This Sukkot

(Courtesy of UJF) PJ Library of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) can't wait to celebrate Sukkot this year! Join PJ Library for fun activities and a special Sukkot-themed read-aloud on Friday evening, October 18 at Temple Beth El's Sukkot program, and on Sunday morning, October 20 at Temple Sinai's youth Sukkot celebration.

PJ Library proudly sends over 550 Jewish-themed books a month to Jewish children in Stamford, New Canaan, and

Darien, absolutely free. The Federation-funded program is designed to strengthen the bonds between parents and children through stories about Jewish traditions and values, and to build their connection to the Jewish community.

Jewish children and grandchildren ages 6 months to 12 years old can receive a free, age-appropriate PJ Library book every month. To sign up, please visit www.ujf.org/pj-library. For more information, please contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at Eric@ujf.org.



OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS MANY FREE OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN IN CELEBRATING THE UPCOMING JEWISH HOLIDAYS

The following was shared with UJF for publication. Please call or visit the websites of synagogues directly for additional information.

TEMPLE BETH EL

(Conservative)

Rabbi Michael Knopf and Cantor Katie Kaplan
Associate Rabbi, Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg
301 Roxbury Road | 203-322-6901 | www.tbe.org

Selichot | **Saturday, September 28**
Selichot Dinner: 6:00 pm
Registration required.
Havdalah: 7:30 pm
Musical Selichot Service: 8:00 pm

Rosh Hashana | **Thursday, October 3**
Family Service in the tent on the grounds of TBE. Registration required.
Children ages 5 & younger & siblings: 10:00 am
Children in elementary school: 11:00 am

Friday, October 4
8:45 am - 1:00 pm. Registration required.

Yom Kippur | **Saturday, October 12**
Mincha: 3:30 pm
Neilah: 5:00 pm
Yizkor: 5:45 pm
Shofar: 7:00 pm
Followed by a Break the Fast.
No registration required.

For all required registrations, call (203) 322-6901 ext 300.

CHABAD OF NEW CANAAN

Rabbi Levi Mendelow
www.newcanaanjewish.org

Rosh Hashana | **Thursday, October 3**
Morning Service: 9:00 am
Children's Program Begins: 11:00 am
Shofar Sounding: 11:30 am
Tashlich and Shofar (Meet at Waveny Park pond): 5:45 pm

Friday, October 4
Morning Service: 9:00 am
Children's Program: 11:00 am
Shofar Sounding: 11:30 am

Yom Kippur | **Friday, October 11**
Kol Nidrei/Evening Services: 6:15 pm

Saturday, October 12
Morning Services: 9:00 am
Children's Program Begins: 11:15 am
Yizkor Memorial Service: 11:15 am (approximately)
Mincha and Neilah Closing Service: 5:00 pm
Shofar Sounding and Break-Fast: 6:58 pm

For the complete listing, locations and reservations visit
www.newcanaanjewish.org

YOUNG ISRAEL OF STAMFORD

(Orthodox)
69 Oaklawn Ave.

Rosh Hashana | **Thursday-Friday, October 3-4**
Shacharit: 8:30 am

Yom Kippur | **Friday, October 11-12**
Kol Nidre: 6:10 pm
Shachrit: 9:00 am
Mincha/Neilah: 5:00 pm

For additional information, visit www.youngisraelstamford.org

CHABAD AT HARBOR POINT

Rabbi Yisrael Deren
101 Park Place, Washington Blvd. and Pacific Street, Unit 10

Rosh Hashana | **Thursday, October 3**
11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Beginners track followed by Kiddush Luncheon
6:00 pm: Shofar and Tashlich at Commons Park
7:45 pm: Community Holiday Dinner

Friday, October 4
11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Beginners track followed by Kiddush Luncheon

Yom Kippur | **Friday, October 11**
6:15 pm Kol Nidrei
Shabbat, October 12
12:00 pm: Yizkor
12:30 - 2:00 pm: Beginners track
6:00 pm: Neilah - Power Hour
6:58 pm: Breakfast with Friends

CHABAD OF STAMFORD

Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
770 High Ridge Rd. | 203-3-CHABAD | 203-324-2223
www.stamfordchabad.org

Rosh Hashana | **Wednesday, October 2**
Mincha and Maariv: 6:15 pm
Communal Dinner: 7:15 pm

Thursday, October 3
Shacharit: 9:00 am
Tashlich and Shofar at the Stamford JCC: 5:00 pm
Mincha & Maariv: 6:15 pm

Friday, October 4
Shacharit: 9:00 am
Mincha & Maariv: 6:15 pm

Yom Kippur | **Friday, October 11**
Betten Lekach at the home of Rabbi Moshe and Leah: 11:00 am
Mincha: 3:00 pm
Candle lighting & Fast begins: 6:01 pm
Kol Nidrei: 6:15 pm
Saturday, October 12
Shacharit: 9:00 am
Children's Services: 10:30 am
Torah Reading & Yizkor: 11:00 am
Mincha & Neilah: 5:00 pm
Shofar, Maariv and Break Fast: 6:58 pm

CONGREGATION AGUDATH SHOLOM

(Modern Orthodox)

Rabbi David Cohen & Assistant Rabbi Moshe Kurtz
301 Strawberry Hill Ave. | 203-358-2200 | www.agudathshlom.org

Selichot Night | **Saturday night, September 28**
Service: 10:00 pm. The entire community is invited for prayers and singing.

Sounds on the Sound | **Sunday morning, September 29**
Service: 6:05 am. Join us for an early bird service as we blow the shofar at this sunrise service. Cummings Park (464 Shippin Ave) Please RSVP to Rabbi Daniel Cohen at rabbicohen@cas-STAMFORD.org.

Rosh Hashana | **Thursday, October 3**
Discovery Service Hosted at Atria (77 Third Street): 4:00 pm
Featuring Shofar Blowing, Selected Singing and Prayers and Inspiration Led by Rabbi Daniel Cohen

Thursday, October 3rd and Friday, October 4th
Neighborhood Shofar Blowings
4:45 pm: 15 Revonah Circle - Rabbi Daniel Cohen
4:45 pm: 53 Apple Tree Drive - Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
4:45 pm: 200 Strawberry Hill - Rabbi Yossi Kamman

Yom Kippur | **Saturday, October 12**
Yom Kippur Afternoon
Yizkor Service: 4:00 pm

TEMPLE SINAI

(Reform)

Rabbi Jay TelRav and Cantor Micah Morgovsky
458 Lakeside Dr. | 203-322-1649
www.temple sinaistamford.org

Selichot Program | **Saturday, September 28**
Program and Service: 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 29
Cemetery Memorial Service: 1:00 pm

Rosh Hashana | **Thursday, October 3**
Families with Young Children Service (ages: under 5): 1:30 pm
Creative Tashlich Service: 3:00 pm

Friday, October 4
Morning Service followed by Brunch: 8:30 am

Yom Kippur | **Saturday, October 12**
Families with Young Children Service (ages: under 5): 1:30 pm*
Creative Afternoon Service: 3:30 pm
Yizkor/N'ilah Services: 4:30 pm

* We gladly welcome first time attendees to join any of our High Holy Day Services. Please contact Jayne Vasco in the Temple Office for more information regarding tickets.

Shana Tovah

Wishing your family a year of sweet
blessings, filled with abundant joy,
peace and happiness!

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EXPERIENCE THE
High Holidays
WITH TEMPLE SHOLOM

May the sounding of the shofar mark the beginning of a New Year filled with happiness, good health and peace.



STAMFORD – It's not too late to join our vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community!

Those who are new to Temple Sholom or new to the area may be eligible for complimentary High Holiday tickets. Contact Lori Baden, Executive Director, at lori.baden@templesholom.com if interested.

 Temple Sholom 300 East Putnam Avenue • Greenwich CT • www.templesholom.com

Shanah Tovah



ELAYNE & JAMES SCHOKE
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE
OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Wishing You a Healthy and Peaceful New Year 5785

Serving Greater Stamford, Westport, Bridgeport, and Upper Fairfield County

196 Greyrock Place, Stamford, CT 06901
2452 Black Rock Tpk, Suite 2, Fairfield, CT 06825
Phone: 203-921-4161
www.ctjfs.org

Young Israel of Stamford

Shana Tova!

WISHING YOU A YEAR
OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

High Holiday Services
Free and Open to Whole Community
Youth Groups

For more information about services email
rabbi.kohl@youngisraelstamford.org



YOUNG ISRAEL
OF STAMFORD



Congregation Agudath Sholom

Agudath Sholom Welcomes You for the Holidays and Beyond!

Our growing, vibrant and inclusive community serves as a beacon of light in Greater Stamford!

Wishing you and your family a happy, sweet and joyous new year!

Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Senior Rabbi
Harvey Kaminski, President

To learn more, visit www.cas-stamford.org
or contact Rabbi Cohen (rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org)






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שנה טובה ומתוקה

Wishing everyone a Shana Tova Umetukah...
a sweet and Happy New Year!




תורה • מצוות • ציונות
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HEBREW ACADEMY


*The congregation of Temple Sinai in
Stamford wishes its friends, neighbors,
and the entire community a peaceful
and healthy New Year 5785*




Temple Sinai | 458 Lakeside Drive | Stamford, CT 06903
203.322.1649 | www.templestainastamford.org


Shana Tova

Rabbi Michael Knopf, Senior Rabbi
Cantor Katie Kaplan • Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg
Steven Lander • Leo Linder • Dayna Patashnik • Jeff Cohen

Temple Beth El
350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT
203-322-6901 www.tbe.org



SHANA TOVAH!

Wishing you and your family a
happy and healthy Rosh Hashanah.

MAYOR CAROLINE SIMMONS

CONGREGATION Shir Ami



**We welcome you to join Shir Ami and Rabbi David Evan Markus
for our inspiring High Holy Days Services**

☆ With our uplifting musicians and choir, and a community gathering in an intimate setting ☆

ALL ARE WELCOME - reservations required
Live-stream will be available for those unable to attend in-person

2024 ~ HIGH HOLIDAYS ~ 5785 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

☆ ROSH HASHANAH ☆		
Erev Rosh Hashana	Wednesday Oct 2nd	6:30 pm
Rosh Hashana Morning	Thursday Oct 3rd	10:00 am
Rosh Hashana Day 2	Friday Oct 4th	10:00 am

☆ YOM KIPPUR ☆		
Kol Nidre	Friday Oct 11th	6:00 pm
Yom Kippur Morning	Saturday Oct 12th	10:00 am
Learning and Sharing	Saturday Oct 12th	2:00 pm
Yom Kippur Afternoon	Saturday Oct 12th	3:00 pm
Yizkor-Neilah		4:30 pm
Havdalah/Break Fast		6:30 pm

MEMBERS - no charge ☆ GUESTS per person — \$150 in-person (\$600 cap per family) / \$72 virtual
You may register at www.congregationshirami.org | 203.900.7976

☆ ☆ ☆
May the sound of the shofar stir us to create a more just world with health and peace for all



(ALL PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER)

As One...An Advocacy an

On September 15th, United Jewish Federation of Grater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien and UJA-JCC Greenwich gathered to hear from Michael Rapaport, a tremendous advocate for Israel and the Jewish people. Michael, a director, actor, and comedian, has become a leading voice of advocacy and outspokenness since October 7, 2023. The conversation was moderated



An Evening of and Inspiration

by Claudia Kraut. The joint event embodies the theme, As One, and was chaired by Joui Hessel, Meredith & Oren Isacoff, Leslie & Michael Moskowitz, Samantha Himelman & Seth Niedermayer, and Molly & Adam Rafalowicz. Aviva Maller was the event planner and photographer and transformed the Rippowam Middle School where the event took place.



(ALL PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER)

Bits & Pieces



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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:
Michelle & Peter Ebstein on the birth of a granddaughter, Nora Rose Selig.

Rachel Feit & Elie Weiner on the birth of a son.

Billie & Matt Guarnaccia on the birth of a son, Henry Benjamin; and to grandparents **Sharon & Steven Katz**.

Wendy & David Lewis on the birth of a grandson, Miles Emmett Tringali.

Michal & Jacob Lincoff on the birth of a son.

Rebecca Poser & Lindsay Klein on the birth of a son, Jonah Reid Klein-Poser; and to grandparents **Caryl Ferber Poser & Peter Poser**.

Ada Rauch & Joshua Pitkoff on the birth of a son, Ezra Bernie, and to grandparents **Cindy & David Pitkoff**.

Fraida & Rabbi Binyamin Warmflash on the birth of a son; and to grandparents **Doris & Ron Warmflash**; and to great-grandmother **Camille Warmflash**.

MAZEL TOV MARRIAGES/ENGAGEMENTS:

Adrienne & Michael Alexander on the marriage of their son Danny Alexander to Julia Taubes.

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

Arline Gewanter on the marriage of her granddaughter Shifra Gewanter to Yesky Steinberg.

Claudia Kraut on the engagement of her son Hayyim Rimerman to Anna Eisenstat.

Bruria Lieberman and Rica & Ari Lieberman on the engagement of their daughter, **Gabriella Lieberman** to **Elye Rabinovitz**; and to grandmother **Yospa Lieberman**.

Heather & Jerrold Boxerman and Lenore & Noel Robin on the engagement of their daughter and granddaughter, **Sophia Boxerman** to **Nathaniel Berman**, son of **Heather & Jerrold Berman**.

Sharon & Simeon Wohlberg on the marriage of their son **Jason Wohlberg** to **Shelby Weller**.

MAZEL TOV OTHER:

Jerry Silber for being honored by the Israel Cancer Research Fund.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Laila Barenbaum: daughter of **Jennifer & Joshua Barenbaum**.

Callie Harper: daughter of **Amy Lilien-Harper & Glenn Harper**.

Daniella Raich: daughter of **Risa & Steven Raich**.

Dovid Speter: son of **Shaya Speter**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Lee Brauer: father of **Samuel Brauer**, **Jennifer Brauer** and **Nathan Brauer**.

Sheila Broza: sister of **Sima Broza**.

Sylvia Cooper: mother of **Helaine Gendason**.

Filomena Ferrucci: mother of **Lisa Popper**.

Grace Goldstein: sister of **Ruth Kwartin**.

Larry Lapine: brother of **Mark Lapine**.

Lewis Manheimer: father of **Steven Manheimer**.

Audrey Merves: mother of **Amy Breslow Friedman**.

Helene "Honey" Nelson: mother of **Julie & Abby**.

Judge Stanley Novack: father of **Stephen Cohen**.

Herman Taub: father of **David Taub**, **Barbara Cincotta**, **Debbie Raskin & Rebecca Taub**.

Sarra Zvyagilskaya: mother of **Elena Ostrovsky**.

A Message from UJF's Community Shlichah The Holiday Season Through My Eyes

BY EDEN REFAELOVICH

The holiday season is my favorite time of the year! For me, in Nesher, Israel, it's a special few hours or even days of family and togetherness. Even though our daily lives are often filled with work and personal commitments, the holidays offer a chance for us to come together around one table. It's a time to put aside our phones and digital distractions and to truly connect with each other. We share stories, enjoy delicious family meals, and experience the essence of unity that these moments bring. It's more important than ever not to take anything for granted. We should cherish every moment spent together and appreciate the time we have with loved ones.

Back in Nesher, my younger siblings, David and Yuval, would finally step away from their screens, and my twin sister, Shani, would dress beautifully, making me think about borrowing her new sweater that she just bought. The dogs would wander around, searching for any food scraps that might fall from



Eden Refaelovich

the table, and someone would always give in to their sweet faces, slipping them a piece of chicken or meat under the table. My mom, Limor, makes the best Moroccan food. The delicious aromas of her cooking would fill the house for days, and when Dad, Yosef, returned from the synagogue, we knew the meal and the blessings were about to begin.

As we approach the holiday season, although I am thousands of miles away from my home and family now, the sense of community and connection I feel with all of you helps me experience that warmth and togetherness. Every moment spent with you has been incredibly meaningful, helping me feel at home in this new place. Your kindness and support have been a great comfort.

Thank you for embracing me with open arms and making me feel included. I am looking forward to the festivities and events that will bring us together, and I look forward to sharing many more special moments with you all.

The Hebrew Corner

A Monthly Primer by Robert Abrams,
UJF Education Committee Chair

CHANGE IN THE NEW YEAR

I think we all recognize that at the beginning of each year we feel it is time for a change. And I find it interesting that there is a distinct connection between the Hebrew word for "year" and the Hebrew word for "change."

The three letter root for each of these words is SHin, Nuhn, and Hay. You are probably already familiar with the word for "year." It is SHaNaH. We greet one another at this time of year with the phrase "ShaNaH Tovah!" as we see each other in supermarkets and bakeries. And, of course, we use the term as we greet one another each year in our temples and synagogues on Rosh HaSHaNaH and Yom Kippur. We even use that word at the end of every Passover Seder—"LShaNaH Haba'ah BiYerushalayim!"... Next Year in Jerusalem! Each time we include the word SHaNaH in these greetings, we are sending our wishes to one another for a change for the better.

As stated above, the same three letters we use for "year" are the root of the word "change." And in the context of "change," these letters form the root for the words *to repeat*, *to*



Robert Abrams

do over again, *to reiterate*, and *to revise*. For example, the Hebrew phrase, "m'ShaNeH makohm, m'ShaNeH mazal!" translates to "Change your place/location/job, change your luck!" Or, during Passover, "mah niSHtaNaH halaylah hazeh mikohl halaylot?" - How is this night *different/changed* from other nights?"

Finally, the same three letters also form the root of the word *to study*, *to learn*, *to teach*, and *to inculcate*. You can find it in the name of the Oral Teachings, the miSHNaH. For example, there is a custom to learn a miSHNaH, a teaching, in a house of mourning. It is hoped that learning a miSHNaH will elevate the neshamah, the soul of the deceased. (As you can tell, the Hebrew words Mishnah and Neshamah—teaching and soul— are anagrams of one another.)

I believe the connection between these notions of time, change, and learning is more than simply interesting. One of the most significant achievements during our lives is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Tribute Gifts to Federation



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



www.ujf.org/tribute

Schoke JFS Offers Internship Opportunities

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service (JFS) is excited to offer dynamic and enriching internship opportunities for aspiring social workers through the Case Management, Home Companion, and Kuriansky Family Counseling Program. These internships provide a comprehensive experience under the expert guidance of the Schoke JFS team.

In the Case Management program, interns work closely with Hannah Pollack, LCSW, the Director of Case Management. They gain hands-on experience addressing a wide range of client needs, including resource navigation, application assistance, referral organization, and medical advocacy. This is particularly crucial given the growing mental health crisis and the severe shortage of mental health providers, which underscores the importance of Schoke JFS's work.

For those joining the Home Companion program, under the mentorship of Isrella Knopf, LMSW, the Director of Senior Services, interns have the chance to conduct home visits with elderly community members, participate in intake conversations, and assist with the training and certification programs for prospective aides within the department.



Hannah Pollack, Director of Case Management, sits with past Case Management Intern, Rebekah Bacon, reviewing case documents.

Interns in the Clinical Department support a caseload of 5 to 10 individuals, couples, or family therapy clients. They have the opportunity to facilitate support groups and participate in the department's weekly meetings, learning from a team of qualified, licensed clinicians.

Steve Schwartz, Schoke JFS clinical intern, shares, "I came to Schoke Jewish Family Service last year with no prior experience as a therapist, but in this short time, I have gained many clients and a healthy amount of confidence. I am deeply grateful to my supervisors, Hannah Pollack

and Schoke JFS CEO Matt Greenberg, for helping me challenge myself and for providing guidance when I needed it. I am glad to be at an agency that offers a range of services because it has allowed me to view my clients from multiple dimensions, not just through the lens of a psychotherapist. I can't imagine a better training ground for any therapy or social work intern."

Throughout all programs, interns receive extensive mentorship and support, designed to foster professional growth and equip them with the skills needed to advance in their social work careers. The internships are crafted to

provide practical, real-world experience while promoting ongoing development.

This fall season, Schoke Jewish Family Service will welcome four interns to the Case Management team and one intern to the Home Companion team.

Additionally, Schoke JFS is looking to expand the agency's internship program to include preliminarily licensed clinicians in their first two years toward full licensure in Connecticut. To learn more about all of these rewarding internship opportunities and find out how you can get involved, contact Leah Schechter at lschechter@ctjfs.org or call 203-921-4161.

The Hebrew Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

gaining wisdom—through learning, growing, and maturing. As we live and experience time through our years on this earth, we change and evolve with each and every experience. (Hopefully, we do not make the same mistakes over and over again!)

In this New Year, may we all continue to learn, grow more wise, change for the better, and have a Happy, Healthy, Safe, Successful, and Meaningful Year.

L'Shanah Tovah!

October 7th Marking One Year

Join United Jewish Federation and The Stamford Board of Rabbis

United in Remembrance Commemorating October 7

Monday Evening
October 7 • 7:00 pm
Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Avenue

Program will include **Tal Chaika**
www.October7book.com

Co-Sponsors:

(in formation)

ADL of Connecticut • AJC of Westchester and Fairfield Counties
Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy • Chabad of Harbor Point
Chabad of New Canaan • Chabad of Stamford
Congregation Agudath Sholom • Friendship Circle
Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County
Schoke JFS • Stamford JCC • Temple Beth-El
Temple Sinai • Young Israel of Stamford

Free - Registration required
www.ujf.org/oct7



**United Jewish
Federation**
of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County

Back-to-School Celebration at the Gan

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) The energy was through the roof at Gan Yeladim's back to school social! Parents and teachers came together to celebrate the end of summer and the start of the school year with an evening of fun, food, and connection. Guests indulged in spiked ice cream, a cake cart, and custom-made hot pizza courtesy of Gan parent, Doron Ginat, the talented chef from Napolitana Kosher Italian Restaurant in Stamford. With "Georgie

the Mixologist" running the open bar with his signature cocktails and dry ice adding to the atmosphere, parents were also able to indulge in their creativity during the evening. A beautiful collaborative art project was organized and run by local artist and architect of the Chabad of Stamford building, Elana Kalman, which added to the atmosphere making it the perfect way to unwind and reconnect with old friends and make new ones after a busy summer.



(l-r) Yael Shmilovitch, Elliot Buckman, Ben Zweig, and Ariel Blum attended Back to School Social.

Discovering Nature at the Gan



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Curious little explorers at Gan Yeladim discover the wonders of nature in their outdoor classroom as they examine a tree stump, uncovering hidden stories of growth, texture, and life.

Welcome Back!

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan Yeladim of Stamford was delighted to welcome both new and returning families! To mark this special beginning, each parent was warmly greeted with a special gift, tea and a sweet treat for a sweet year ahead.



Gan Yeladim welcomes the Fuchs family back for the new year.

BCHA Kicks Off School Year with Joy and Reflection

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut (BCHA) launched the 2024-2025 school year with excitement, community spirit, and a focus on learning. "The first day of school is always very special, seeing our students so happy and excited to return to school, each more mature, and the faculty anxiously waiting to engage their new students, most often with new teaching methodologies they have worked all summer to develop. This year was no exception," said Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, Head of School.

Leading up to the first day, new and returning faculty gathered for in-service training, team-building activities, and classroom preparations. "Our teachers were eager to set up their classrooms in the most interesting and detailed ways to create a supportive environment for our students," noted Rabbi Bernstein.

Early Childhood orientation days welcomed new students, helping them get acquainted with their surroundings.



8th grade students line the red carpet to welcome the younger students for a new school year.

"Singing could be heard throughout the building, and the excitement of a new school year was palpable," said Early Childhood Director Nicole Makovsky.

On the first day, the youngest students walked a red carpet into the building where they were escorted to their classrooms by teachers, while students in grades 2 through 8 participated in a school-wide assembly

filled with music, dance, and Torah blessings. "Reuniting in song and joy set a positive tone for the year," said Lower School Principal Tricia Hoff.

Upper School students began the year with enthusiasm, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities in their high school experience. "Our first day was built around community, welcoming our freshmen class, and a



A kindergarten BCHA student shows excitement on her first day of school.

fun team-building activity that helped deepen those connections," said David Giver, Upper School Principal.

"The energy and excitement of the first days of school set the tone for a year filled with growth, learning, and community connection," said Rabbi Bernstein. "We look forward to what this new year will bring."

New Canaan Hebrew School Launches New Curriculum

(Courtesy of Chabad New Canaan) The New Canaan Hebrew School, hosted by Chabad New Canaan, announces the launch of an innovative new curriculum for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Titled "Light House: Making My Home Hashem's Home," this program offers students, ages 5-13, an engaging and dynamic learning experience that brings Jewish teachings to life in meaningful ways.

Children at the New Canaan Hebrew School will embark on an interactive journey throughout the year, focusing on various *mitzvot* (commandments) that include Shabbat, blessings, honoring parents, charity, and other fundamental aspects of daily Jewish life. To enhance the learning experience, each lesson includes hands-on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) activities and crafts, ensuring that students not only learn but also enjoy their educational journey.

The curriculum, along with its focus on Hebrew reading, Biblical stories, prayers, Israel, Jewish holidays, and general Jewish knowledge, continues to foster a strong Jewish identity in a nurturing environment.

Michal Mendelow, director of the New Canaan Hebrew School, expressed her excitement about the new curriculum, noting, "Our goal is to make sure that children love their Hebrew School experience and develop strong, proud feelings for their Judaism. Our



Students at the New Canaan Hebrew School had a great time on their first day back.

small school environment is very warm and welcoming, allowing us to focus on the unique strengths of each child. We are excited to see this new curriculum empower another year of proud Jewish children!"

The curriculum, developed by the International Chabad Children's Network (CKids), reflects New Canaan Hebrew School's ongoing commitment to providing a deeply personal and impactful journey in Jewish education. CKids, with chapters in 26 countries, engages over 25,000 children annually with vibrant, life-changing Jewish experiences.

For more information or to enroll your child in the New Canaan Hebrew School, please contact Michal Mendelow at Michal@NewCanaanJewish.org, call 203 972 7708, or visit www.newcanaanjewish.org/hebrewschool.

UConn Hillel Kicks Off Programming in Stamford



UConn Hillel's Israel Fellow with the Stamford campus' Hillel Student Board.

(Courtesy of UConn Hillel) On September 5, UConn Hillel's Israel Fellow, Shirly Afrimi, joined the UConn Stamford campus for the first involvement fair of the year. Over 50 students expressed interest in joining UConn Stamford's growing Hillel for upcoming programs and activities. Empowered to take action, students are planning a "Spread Cream Cheese, Not Hate," event for the fall semester as well as Shabbat and social gatherings. Afrimi will also help offer Israel engagement and is sharing opportunities to visit Israel with UConn Hillel through both Birthright and Maccabee Task Force trips. For more information about getting involved with the UConn Stamford campus, please email engagement@uconnhillel.org.

Join us at the Jewish Festival of Fairfield County!

Live Music • Food Trucks • Kids' Activities • Entertainment For All Ages



Sunday, Sept. 29 • 3-6 PM

Loading Dock, 375 Fairfield Ave, Stamford, CT

Purchase Tickets in Advance

www.ujf.org/jewishfestival



jewishfestivaloffairfieldcounty.com

Questions? write to jewishfestivalfc@gmail.com



Local Athletes Excel at JCC Maccabi Games

(Courtesy of JCC) This past summer, student-athletes from the Stamford Jewish Community Center (JCC) participated in the 2024 JCC Maccabi Games in Houston, TX. The athletes excelled in their respective sports while exemplifying outstanding sportsmanship – and they had the honor of bringing home two medals! The community's Jonah Shapiro, a 14U Tennis Player, brought home the gold medal, playing all his matches outdoors in the Texas heat! And the 14U Girls Volleyball Team brought home the silver medal in an incredible display of teamwork. Congratulations to all participating athletes. The Stamford JCC could not be prouder of the way they represented the community!



Jonah Shapiro (right) with semi-final opponent

For information on how to join Team Stamford for the 2025 JCC Maccabi Games in Pittsburgh, PA, please email Mo Concepcion at mconcepcion@stamfordjcc.org.



Stamford participants in the 2024 JCC Maccabi Games

Apples for Everyone!

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's NextGen and PJ Library picked the perfect Sunday morning to host an Apple Picking Family Day at Silverman's Farm in Easton, where the Schoke Jewish Family Service food pantry

received donated apples to stock up just in time for Rosh Hashana. Thank you to all of the families and sponsors who joined in the fun-filled day including Congregation Agudath Sholom, Young Israel, and Chabad of Stamford.



Schoke JFS Sends Kids to Jewish Summer Camps



Gabby and Harrison at Camp Laurelwood.



Jacob and Talia at Camp Ramah New England.

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Harrison and Gabby had a fantastic time at Camp Laurelwood, while Talia and Jacob thoroughly enjoyed their experience at Camp Ramah, each experience made possible by the Joan and Ben Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Program from Schoke Jewish Family Service (Schoke JFS). With almost 50 children receiving assistance, Schoke JFS is thrilled to help campers from all over Fairfield County. Schoke JFS gratefully acknowledges the Zinbarg

Family, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County for their support.

The Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Program, made possible by donor contributions, provides essential financial assistance to eligible families across Fairfield County.

To donate to the Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Program, access www.ctjfs.org/camp-scholarship-donations.

New Around Town

Adriana Romero, Director of Operations, Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford recently welcomed Adriana Romero to the role of Director of Operations. Adriana's responsibilities include handling leadership training, Human Resources and payroll, and other management tasks. She is assisting with reorganizing and restructuring Chabad of Stamford.



Adriana Romero

Born in Barranquilla, Colombia, Adriana moved to the USA at age seven. She is fluent in Spanish (and is also teaching herself Haitian Creole). Adriana previously worked in a public school district, focusing on the Multilingual Learners Department and managing operations for the Family Center. Her prior experience included working closely with the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer at a healthcare

management company, where she honed her skills in strategy and goal-setting.

Adriana is currently pursuing a degree in Organizational Leadership to enhance her ability to lead and

spark positive change and growth in the organizations she works for. Her passion lies in helping others grow their skills, and she has been applying her knowledge and skill set to support Chabad and Gan Yeladim's expansion efforts.

Adriana is the mother of three boys—aged 25, 15, and 12— and is excited to become a grandmother this fall. She loves movie nights with her boys, attending their sporting events, and staying active.

Professional Development at Gan Yeladim: “Revealing the Sparks”

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford)
While the children enjoyed one last week of summer vacation, the *morahs* (teachers) at Gan Yeladim were hard at work preparing for the upcoming school year. Morah Leah and Morah Hillary welcomed back many of Gan's incredible veteran morahs and introduced new ones to the preschool during Professional Development Week. The teachers spent the week engaging in educational workshops with the theme of “discovering the sparks within,” both in themselves and others, as they prepared to welcome and reveal the sparks in Gan's precious students.

The training programs ran the gamut from the deeply spiritual to the practical and everything in between. The new morahs were introduced to the wonders and sparks of a Reggio Emilia-inspired educational philosophy. This approach emphasizes child-centered learning, where children are viewed as capable and creative individuals with potential to drive their own education. It encourages exploration and expression through various forms of communication and collaboration between children, teachers



Teachers at Gan Yeladim show excitement as they prepare for the new school year.

and the environment. The use of natural materials in particular is encouraged in order to create a sense of wonder for the children.

New to Gan this year is artist, writer, bookmaker (and Bubbie to a grandchild at Gan) Elise Lerner. Elise taught the morahs about the left and right sides of the brain in relation to art, ‘messy art’

and the brain, sewing and a variety of art techniques.

The entire Gan staff heard from the Director of Security from United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, who came to deliver training on safety and security. All morahs participated in sessions on CPR and medical training, in addition to preschool

inclusivity, holistic education, language development, lesson planning and more. The Gan staff was also privileged to welcome Levi Segal, a leadership consultant at Spencer Stuart's Leadership Advisory Services, who led the group in an exercise to discover their individual strengths and unlock their untapped potential in the workplace. For the third year, Gan welcomed back educator Esther Hecht, who inspired the morahs with sessions on how to be emotionally responsive and how to lead, teach and parent in a conscious and connected way. This method aims to help the Gan staff to better understand both the children and their families.

With their sparks revealed, the morahs will work hard on uncovering the wonder within each of the children that comes to Gan.

The Gan invites families to its Open House and Family Day on Sunday, November 3 at 9:30 am for hands-on activities and experiences for kids as well as tours of the Gan.

For more information on Gan Yeladim please email wendy@stamfordchabad.org.



Make a Difference!

Help a Farm in Israel. New subsidized trips being filled!

SPECIAL \$350 8-day Missions for volunteers aged 18 - 40:

November 23rd - December 1st

December 22nd - December 29th

December 30th - January 5th

Other trips open for volunteers of all ages

\$350 Registration Includes*:

- 8 Day/7 Night Volunteer Trip
- 5 days of volunteering, 1 day of touring, cultural exchange, and Shabbat experience
- Based in Tel Aviv
- Kosher Shabbat meals, breakfast/lunch daily, \$100 credit toward other meals, transport to farm, hotel (double occupancy), guide, and medical insurance
- **Airfare and airport transfers are not included**

***\$700 flight reimbursement upon completion of mission**

www.israelfoodrescue.com to register





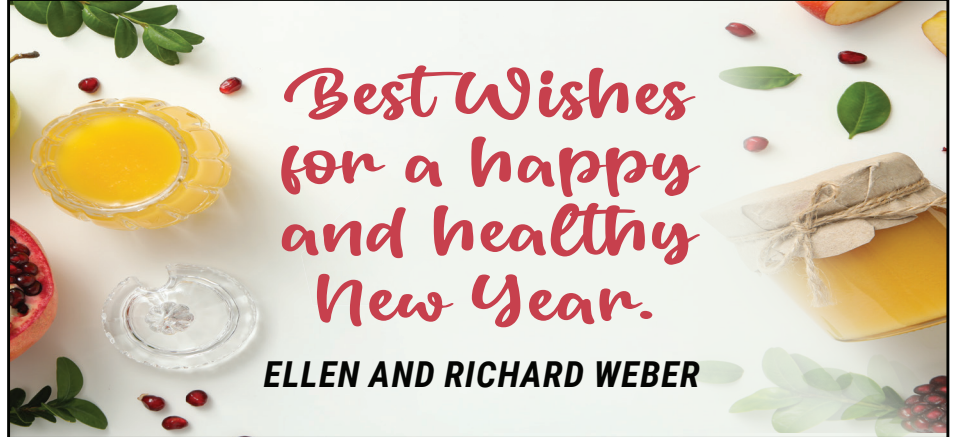
Shana Tova

SANDY AND FRED GOLOVE



*Best Wishes
for a happy
and healthy
New Year.*

ELLEN AND RICHARD WEBER



Shana Tova and A Sweet New Year

Filled With Peace
Throughout the World!

SUSAN KOSTIN



L'Shana Tova!

MONICA SMYTH AND
MICHAEL SCHLESSINGER



Shana Tova

May the New Year
Bring Peace To
the People Of Israel.

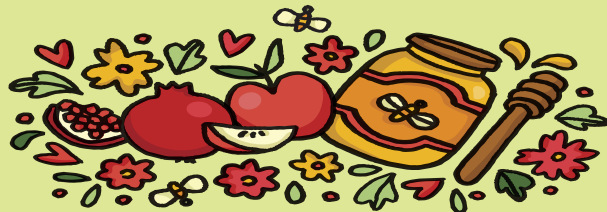
EDITH SAMERS
& ED SMITH



Shana Tova

May this year bring peace to Israel.

LYNN AND JEFFREY LOWIN



Wishing our Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Community

A Happy and Healthy New Year

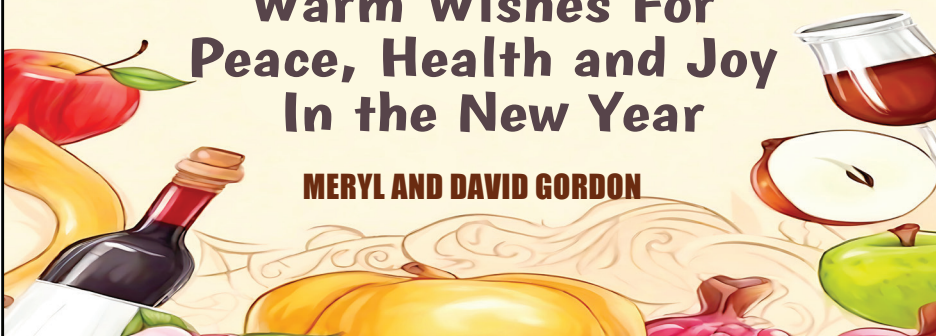
We are looking forward to the Big Give on November 3rd!
Great things happen when we unite AS ONE!



YOUR 2024 BIG GIVE CO-CHAIRS, WENDY SIEGEL & ROBIN FISCHEL

Warm Wishes For Peace, Health and Joy In the New Year

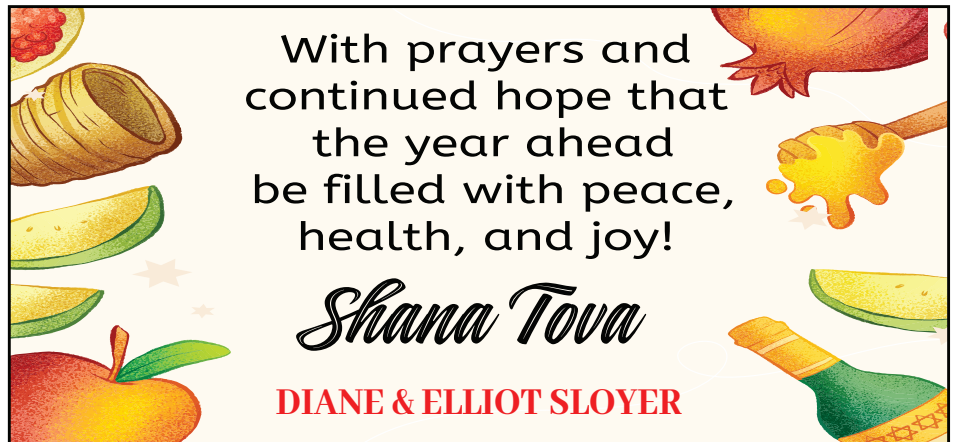
MERYL AND DAVID GORDON



With prayers and
continued hope that
the year ahead
be filled with peace,
health, and joy!

Shana Tova

DIANE & ELLIOT SLOYER



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

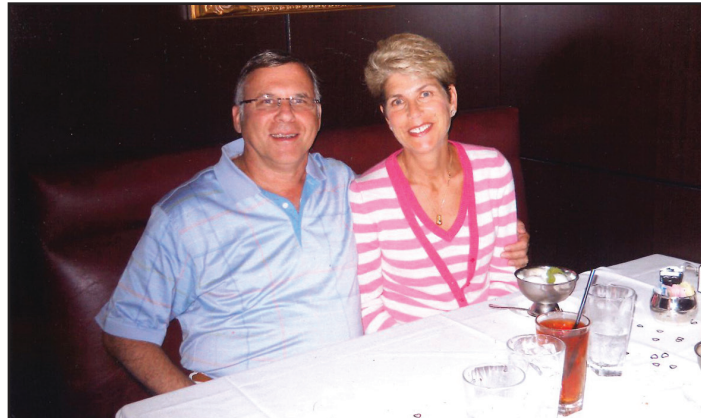
LINDA GORNITSKY AND HARVEY WEBER TESTIMONIAL

Harvey, my husband, and I grew up in Montreal, a city with over 100,000 Jews, that supported many Jewish organizations. In my case, my family was totally involved in building and ensuring a thriving Jewish community. My great-grandfather was a founder of the Jewish Day Schools called Jewish Peoples and Peretz Schools. My grandmothers were involved with Hadassah and other organizations. My mother was the first female president of Hebrew Free Loan and remains on its board until today. And on it went. So ensuring that Jewish institutions continue to exist and help Jews in Stamford and throughout the world is part of my heritage and my DNA.

One of the reasons we moved to Stamford was its diversity of Jewish institutions. It was important that our children attend a Jewish Day School, as I did, and having Bi-Cultural Day School helped make the decision to move here easier. Harvey and I grew up in a

community with over 33 orthodox shuls so again, Stamford provided us with the ability to attend a service where we were comfortable. For a small community, we were amazed that it offered a Jewish Community Center, multiple synagogues, a Federation, a JFS, and other organizations. It is rich with options, and it is important to us that it remains that way for future generations.

I believe it is critical to demonstrate one's commitment both through actions and finances since both are necessary to ensure the success of organizations. I have done this by being on the executive boards of Agudath Sholom, UJF, Hadassah and



Harvey Weber & Linda Gornitsky

Schoke JFS. Along with volunteerism, they need financial donations. Unfortunately, there are very few people who are not Jewish who are willing to ensure the survival of our people and our traditions. If we don't do it, who will? For this reason, Harvey and I have pledged to ensure the legacy of multiple Jewish organizations in Stamford, Israel and abroad.



**DON'T FORGET TO USE
THE COMMUNITY
CALENDAR**

**THE CALENDAR
CONTINUES TO BE
IMPORTANT TO
AVOID CONFLICTS**

WWW.UJF.ORG

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Check Out Some Volunteer Opportunities With UJF!



Dignity Grows

Pack and distribute totes of essential hygiene goods to women in need with UJF's Dignity Grows chapter.



Herbert & Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners

Provide tutoring and support during the school year to help young students grow as readers through Reading Partners.



3SQUARE

Fight food insecurity by packing and delivering nutritious meals to local school children thanks to 3SQUARE.

www.ujf.org/volunteer



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SAVE THE DATE

AN EVENING
WITH

EYLON
LEVY



Co-Chairs

Pamela and Alec Ellison
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Hilary and Zion Shohet
Shushannah Walshe
and Ari Yasgur

NOVEMBER 6

7:30PM

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

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**United Jewish
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Serving Greater Fairfield County



Life & Legacy Honor Roll

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

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

23 Anonymous
27 Anonymous
Craig Adler
Adrienne & Michael Alexander
David Amsellem
Alice & David Andersen
Jeri Appel
Mark Appel
Ricky Snow Arbron
Suellyn Bache
Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
Rachel Tyd & Robert Beldock
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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.

Did You Know?



Life & Legacy participants who designate some or all of their IRAs or 401(k)s to be given to charity during or after life avoid considerable tax bills on these assets for their heirs.

New Drought-Resistant Cocoa Could Spark a Revolution

Israeli scientists have discovered drought-resistant cocoa, sparking dreams of a homegrown chocolate industry and global farming solutions.

BY ZACHY HENNESSEY/ISRAEL21C

Recent research at Israel's Volcani Center – Agricultural Research Organization has not only uncovered a potentially drought-resistant cocoa strain that could combat the ongoing global shortage of cocoa beans but also opened up possibilities for a homegrown boutique chocolate industry in Israel.

Ellen Graber, lead researcher on the Volcani cocoa project, stumbled upon this discovery in the aftermath of the October 7 Gaza conflict.

A batch of experimental cocoa seedlings, left unattended for over three months due to the crisis, revealed strong resilience to drought and cold conditions.

"We had transferred 140 seedlings to MOP Darom, an agricultural R&D station in the western Negev, for a pilot project," she tells ISRAEL21C.

"Three and a half months had passed with no care or irrigation, and we were all quite convinced that they were just going to go and remove 140 dead plants, and that at some point we would just start the trial a second time."

When R&D station project leader Talli Ilani finally accessed the site in mid-January, she was astonished to find that about 15 plants had not only survived but were even showing new growth.

The surviving plants were brought back to Volcani for further study; remarkably, about 70% of these survivors have continued to thrive and develop normally.

Further investigation revealed that all surviving plants came from the same genetic group.

COCOA'S HAVING A ROUGH TIME

Assuming the cocoa plants mature and bear fruit as expected — which will take a few years to find out — this accidental discovery has potentially far-reaching implications.

Cocoa trees are sensitive to heat and require specific temperature ranges for optimal growth. As such, global cocoa production is currently facing significant challenges due to climate change.

"This could be a way to really modernize cocoa agriculture globally."

Cocoa is primarily grown in tropical regions by smallholder farmers, many of whom lack resources for modern agricultural practices, leaving their crops susceptible to the whims of the weather.

Between 2002 and 2019, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana — which supply about 60% of the world's cocoa — lost 25% and 8%, respectively, of their humid primary forest, making it harder for farmers to maintain consistent yields.

Some Ghanaian cocoa farmers have reported a 33% decrease in yield due to changing weather patterns associated with climate change.

Climate change effects have also contributed to major price volatility in the cocoa market: cocoa prices have risen by 400% in the last year, partly due to weather-related issues.

Considering the impact that climate change has on the cocoa industry, Graber's drought-resistant variety could help stabilize production in increasingly unpredictable climate conditions.

"This could be a way to really modernize cocoa agriculture globally," Graber says, explaining that she hopes to develop this resilient strain as a rootstock for cocoa trees.

"It [also] has the potential to reduce deforestation by increasing yields in existing plantations."

ISRAELI WONKA?

While the primary goal of Graber's research was to develop solutions for global cocoa cultivation challenges, the discovery has also sparked a vision for a uniquely

Israeli cocoa ecosystem.

"I do see this as also a cornerstone for introducing the cocoa crop into Israel," she says, quickly going on to clarify that although Israel is too small to become a global cocoa exporter, there's potential for the development of a boutique Israeli chocolate industry.

This could include developing smart nurseries and providing drought-resistant planting material to cocoa growers worldwide.

Her vision includes a "tree to bar" gourmet chocolate industry, producing high-end, kosher "blue and white" chocolate.

Graber also envisions a range of products and experiences, from cocoa-based beverages and value-added byproducts to agritourism opportunities like chocolate festivals and farm tours.

"I like to think of this as an entire cocoa ecosystem," Graber emphasized. "That is how I would envision it here in Israel."

However, turning this vision into reality will require patience and further research.



Dr. Ellen Graber stands behind some of the surviving cocoa plants after care. (PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. ELLEN GRABER)

Cocoa trees take time to mature, and several more years of study are needed to fully understand the potential of the drought-resistant strain.

While Graber was careful not to give too many details, the discovery has already attracted interest from both large chocolate companies and investors.

"There is definitely interest," she says. "And I'm happy that there is. I certainly hope that we'll be able to develop it more, because it really has a lot of potential."

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