



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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

The Phantom Unmasked

TBE Presents “The Songs of Broadway”

BY STEVE LANDER

On Sunday, October 18, at 7 pm, Temple Beth El in Stamford will host a concert, “The Phantom Unmasked – The Songs of Broadway,” featuring award-winning tenor Franc D’Ambrosio (see <http://tinyurl.com/franecd>). D’Ambrosio is best known for his portrayal of the Phantom in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Tony Award winning musical, “The Phantom of the Opera.” With more than 11 years and 2,300 performances, he gained the distinction of “The World’s Longest Running



Franc D’Ambrosio

Phantom,” a title he retained for over a decade.

Born in the Bronx and a graduate of the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, D’Ambrosio made his Broadway debut in the first revival of “Sweeney Todd.” His resume includes the role of Anthony Corleone, the opera-singing son of Al Pacino and Diane Keaton, in the film “Godfather III,” and

the male lead, Tony, in the pre-Broadway, national tour of Barry Manilow’s “Copacabana.” His one-man show, See “Phantom” on page 2

Eight Stories to Watch in Israel Next Year

BY BEN SALES

(JTA) – Tired of hearing about Israel’s conflict with the Palestinians or the machinations of a certain Islamic Republic? There’s plenty of other news happening in Israel, from uproars over the country’s enormous natural gas reserves to a growing push to legalize marijuana.

Here are eight newsy items you may have missed in 5775 – and stories you should watch out for as the new year begins.

1. Israel’s controversial gas drilling increases

Since the discovery of two huge offshore fields of natural gas in the

Mediterranean Sea, Israel has turned from an energy importer to an exporter. Israel has signed agreements worth tens of billions of dollars to export gas to Egypt and Jordan, and in 2013, a conglomerate of two energy companies – Noble Energy and the Delek Group – began exporting gas from the Tamar natural gas field.

In June, however, an agreement to let Delek and Noble also develop the much larger Leviathan field set off protests in Israel. Critics, including the head of Israel’s antitrust authority, called the deal a monopoly. But Israeli

See “Israel” on page 18

Vatican II at Fifty

UConn Judaic Studies Kuriansky Conference

BY REBECCA ISENSTEIN

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford will host its Annual Louis J. Kuriansky Conference on Tuesday, November 10, at 7 pm, in the GenRe auditorium at UConn-Stamford. This year’s conference will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Vatican II proclamation, known as the Nostra Aetate, meaning “in our



Dr. James Bernauer



Dr. Susannah Heschel

time,” a theological landmark that signified a dramatic turn in the Catholic Church’s conception of Jews and of the role of Judaism in history.

The conference, titled “From Enmity to Friendship: The Remarkable Transformation of Christian-Jewish Relations Since Vatican II (1965),” will include a See “Vatican” on page 2

At a Theater Near You

JCC’s Jewish Arts and Film Festival Returns

BY LUISA VILADAS

The 14th annual Jewish Arts and Film Festival of Fairfield County, presented by the Stamford Jewish Community Center, will return for nine days, from Saturday, October 24, through Sunday, November 1. This year’s festival will be highlighted by screenings of Jewish films from Israel, the U.S., Europe and Africa.

The festival will also feature a photography exhibit called “Israeli Impressions” by photographer Paul Margolis, a documentary and fine art photographer. On Sunday, October 25, there will be a program called “Short

Films: Big Ideas,” which will examine the power of short films as a medium for storytelling and communicating values, culture and ideology.

This year’s literary event will feature an appearance by veteran Middle East correspondent Mark Lavie, author of the book “Broken Spring.” In a fact-filled presentation, Lavie will share his close-up view of how Egyptians lost their struggle for freedom.

“We are thrilled to present the very best current Jewish films, speakers, fine art and literature that the international Jewish community has to offer,” said

See “Theater” on page 13

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Hadassah’s “Day in the District”

The Power of Women Who Do could not have been more self-evident on August 25 when Hadassah CT members met with Senator Richard Blumenthal to discuss “Gender Equality in Healthcare Research,” “Women’s Preventative Health” and the “Iran Nuclear Agreement.”

Seated (l-r): Jodi Maxner (past president of Stamford Chapter, current annual giving chair for the region) and Joyce Backman (past president of Westport Chapter, current OVP for the region). Standing (l-r): Beverly Stein (member of CT Advocacy Team as part of the 50 State Network, member of Stamford Chapter), Rhonda Ginsberg (treasurer of the Stamford Chapter), Sharon Sobel (co-president of the Norwalk Chapter), Ivy Gosseen (co-president of the Westport Chapter), Senator Richard Blumenthal, Gayle Weinstein (past president of the Westport Chapter, past region OVP), Sally Kleinman (Hadassah CT president, member of the Westport Chapter), Connie Cirillo Freeman (past Hadassah CT president, co-team leader for Advocacy at national, member of the Stamford Chapter) and Claudia Cohen (co-president of the Westport Chapter). (Photo contributed by S. Backman)

See article on page 9.



CEO Message

Tales from B Side

BY JAMES A. COHEN

One of the reasons I love the novels of Jane Austen is because of the atmosphere she created. The early 19th century was one of the most tumultuous periods in human history. The Napoleonic Wars were shaping and then reshaping the map of Europe. People on both sides of the Atlantic were debating the slave trade. Revolutions were smoldering throughout Latin America and the United States was taking its first baby steps. By reading Ms. Austen's novels, you learn absolutely none of this. Her novels take place in an idyllic cocoon, from which the world's problems are figuratively, if not literally, millions of miles away.



James Cohen,
UJF CEO

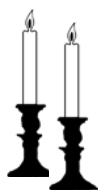
That is precisely how I felt this summer while visiting my wife and children at overnight camp. Within the confines of Camp Ramah in New England's campus, there was no existential threat from Iran,

no U.S. Congress, no primary campaign, no mass murders and no suffering Ukraine. What existed was joy – the joy of spending summer with friends and the joy of being Jewish.

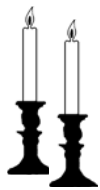
I have written previously about the importance of Jewish summer camping and the vital role it plays in insuring that the next generation of Jews remains engaged. The statistics prove this point time and time again – kids who go to Jewish summer camp tend to be more involved in Jewish life as adults. This summer, with all the things in the world to which we could point that were less than positive, I felt the importance of creating this oasis for our children more strongly than ever. Each Saturday night, attending *Havdalah* on the B side of camp, I felt simultaneous waves of pride and urgency.

Federation does so much to give as many children as possible the opportunity to share in this incredible experience. From giving a grant directly to Connecticut's only Jewish overnight camp, to providing funds for JFS camp scholarships, to supporting our Jewish Community Center and to supporting the Jewish Agency for Israel's camps in the former Soviet Union, we do our best to make sure every kid has the chance to sample and savor this joy. It is never too early to start thinking about next year's needs. To help give each Jewish child a passport for tomorrow, if you haven't already, please give today.

CANDLE LIGHTING
TIMES



| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| September 25 | 6:29 pm |
| September 27 | 6:25 pm |
| September 28 | after 7:22 pm |
| October 2 | 6:17 pm |
| October 4 | 6:14 pm |
| October 5 | after 7:11 pm |
| October 9 | 6:05 pm |
| October 16 | 5:54 pm |
| October 23 | 5:44 pm |
| October 30 | 5:35 pm |
| November 6 | 4:26 pm |
| November 13 | 4:19 pm |



Phantom. . . . Continued from page 1

"Franc D'Ambrosio's Broadway," sold out during its three-year, 150-city tour.

Cantor Magda Fishman will make a guest appearance during the program and join D'Ambrosio in singing a few of his favorite Broadway tunes.

Tickets are now on sale to the public. General admission tickets are \$50; reserved seating is \$75; and student tickets are \$36. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://tinyurl.com/tbebroadway>. Seating is limited.

For further information, contact Steven Lander, executive director at TBE, at 203-322-6901, ext. 304.

Vatican. Continued from page 1

discussion "From the Catholic Perspective" with Dr. James Bernauer, S.J., the Kraft Family Professor of Philosophy at Boston College, and also "From the Jewish Perspective" with Dr. Susannah Heschel, the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. The Rev. Dr. Blaine Edele from Union Memorial Church in Stamford will moderate a Q&A session following the lectures. Additionally, the Center will host a special supplement session aimed at students on Wednesday, November 11, at noon, in the MPR (Room 1.08) titled "Lunch and Conversation: A Follow-up Dialog on the Conference." This session will be moderated by Dr. Beth Ginsberg, professor of political science at UConn-Stamford, and will include Dr. June-Ann Greeley, professor of the theology at Sacred Heart University, and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, rabbi at Temple Beth-El, Stamford.

Bernauer, a Jesuit priest, is the director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College. His most recent book, co-edited with Robert Maryks, is "The Tragic Couple: Encounters Between Jews and Jesuits (2014)." He is the author of many publications, including "The Flawed Vision in Claude Lanzmann's Shoah and the Corrective Lens of Pierre Sauvage" in "Through a Lens Darkly: Films of Genocide, Ethnic Cleansing and Atrocities (2013)." His current research project is a study of Jesuits and Jews during the period of the Holocaust.

Heschel is the author of numerous books and articles, including "Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesu's" and "The Aryan Jesus: Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany," and the editor of "Insider/Outsider: American Jews and Multiculturalism," as well as "Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity: Essays of Abraham Joshua Heschel." A recipient of four honorary doctorates, she has held grants from the Carnegie Foundation, the Ford Foundation and a fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. Currently on a Guggenheim fellowship, she is writing a book on the history of Jewish scholarship on Islam.

The 2014 Louis J. Kuriansky Annual Conference is made possible through the generosity of the Louis J Kuriansky Foundation. A donation of \$10 per person is suggested and the conference is free to local educators, students and non-profit professionals. To register or for more information about the conference or other programs of the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford, contact the Center at stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu or 203-251-9525.

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Torch is Passed ... the Countdown Begins

JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest

BY LUISA VILADAS

For a dozen Stamford Jewish community leaders, a trip to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in August was much more than an opportunity to observe and learn from this year's JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest. By the time the torch was passed to Stamford for next year's event, the teens who participated, coaches, JCC staff and lay leaders alike said they were energized and inspired to host the 2016 Games and ArtsFest in Stamford.

what an amazing experience JCC Maccabi is for the kids," said Jeannie Kriftcher, who is co-chairing the Stamford 2016 JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest with Michael Gold. "Our team got a rousing reception when the kids and coaches walked into the opening ceremonies. It was a big moment for Stamford."

"Many communities across North America are excited and eager to come to Stamford next year," added Gold. "Our team spirit and outstanding
See "Torch" on page 4



The torch was passed from Ft. Lauderdale to Stamford for the 2016 Games. L-r: Stamford JCC Games and ArtsFest Director Rachel Rothman; JCC Associate Managing Director of Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Mo Concepcion; JCC Maccabi ArtsFest 2016 Stamford Co-chair Robin Frederick; and JCC Maccabi Games ArtsFest 2016 Stamford Co-chair Michael Gold.

UConn Hillel Appoints New Executive Director

Daniel Levenson has been appointed as the new executive director of UConn Hillel. Daniel most recently served as executive director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and prior to that as director of public affairs at the Consulate General of Israel to New England. Committed to building a vibrant Jewish future, he has worked with Jewish young adults from around the world as an artist-in-residence at the Brandeis Collegiate Institute in southern California, and was the founder and publisher of the New



Daniel Levenson

Vilna Review, an online journal dedicated to exploring modern Jewish identity from an individual and communal perspective.

Levenson said he was deeply influenced both personally and professionally by his experiences at Harvard University Hillel where he served as chair of the Graduate Student Steering Committee, as well as the time he has spent living, studying and volunteering in Israel. As an educator in both college classrooms and synagogues, he said
See "Hillel" on page 7

Deadlines for articles

The deadlines for the next three issues of *The New Jewish Voice* are:

Monday, September 21 November
Thursday, October 1 December
Monday, December 28 February

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

Save the Date: Saul Cohen – JFS Lecture

The entire community is invited to attend, at no cost, the fourth annual Saul Cohen – JFS Lecture on Thursday, November 5, at 7:30 pm, at the Ferguson Library in Stamford. Leonard Felder, Ph.D., author and a clinical psychologist of books on Jewish spirituality and personal growth, will be this year's guest speaker.

Felder will discuss "When Difficult Relatives Happen to Good People," exploring "how to creatively deal with family members who are complicated or who have baffled and challenged each one of us in the past," Felder notes. "My wisdom, cultivated over years of listening to my clients, for dealing with challenging family members will be presented in a humorous and highly-practical way."

A reception for JFS patrons with Felder will precede the community lecture. Contact Claudia Brenner at 203-921-4161 to find out how to become a patron.

For additional information, contact Iris Morrison at 203-921-4161.

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



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REUNION

PHI EPSILON PI fraternity is holding its 50th reunion in Pittsburgh on Oct. 23 & 24, 2015.

All graduates between 1959 and 1964 are welcome. For further information, contact Ed Friedlander at 203 322-8808.



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Turkish Stuffed Peppers for Sukkot

BY RONNIE FEIN

Sukkot is one of those happy holidays with plenty to celebrate for everyone in the family. There's the sukkah, of course, symbolizing the 40 years of wandering through the desert after the Exodus from Egypt. Sukkahs are fun to build, to eat in and – if the weather is good – to sleep in. Or even just to visit at your synagogue.

There are also the lulov and etrog, which we shake this way and that, in six different directions and to our hearts. (The etrogs have a lovely fragrance, too, and you can cook them into marmalade.)

The food for Sukkot is special, too, almost like American Thanksgiving. For both holidays, we eat the bountiful produce of a recent harvest and we are grateful for that bounty. While there is no one specific dish or recipe for Sukkot, stuffed foods are traditional as a symbolic way to give thanks for all our edible earthly blessings. We are, literally, stuffed.

Stuffed cabbage is one of the all-time favorite Sukkot foods in Ashkenazi households, but to celebrate Sukkot this year, why not try Turkish Stuffed Peppers? My grandmother made a dish similar to this, only she

used rice as the base. I switched to freekeh instead because I love this particular grain (rice would be just fine, though). It worked beautifully.

This dish looks good, tastes good and it's perfect for when you need a make-ahead dish to pop in the oven for dinner. And it is perfect for Sukkot. It's easy to tote to your sukkah, too. Eat it hot or at room temperature.

TURKISH STUFFED PEPPERS

- 8 bell peppers
- 1 cup cracked freekeh (or use rice)
- 2 Tbsp. currants (or raisins)
- 5 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. pine nuts, optional
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 2 tsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. ground allspice
- 1 ¾ cups vegetable stock
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh mint
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice

Place the peppers in a deep bowl and pour boiling water over them. Weight them down to keep them under the water. Let rest for 5 minutes. Drain and repeat the process with cold water.

Cut a lid from the top of the peppers, but reserve the lids. Scoop out and discard the seeds and membranes. Set the peppers aside.

Place the freekeh and currants in a bowl and pour boiling water over them. Let rest for 30 minutes. Drain.

Heat the olive oil in a sauté pan over medium heat. Add the onions and pine nuts, if used, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 4-5 minutes or until the onion has softened and is slightly golden. Add

the freekeh and currants, and some salt and pepper to taste. Cook for another 1-2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the tomato, sugar and allspice and cook for another minute, stirring occasionally. Add the stock, bring to a boil, cover the pan and lower the heat. Cook for about 40 minutes or until the freekeh is soft and all the liquid has been absorbed.

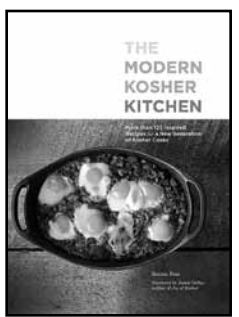
Remove the pan from the heat. Stir in the parsley, dill, mint and lemon juice. Let cool.

Use to fill the peppers. Place lids on top. (You may prepare to this point and cook later).

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Place the peppers in a baking dish. Add 2 cups of water to the dish. Bake the peppers for 40 minutes. Let cool slightly before serving (serve warm or at room temperature).

Makes 8 servings.

Ronnie Fein is a cookbook author, food writer and cooking teacher in Stamford. She is the author of *Hip K kosher* and *The Modern Kosher Kitchen*. Visit her food blog, *Kitchen Vignettes*, at www.ronniefein.com and friend on Facebook at *Ronnie Vail Fein*, Twitter at *@RonnieVFein*.



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

► Family Sukkot Celebration at JCC

On Thursday, October 1, the Jewish Community Center will host its annual Family Sukkot Celebration, from 5:30-7 pm, in the JCC's sukkah. Families can bring their own dinners or purchase food at Mike's Center Café. The JCC will provide dessert. The event is free and open to the community.

The JCC is located at 1035 Newfield Ave., at the intersection of Vine Road in Stamford.

For more information, contact Emily Eisen, the JCC's director of youth services, at 203-487-0973 or eeisen@stamfordjcc.org.

Torch Continued from page 3

reputation from the Games we hosted in 2006 have preceded us. And our proximity to New York City's creative talent is a big draw for teens who plan to participate in ArtsFest."

The JCC Maccabi Games are an Olympic-style sporting and cultural event for Jewish teens from all over the world. JCC Maccabi ArtsFest is a week-long arts experience for Jewish teens, featuring workshops in a variety of specialties with some of the leading artists in each field.

Athletes and artists participate in competition and workshops, as well as community service projects, social activities and themes of Jewish heritage, community and Israel. The Games and ArtsFest are hosted each summer by Jewish Community Centers in the U.S and Canada. St. Louis, MO, and Columbus, OH, will also host JCC Maccabi Games in 2016. ArtsFest will be offered exclusively in Stamford.

Jewish teens between the ages of 13-17 are eligible to participate in the Games and ArtsFest. Because Stamford will be the host city in 2016, 12-year-olds who live locally will be eligible to compete in the Games in individual sports.

"Hosting in Stamford will introduce the Games and ArtsFest to the next group of kids in our area, and they'll learn how magical it is to participate," said Gold. "We know from our own children's Maccabi experiences that JCC Maccabi carries a lifetime of memories. Hosting will also incubate the next generation of leadership in the Stamford community, to the benefit of all of our local agencies. You don't have to look any further than the JCC's Board of Directors to see how 2006 has brought great leadership to this community."

"Co-chairing the Games and ArtsFest is a labor of love," Krifitcher said. "Being part of the Games in 2006 was one of the single best experiences I've ever had, and I can't wait to see the community come together in that way again."



Fairfield University

The Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies

SPECIAL LECTURES AND PROGRAMS: FALL 2015

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE "American Jewry's Historical and Contemporary Scoreboard" Dr. Jeffrey S. Gurock Thursday, Oct. 1 at 7:30pm Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center Presentation Room</p> | <p>DANIEL PEARL WORLD MUSIC DAYS CONCERT Galeet Dardashti and Divahn Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7:30pm Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts</p> | <p>"Making America Harmonious: The Jewish Contribution to Popular Music" Dr. Stephen J. Whitfield Monday, Nov. 2 at 7:30pm Dolan School of Business Dining Room</p> | <p>JACOBY-LUNIN HUMANITARIAN LECTURE "Donors Choose: Expanding the Possibilities of Education" Charles Best Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 8pm Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts</p> | <p>ADOLPH AND RUTH SCHNURMACHER LECTURE IN JUDAIC STUDIES "Germans Who Stood Up to Hitler: The Resistance Movements of Nazi Germany" Anne Nelson Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7:30pm Dolan School of Business Dining Room</p> |
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All events are complimentary with the exception of the Jacoby-Lunin Humanitarian Lecture. Email bennettcenter@fairfield.edu or call (203) 254-4000, ext. 2066 to reserve a seat for free events. More info at fairfield.edu/bennett

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The Stamford JCC Maccabi delegation at the opening ceremonies for the 2015 Games in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Turning Memories into Memoirs

BY ELISSA KAPLAN
 “Everyone’s life is a story worth telling!” is the opening line on The Cheerful Word website. Sam Uhl, The Cheerful Word founder and a personal historian, and Joseph Kaplan, vice president, turn



Joseph Kaplan



Sam Uhl

importance of actively listening to people’s life stories.”

According to Uhl, as a personal historian she “thoroughly enjoys lighting the creative fire that lies within each of us to remember the best of ourselves to share with others.”

Uhl and Kaplan will present an interactive memoir writing workshop on Sunday, October 11, from 9:30 am-1 pm, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County’s October Featured Program and Heritage@Home Activity. The workshop will be held at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford. The entrance fee for the program is \$18, which covers the cost of materials and brunch. Like all JHS programs, it is open to the public.

Uhl began her professional career building a public relations and technical writing firm with her husband in Buffalo, NY. However, she said her passion for personal histories began as a child, when she tagged along with her mother who worked as a nurse in a nursing home. There, she listened to the stories the residents would tell her. She notes she is still listening to stories in coffee shops, corner pubs and now at the Stamford JCC. Uhl will lead an hour long interactive workshop with activities and helpful hints. In addition, she will be giving away door prizes, such as an art piece, a \$75 handmade pen, a gift certificate toward one of The Cheerful Word services, a journal and a copy of Kaplan’s book. She will also be available after the program for more discussion and to answer questions. For further information about the workshop, contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148 or elissa@de-kaplan.com. For additional information, visit the JHS website, <http://jhsfc-ct.org>. *The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.*

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The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

UConn’s New Israel Fellow

UConn Hillel announces the arrival of its Israel fellow for the 2015-2016 scholastic year, Noa Rifkin.



Noa Rifkin

With a goal to “inspire every Jewish college student to develop a meaningful and enduring relationship to Israeli culture and society,” Hillel International teamed up with the Jewish Agency for Israel in 2003, placing Israel fellows on more than 100 college campuses in North America. The fellows are young professionals who have already served in the Israel Defense Forces. Military service is mandatory for all Israeli citizens over the age of 18, with men serving three years and women serving two years. After an application process, fellows are placed at a university that the Jewish Agency sees as a best fit based on their personality and goals for their time on campus. The University of Connecticut welcomes Rifkin into the Hillel family this coming year.

Coming from a UConn family, Rifkin’s father graduated from UConn and made *aliyah*, starting his family in Israel after serving in the IDF. Rifkin grew up in Jerusalem sporting her Husky apparel.

While serving in the IDF, Rifkin was an educational NCO, where she was responsible for the education of soldiers and commanders in the IDF. By teaching soldiers about Israel and its values, as well as the nature of their

duties as soldiers and citizens of the state, the IDF hopes to increase motivation and morale among its soldiers.

After her time in the IDF, Rifkin graduated from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev with a B.A. in sociology-anthropology and archeology. While in college, Rifkin worked as a tutor on PERACH, which is a tutoring project that pairs up


youth from underprivileged backgrounds with university students who act as their tutors, “giving the child personal attention (often sorely lacking) and serving as a role model.” Additionally, Rifkin was an instructor at a children’s science museum and worked as the university’s internal communication coordinator.

UConn students who went on Birthright this summer met Rifkin prior to her arrival in Storrs, as she joined the group while in the Negev to celebrate Shabbat and Shavuot.

Rifkin said she is excited to bring her point of view to the Hillel. “I’ve always been eager to share my life experiences as an Israeli,” Rifkin shares. “I always try to let people see just how much I love this place and why.”




Students had the opportunity to meet Rifkin at a Welcome Back BBQ on the Hillel lawn at Storrs.

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



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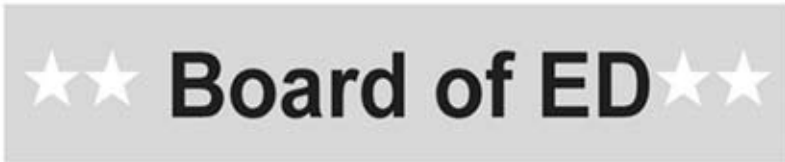
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BITS AND PIECES

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

MAZEL TOV TO

GROWING FAMILIES:

Kate and Peretz Cik on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Regina and Barry Cik** and **Barbara and Henry Frommer**.

Anna and Ilan Cohen on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Beth and David Cohen**.

Jen and Josh Donner on the birth of a son, Jackson Will Donner; grandparents are **Helen and Marty Donner**.

Jessica and Levi Dulitz on the birth of a daughter, Noa Maya Dulitz; grandparents are **Joan and Aaron Dulitz** and **Judy and Sidney Gerson**.

Benjamin and Cara Friedlander on the birth of a son, Eli George Friedlander; grandparents are **Janie and Ed Friedlander**.

Wendy Lee and Neil Gladstone on the birth of a son, Spencer Lee Gladstone; grandmother is **Carole Gladstone**.

Elissa and Jay Hyne on the birth of a daughter, Lily Beth Hyne; grandparents are **Shari and Allen Glucksman**.

Liz Metzger Newman and M. Avi Newman on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Judy Metzger** and **Rose and Bruce Newman**.

Tzivy and Seth Steinmetz on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Liba and Steven Steinmetz**.

Belana and Michael Warmflash on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Doris and Ron Warmflash** and **Irina and Michael Mylnash**; great-grandmother is **Camille Warmflash**.

MAZEL TOV TO:

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

Rhonda and Larry Ginsberg on the marriage of their son, **Jonathan (JD) Ginsberg**, to **Lindsey Beers**.

Sandy and Fred Golove on the marriage of their son, **Michael Golove**, to **Elizabeth Giancola**, daughter of **Nick Giancola**.



Meryl and Ron Japha on the marriage of their son, **Adam Japha**, to **Nicole Remling**.

Judy and Bob Raymond on the engagement of their daughter, **Sarah Raymond**, to **Jeremy Redleaf**, son of **Marjorie Redleaf** and **Geoffrey Redleaf**.

Brett Simon graduated with a master's degree from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and the Environment, and was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi; parents are **Gloria and Steve Simon**.

Erica Tobias and George Brunner on their recent marriage.

Lisa and Scott Wasserman on the marriage of their daughter, **Brittany Wasserman**, to **David Sands**; grandmother is **Anita (Kandi) Wasserman**.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Shalhevet Cohen, daughter of **Diane and Rabbi Daniel Cohen**

Ryan Ebright, son of **Deena and Michael Ebright**

Eytan Israel, son of **Shara and Rabbi David Israel**

Garrett Lapine, son of **Eve and Seth Lapine**

Maggie Meister, daughter of **Robin Selden and Michael Meister**

Max Meister, son of **Robin Selden and Michael Meister**

Joshua Milstein, son of **Sarah and Stuart Milstein**; grandparents are **Hillary and Bob Zitter**

Jordana Raich, daughter of **Risa and Steven Raich**

Sophia Rosano, daughter of **Sharon and Richard Rosano**

Skylar Rubin, daughter of **Haley and Darryl Rubin**

CONDOLENCES TO:

Sharyn Baer and Jerry Neitlich on the loss of their father, **Irv Neitlich**.

Suzannah Coll on the loss of her father, **George Ohring**.

Ellin Isban on the loss of her mother, **Sally Kurs**.

Ron Japha on the loss of his stepmother, **Ingrid Japha**.

Glenn Karow on the loss of his brother, **Rickey Karow**.

Philip Klapper, Joshua Klapper and Debbie Seltzer on the loss of their mother, **Rachel (Ruth) Klapper**.

Eric Koehler on the loss of his father, **Dr. Stanley Berns Koehler**.

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

Aby Slen, Lenny Slen, Norman Slen and Doris Warmflash on the loss of their mother, **Esther (Erna) Slen**.

Howard Wolfe on the loss of his mother, **Sylvia Wolfe**.

JEEP* TRACKS: MUSINGS ON EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Turn, Turn, Turn

BY CANTOR MARCIA LANE

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. — Megillat Kohellet/Ecclesiastes (read on the festival of Sukkot)



Every Jewish festival has four Hebrew names. The most obvious name for Sukkot is *Chag haSukkot*—the festival of booths. Another biblical reference is to *Chag haAsif*—the festival of gathering crops, clearly in reference to its time in the agricultural cycle. And in that same section of Torah (Deuteronomy 16), there are several references to rejoicing on the festivals and, in particular, on Sukkot.

You shall make a festival of Sukkot for seven days when you have finished your ingathering. You shall rejoice in your festival, you, your son and daughter, your man servant and your maid servant, the Levite, the stranger, the orphan and the widow in your communities... and you shall have nothing but joy! (Deut. 16:13-15)

In Temple times, this biblical commandment to rejoice was fulfilled with

a wild water party! For seven days, perhaps in a form of sympathetic magic, water was splashed and poured from all the walls of the Temple to shower revelers below. Maybe because water is such a precious and limited commodity in the desert countries of the Near East, the profligate waste of water indicated a belief and a hope that God would bless the land with rain in the rainy season—remember, we say the prayer for rain at the end of Sukkot, on Shemini Atzeret. Whatever the original intention, the result must have been a little like a modern water park! What could be happier than splashing around, especially after the introspection and atonement of the previous holidays.?

Another name for Sukkot is *HaChag*—simply, The Holiday. Sukkot is the pluperfect festival of all. Perhaps one reason for this designation is within the biblical quote: "...you, your son and daughter, your man servant and your maid servant, the Levite, the stranger, the orphan and the widow in your communities..." Unless we include everyone, then our joy cannot be complete and our festival cannot be

See "JEEP" on page 8

FROM A THERAPIST'S PERSPECTIVE

JFS Assists with Life's Transitions and Challenges

BY REBEKAH KANEFSKY

Don't know where to turn for help? Having a difficult time with life's stumbling blocks? Think you are the only one going through a "hard time"?

Jewish Family Service's Jewish Family Life Education (or JFLE) programs can help provide some of the answers. JFLE offers a broad range of workshops and support groups, open to the entire community and led by professional therapists and experts in their field. The programs assist individuals and families through the most difficult of life transitions, such as divorce, death of a loved one, loss of employment or career, maintaining a quality of life while aging and coping with family tensions as a result of cultural misunderstandings. JFLE offers comfortable and caring programming that is guided by Jewish values which are applicable to even the unaffiliated. JFLE programming supports the members of other local organizations, which may not have the resources to provide this type of programming.

JFS is open to suggestions for pro-

gramming that will fulfill a community need and/or provide assistance with any difficulty or life's stumbling blocks. If you have an idea, need or require help, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

The following are the current JFLE ongoing groups. Sessions take place at the JFS office at 733 Summer Street, 6th Floor in Stamford or at 431 Post Rd. East, Suite 11 in Westport.

◆ **Life Transitions** is an ongoing support group to discuss and explore concerns and issues related to job loss and to find alternative solutions for career satisfaction. The discussion covers both emotional aspects of job loss and practical suggestions to jumpstart a job and career search. The group is a collaborative effort between the agency's JFLE and Employment and Training Departments and meets at 1 pm on Wednesdays at the JFS Stamford office.

◆ **JFS New Beginnings** is a supportive forum for adults in various stages of divorce, easing the transition from marriage to single life. All are welcome

See "JFS" on page 8

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



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Click on the Guide button on your remote control or go to www.jbstv.org and select "Channel Schedule" for the JBS TV Channel programs and times.

Chapter Two Goes to Camp

On August 6, members of the Women's Philanthropy Chapter Two group took a "mini mission" to Camp Laurelwood, a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation. While there, the group toured the campus, met with campers over lunch and baked hamentashen. The group learned about the role of Jewish camping in the life of many young Jewish

people, and the relationship between UJF and the camp. From there, the group visited the Yale Art Gallery where members had a private docent-led tour of some of the museum's highlights.

For more information about how to attend a Chapter Two event, contact Rebekah Raz at Rebekah@ujf.org.



L-r: Sandy Burn and Ellen Weber



L-r: Sue Frieden, Suzanne Horn and Beverly Stein



At right: First row (l-r): Rebekah Raz (UJF vice president), Susan Kreiger, Beverly Stein, Ellen Weber (UJF president) and Sari Jaffe (Chapter Two co-chair). Back row: Karen Davis, Pearl Rosenbaum, Sandy Burn, Suzanne Horn, Sue Frieden (Chapter Two co-chair) and Ann Rosenbaum.

Hadassah's Heart Healthy Morning

Every Beat Counts: Hadassah's Heart Health Program was created to help get people moving and living healthier lives. According to Hadassah.org, "500,000 women in the U.S. die of heart disease every year – double the number of deaths from all types of cancer. Help us get the word out to women like you about heart disease." Hadassah created Every Step Counts: Hadassah's Walking Program to motivate people to walk more and get (or stay) in shape. Participants went on a virtual walk to Israel and raised money to support Hadassah's efforts to enhance the health of people worldwide through its support of medical care and research at the Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem.

As a culmination of the nationwide event, the Stamford Chapter of Hadassah will host a Healthy Morning on Wednesday, November 4, from 10 am-noon, at Family Tree Yoga on Hope Street in Stamford. The event will consist of a walking focused exercise class, yoga and healthy food. No experience is necessary and all levels of fitness – from beginner to experienced – are invited to attend the event. Those attending will also learn why Hadassah is important to Israel and for women's health issues, and how exercising together can build camaraderie with other women. Invitation to follow. For further information, contact Melissa Bildner at Melissa@livebettertraining.com or 203-554-6446.

Hillel. Continued from page 3 he believes strongly in the importance of creating an environment that is welcoming for everyone who wants to connect with and explore ancient traditions and new ideas.

He said he is especially excited to work with students and Hillel staff and supporters, as well as the broader Jewish and university community, to continue to build on the solid foundation that has been created by the professional and lay leadership.

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

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Temple Sinai Buries Old Prayer Books

Temple Sinai laid to rest its old prayer books, haggadahs and Bibles in a ceremony led by Rabbi Jay TelRav on August 30. Having ordered new prayer books for the (then) upcoming holidays and, after

shipping its old books to congregations around the country, congregants shoveled dirt into the hole to the music of their cantor, Micah Morgovsky. With help from the Boy Scouts of Troop 15, young and old bid

farewell to *shemot* (items containing God's name). Not everything ended up in the *geniza* (repository for damaged or unusable sacred text), however: Some items found new homes with attendees who could not quite manage to let them go.



Temple Sinai Vice President Stu Madison transferred an old machzor to Kevin Dorfsman while Scouts and temple members gathered materials. (Photos by Beth Peters and Rabbi Jay TelRav)



More than 2,000 volumes of sacred literature were interred that afternoon.



Sadie Palker handed a Bible down into the geniza while her little brother, Aaron, watched.

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

See what you're missing!

To place your ad, contact Bonnie Rozen at 1-800-779-7896, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereporter.org.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

NEW AROUND TOWN Jonathan Lerner – Development Associate, UJF

Jonathan Lerner has joined United Jewish Federation as its new development associate. After practicing law for several years at a boutique trusts and estates firm in Stamford, Lerner decided to follow his heart and return to school for his advanced degree in social work. With his M.S.W. program now complete, Lerner said he is excited to work on behalf of the Jewish community. In addition to his formal education, Lerner brings writing, verbal communication and analytical skills to the UJF team.



Jonathan Lerner

Lerner received his B.A. from Brandeis University, his J.D. from St. John's University and his M.S.W. from Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. He currently lives in Fairfield with his wife, Maytal, and their two young daughters.

PJ LIBRARY RETURNS TO THE JHS JUDAICA LIBRARY!!

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

For Grades K through 2nd
Second Tuesdays
 October 13, November 10

For Grades 3rd through 5th
Third Thursdays
 October 22, November 19

4:00 to 4:45 pm
Free

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

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

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

United Jewish Federation
 OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

BETTER TOGETHER

JEEP Continued from page 6
the festival. We have not fulfilled the commandment to rejoice unless we include everyone.

Of course, that is the mission of UJF. It's not enough for the wealthy of our community to rejoice. It's not good enough for only those with families to come to the party. Or for those who are affiliated with a synagogue or whose children attend a Jewish day school. We are commanded to include everyone. If we don't do that, then our repentance and our fasting were pointless. Because when we celebrate, the commandment says, "Better together."

Chag Sukkot sameach! May you rejoice in your festival!

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

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

JFS Continued from page 6
 to attend on Tuesdays from 7:30-8:30 pm in the JFS Stamford office. The fee is \$10 per session or \$50 for six sessions. Registration is required.

◆ **Managing Your Finances** is a three-part series of educational workshops held in conjunction with LifeBridge Community Services of Bridgeport. Topics to be covered include "Credit Workshop" on Tuesday, October 20, and "Preventing Identity Theft" on Tuesday, November 17. All sessions are free of charge and are held at the Westport office.

◆ To register for any of the above programs, contact Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or e-mail rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

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

Rebekah Kanefsky is the JFS case manager and Jewish Family Life Education coordinator.

A Day in the District

Hadassah CT Members Meet with Senator Blumenthal

The Power of Women Who Do could not have been more self-evident on August 25 when Hadassah CT members met with Senator Richard Blumenthal to discuss “Gender Equality in Healthcare Research,” “Women’s Preventative Health” and the “Iran Nuclear Agreement.” The initiative, “Day in the District,” an outgrowth of Hadassah’s advocacy efforts, was made a reality by Connecticut’s Pennie Sessler Branden, chair of the 50 State Advocacy Network, and Stamford’s own

Connie Cirillo Freeman, co-team leader, Advocacy. Branden and Freeman, along with others at the national level, developed the initiative to support local efforts.

Organizers said that Hadassah members and Senator Blumenthal had an informative dialogue on issues of concern. Hadassah members presented a call for advocacy regarding Bill H.R.2355 Latest Title: Women’s Preventive Health Awareness Campaign, Sponsor: Rep Bera, Ami [CA-7] (introduced 5/15/2015.) The bill

amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for a national public outreach and educational campaign, including a website, to raise awareness of women’s preventive health.

Create and Learn

On July 15, the summer session of Chabad Stamford’s “Lunch and Learn” met at Vivi Deren’s house for “Create and Learn.” Each person was able to paint their own creations, as well as study Torah with Leah Shemtov. “Torah and Tea” will kick off on Tuesday, October 13, and “Lunch and Learn” will begin on Wednesday, November 18. All are welcome.



Above, clockwise from left: Marcia Mellett, Rachel Beldock, Marilyn Terr, Shelley Senker and Sandy Speter.

At right, clockwise from left: Rita Yellen, Stephanie Laff, Marcia Mellett, Rachel Beldock, Leah Shemtov, Mona Kubli, Marilyn Terr, Felicia Sommers, Elaine Finkelstein, Marilyn Schwartz and Sandy Speter.



Standing in the back: Stephanie Laff and Lorraine Brown. L-r: Leah Shemtov, Deborah Solomon, Sandy Speter, Mona Kubli, Felicia Sommers; Marilyn Terr, Rachel Beldock, Shelley Senker, Doris Weiss, Rita Yellen, Marcia Mellett and Marilyn Schwartz (seated).



The Shabbos Project Keeping it Together in Stamford

BY TALY FARBER

The Shabbos Project is an international movement started a few years ago in South Africa to help Jews all over the world experience one complete Shabbat. The Shabbos Project is open to all who wish to experience Shabbat, regardless of level of observance. Chabad Stamford will host the Shabbos Project on Friday-Saturday, October 23-24.

“Chabad Stamford is here to help you add a little something extra to your Shabbos experience,” says Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad Stamford.

Chabad Stamford will host a Shabbat Dinner open to all on October 23, featuring the children of Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center. Candle lighting will be held at 5:44 pm, followed by the children’s dinner and program at 5:30 pm, and the Shabbat Dinner at 6:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$36 per adult, \$15 per child, \$100 per family and \$180 per sponsor (includes one family).

An end of Shabbat musical *Havdalah* service will be held at 7:15 pm at Chabad Stamford on October 24.

In addition, a discussion of the symbolism of challah, along with making challah, will take place on Sunday, October 18, from 12:30-3:30 pm, at Friendship Day, hosted by Friendship Circle.

For further information about the Shabbos Project events at Chabad Stamford, or to find out more about keeping Shabbat, hosting a family or being hosted, e-mail programs@chabadstamford.org.

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In more than 70 countries around the world, including Israel, your gift helps ensure the well-being of elderly Jews in need. From St. Petersburg, Russia to Siberia, from Kiev, Ukraine to Kazakhstan, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) provides relief to nearly 180,000 destitute elderly Jews living in substandard conditions and inadequate pensions in over 2,800 cities, towns, and villages across the vast cultural and geographic expanse of republics that comprise the former Soviet Union.

A network of more than 180 JDC-supported Hesed welfare centers offers vital services to ease the burden of elderly Jews living in the region's bitter cold. Every day the elderly are provided homecare, as well as thousands of blankets, boots, warm jackets, and gallons of heating fuel oil. What's more, the JDC provides food cards for the purchase of groceries in local supermarkets, covers medicines and skyrocketing winter heat costs for elderly Russian Jews, and helps meet the needs of nearly 100,000 Holocaust survivors living below the poverty line.

Right here in Fairfield County, our recipient agencies impact the elderly as well. Jewish Family Service (JFS) offers comprehensive Geriatric Care Program - CGC, a Home

Companion Program, Geriatric Counseling, Case Management and a kosher food pantry. Additionally, JFS offers a Brain Fitness Program, Bereavement Support and a program called Ready To Work giving Seniors employment opportunities.

Jewish Senior Services (formerly known as the Jewish Home) provides senior care throughout southern Connecticut offering long term care and protection, rehabilitation services, home care, hospice, and day services. In addition, the Institute on Aging and Center for Elder Abuse Prevention are important sources of elder-care advocacy for the greater community.

The JCC Stamford (where UJF offices reside) provides stimulating social, physical and cultural programs. Hot nutritionally-balanced, kosher lunches are provided for older adults, as well as Jewish holiday meals. Additional senior adult services include Life Enhancement classes such as Aging Gracefully and Let's Talk, a program facilitated by Jewish Family Service.

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The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee supported Hesed houses bring joy and connection to elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union.

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BETTER TOGETHER

Carmel Academy Receives Grant for Intergenerational Program

Carmel Academy announced that it has received a grant from The Legacy Heritage Foundation that will help promote intergenerational relationships between the school's students and local senior citizens.

The grant will be used to establish a monthly book club, where Carmel Academy's seventh grade students, together with seniors, will read, learn, question, discuss and connect through a shared Jewish lens.

Carmel is partnering with Jewish Family Services in Greenwich for this unique initiative.

"This program offers the participants a chance to get to know a different generation, to look at books, concepts and historical events through both the eyes of the Jewish youth of today and the generations that came before them," said Erica Sokoloff, Carmel Academy's director of Jewish Life and the program's supervisor.

The book club, which will begin this October, will span a variety of genres ranging from short stories to novels. The club will be guided by the school's

Middle School English Language Arts Department and Dr. Cindy Mann, Carmel's director of general studies curriculum.

"This new program will build on our established joint program with Greenwich JFS called 'Together We Can Make a Difference,' which has been warmly received by the residents of the local senior living facilities and our students. Our students' visits to The Mews and Greenwich Woods have become an integral part in their development over the years," Sokoloff said.

The new intergenerational book club will take place on the following Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 am at 1 Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, on October 21, November 18, December 16, January 20, February 24, March 16, April 13, May 18 and June 15.

Attendance is free, but spaces are limited. Anyone who is interested in being part of the intergenerational book club should contact Lisa Goldberg at 203-622-1881, ext. 12.

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

► "The Spiritual Child" – JCC Parenting Lecture

The JCC Sara Walker Nursery School's lecture series for parents and educators, #raisingtodayskids, focuses on issues encountered while raising children in today's world. The first lecture in the 2015-16 series will be held on Thursday, October 8, at 7:30 pm, at the JCC on Newfield Avenue.

"The Spiritual Child" will be the subject of a presentation by author Lisa Miller, Ph.D. Miller will explain the scientific link between spirituality and health, illustrating how spirituality can be invaluable to a child's mental and physical health. Translating her findings into practical advice, Miller will share ways for parents to develop and encourage their children's well-being, as well as their own.

Miller is the director of clinical psychology and founder of the Spirituality Mind Body Institute at Columbia University, Teachers College and the author of the book "The Spiritual Child."

Tickets to the lecture are \$12 each, or \$10 for JCC members, and may be purchased at stamfordjcc.org or by calling 203-322-7900. For more information, contact Sandi Waldstreicher at 203-322-6541 or swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org.

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 Congregation Agudath Sholom – (203) 358-2200
 Temple Beth El – (203) 322-6901
 Temple Sinai – (203) 322-1649
 Young Israel of Stamford – eli.kohl@gmail.com

OPEN HOUSES

Bi-Cultural Day School Open House
 Sunday, Oct. 25 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. For more information, contact Joanne Karow at jkarow@bcds.org or (203) 329-2186.
Carmel Academy Open House
 Sunday, Nov. 1 from 10 am-12:00 pm. To RSVP, contact Daneet Brill, Director of Admissions, at daneet.brill@carmelacademy.com or (203) 983-3503
Jewish High School of CT Open House
 Sunday, Nov. 1 from 1:30-4 pm at the Stamford Technology Center, 1937 West Main Street, Stamford. For further information, call (203) 357-0850.

Friendship Day

Sunday, Oct. 18 from 12:30-3:30 pm @ Friendship Circle Center. FREE and open to the public. To register or for more information, visit www.friendshipdayct.com or call (203) 329-0015.

Friday Night Live at Chabad

Friday, Oct. 9 & 29. Ten Friday nights that will provide a special multi-faceted Shabbat experience. A spirited Kabbalat Shabbat, special children's program followed by smashing Kiddush. Sushi and scotch PLUS a special guest for kids. For further information, contact (203) 3CHABAD.

JCC Family Sukkot Celebration

Thursday, Oct. 1 from 5:30-7 pm. Free. Contact Emily Eisen at (203)487-0973 or eeisen@stamfordjcc.org.

Loaves of Love Cooking Marathon at the Friendship Walk

Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015, 12:30-3:30pm. Bake Challah and make chicken soup for the 'Shabbat 2Go' packages. No Charge. For information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

Music and Movement with Rachel Bahar and Jonathan Cahr

Thursday, Oct. 13, 27 & Nov. 10 @ 1:30 – 2:15 pm at Bi-Cultural Day School. Free of charge. For further information, contact Joanne Karow at 203-329-2186 ext. 1310 or jkarow@bcds.org.

PJ Library at the JHS Judaica Library

Second Tuesdays, Oct. 13 & Nov. 10 (Grades K through 2nd) and Third Thursday, Oct. 22 & Nov. 19 (Grades 3rd through 5th) @ 4-4:45 pm. Free of charge. Contact Marcia Lane at (203) 653-2668.

The Shabbos Project

Friday, Oct. 23-Saturday, Oct. 24. Begins at 5:30 pm with dinner @ 6:30 pm. Community Shabbat Dinner. For more info www.TheShabbosProject.org or contact Leah Shemtov at Morahleah@ChabadStamford.org.

GRADES 9-12

BBYO For Grades 8-12. Every 2nd Monday • 7-9pm at The J. Information: BBYO Regional Office (203) 389-2127 or CVR@bbyo.org - www.cvrbbyo.net Leviticus AZA (Boys) & Tikvah BBG (Girls)

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

For volunteers in Grades 9-12 at Chabad. Information: Malya Shmotkin at (203)329-0015 #414, Malya@friendshipct.com or www.friendshipct.com

Jewish Student Connection

For Grades 9 – 12. Tuesdays • 2:15 pm at Stamford High School or Thursdays • 2:15 pm at Westhill High School. Information: rebecca@myjsc.org

BIRTH through PRESCHOOL

Got Shabbat! Tiny Treasures Mommy & Me

Birth - 30 months with a parent or caregiver. Begins Friday, Oct. 16 from 9:30-10:30 am at Chabad. \$15 per class. (First Timers FREE). For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

JCC Mommy & Me Class: Movin' and Groovin'

12-30 months with parent or caregiver. Tuesdays through Dec. 22 (No class 10/6 & 11/3). Contact Galit Roloff at (203)487-0974 or groloff@stamfordjcc.org.

Kids Health Day & Gan Open House

Sunday, Nov. 15 from 9:30-11:30am. For further information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org.

Music and Movement at Bi-Cultural Day School

For Preschool age children. Tuesdays, Oct. 13 & 27; Nov. 10 from 1:30 – 2:15 pm. For more information, contact Joanne Karow at jkarow@bcds.org or (203) 329-2186.

Music, Movement & Yoga, Mommy & Me Inclusion Program at the JCC

2- 4 years with parent present. Sunday through Dec. 13 (No class 10/11) from 9:30-10:10 am. To register, contact Inclusion Coordinator Dinushka De Silva at (203)487-0946 or ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org.

Pizza & Pajamas

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

Sing & Dance with Amy Rogell at the JCC

1-8 years old with parent or caregiver. Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 5:30-6:30 pm. \$12 if registered by Oct. 7 / JCC member \$9; \$14 beginning Oct. 8 / JCC member \$11. Contact Galit Roloff at 203-487-0974 or groloff@stamfordjcc.org.

Tiny Treasures - Nurturing the seeds

Begins Wednesday Oct. 14 from 9:30-10:30 am. For further information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

Wonderful Ones: Mommy & Me Class at the

JCC Sara Walker Nursery School

1-2 years. Thursdays through December 17 from 9:15-10:15 am. Fee: \$216 for 12 sessions / JCC members \$180. Contact Sandi Waldstreicher at (203)322-6542 or swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org.

GRADES K-8

BBYO

See description under Grades 9-12.

Kids Health Day & Gan Open House

Sunday, Nov. 15 from 9:30-11:30 am. For further information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org.

Mother-Son Game Show Night

For 5-10 years old. Saturday, Nov. 7 from 6:00-7:30 pm at the JCC. \$45 per "couple" \$5 per additional child / JCC members: \$36 per "couple" \$5 per additional child. For further information, contact Emily Eisen at (203) 487-0973 or eisen@stamfordjcc.org.

PJ Library at the JHS Judaica Library at the JCC

Grades K-2. Second Tuesday of the month, Oct. 13 & Nov. 19 @ 4:00-4:45 pm
 Grades 3-5. Third Thursdays of the month, Oct. 22 & Nov. 19 • 4:00-4:45 pm
 Parents and caregivers welcome. Information: Marcia Lane at (20) 321-1373, x104. Program in partnership with UJF and Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County. There is NO FEE.

Pizza & Pajamas

See description under Birth through Pre-School.

Sing & Dance with Amy Rogell at the JCC

See description under Birth through Preschool.

SHABBAT

For information about Shabbat services, call the individual synagogues

Theater..... Continued from page 1

JCC Associate Executive Director Nancy Schiffman. “Recognized as an essential part of the Jewish cultural scene in Fairfield County, the Jewish Arts and Film Festival is a highly anticipated celebration of Jewish and Israeli life, culture, community and history, brought to audiences during the Festival week and throughout the year.”

Following the festival, additional films and cultural events will be offered several times during the year.

For ticket prices and full information on films and events, visit www.jewishartsandfilm.org. For additional information, contact Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

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

Jewish Arts and Film Festival of Fairfield County Festival Calendar At-A-Glance

- ◆ Saturday, October 24
Opening Night
8 pm
Film: “Above and Beyond: The Birth of the Israeli Air Force”
With appearance by producer Nancy Spielberg, preceded by opening night reception, open to all.
State Cinema, Stamford
- ◆ Sunday, October 26
1 pm
Special program: “Short Films: Big Ideas”
Westport Town Hall, Westport
7 pm
Film: “Watchers of the Sky”
Garden Cinema, Norwalk
- ◆ Monday, October 26
7 pm
“Broken Spring,” book presentation by author Mark Lavie
An American-Israeli reporter’s close-up view of how Egyptians lost their struggle for freedom.
Free of charge
Stamford JCC



“Apples from the Desert,” adapted from Savyon Liebrecht’s short story and the award-winning Israeli play of the same name, will be one of the featured films at this year’s Jewish Arts and Film Festival of Fairfield County, which runs from October 24-November 1.

- ◆ Tuesday, October 27
70 pm
Film: “Apples from the Desert”
State Cinema, Stamford
- ◆ Wednesday, October 28
7 pm
Film: “Besa: The Promise”
State Cinema, Stamford
- ◆ Thursday, October 29
10 am
Film: “Above and Beyond”
Senior matinee, ages 62 and up, no charge
State Cinema, Stamford
7:00 pm
Film: “The Last Mentsch”
State Cinema, Stamford
- ◆ Saturday, October 31
8 pm
Film: “Dough”
Stamford JCC
- ◆ Sunday, November 1
Closing Night
7 pm
Film: “Once in a Lifetime”
Garden Cinema, Norwalk
- ◆ Saturday, October 24, through end of November
Photo exhibit: “Israeli Impressions”
Stamford JCC

Bi-Cultural Welcomes New Israeli Emissaries

BY DORA SALM

Bi-Cultural Day School recently welcomed Chaim and Lior Helman as the newest *shlichim*, Israeli emissaries dedicated to promoting Jewish life and helping the community make deep and personal connections to Israel.



Lior and Chaim Helman (Photo by Joanne Karow)

Chaim, originally from the northern coastal city of Nahariya, and Lior, from Ma’alot near the Lebanese border, both have extensive experience in education and service. Lior performed two years of Israel National Service teaching in a *midrasha* (learning institute for women). She earned her bachelor’s degree in education and teaching certification from Shaanan College and then taught English language for five years at an elementary school.

Chaim served as a sergeant in the Golani Brigade as part of the Yeshivat Hesder (Israeli yeshiva program that combines Talmudic studies with military service in the Israel Defense Forces). He earned his bachelors of education from Shaanan College and his teaching certification from Lifshitz College. He has taught computer science, math and Judaic studies.

While teaching and working in Israel, the Helmans, who have three children, decided that they wanted a new challenge and applied for the *shlichim* program through the World Zionist Organization. Originally placed in a Jewish day school in Springfield, MA, where they taught for two years, Chaim and Lior then decided to seek a

See “Bi-Cultural” on page 15

SCHECHTER WESTCHESTER FIFTY YEARS YOUNG



Longevity is the reward for embracing tradition and innovation.

For half a century, Solomon Schechter School of Westchester has combined a values-based Jewish day school education with the most rigorous and creative academics. Our students are prepared for twenty-first century success – in the classroom, in the lab, on the playing field, and in the larger world.

OPEN HOUSE
Lower School
 NOVEMBER 8, 2015
Middle School
 DECEMBER 6, 2015
High School
 NOVEMBER 1, 2015

LOWER SCHOOL (K-5) 914.948.3111 30 Dellwood Rd., White Plains, NY
 UPPER SCHOOL (6-12) 914.948.8333 555 W. Hartsdale Ave., Hartsdale, NY
www.schechterwestchester.org
 AN INDEPENDENT K-12 COED JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

JHSC Helps Students Explore Their Passions

The Weitzmann Institute, Yale Discovery for a Cure, Brandeis Summer Institute, Young People's Chorus of New York City, AIPAC and Tanglewood Summer Institute are just some examples of summer internships the Jewish High School of Connecticut students participated in this summer. "We encourage our students to attain the full measure of their potential – and the way we do that is to encourage every student to discover and deeply explore their interests," said Rabbi Elisha Paul, head of school.

"The summer is an ideal time to take these explorations to the next level and many of our students did fascinating internships this summer," said Guidance Counselor Elizabeth Lustbader. "As part of our guidance program, we help our students find summer programs or opportunities that enable the

student to attain hands-on experience. This is part of encouraging students to delve deeper into their areas of passion, talent and interest."

An example of how JHSC encourages students to explore their interests in the classroom was during Dr. Seth Reimer's Jewish studies class. Students were studying a text in the Talmud. After a discussion on the tenets of various religions, the students asked for a course that would enable them to more fully understand Jewish perspective of other religions. The following semester, JHSC offered a "Comparative Religion" class. The student-driven elective program has been the source of many elective options, such as "Power and Society," "Scriptwriting," "Advanced Talmud," "Midrash" and "Military and Jewish Law."

See "JHSC" on page 18

The Race to College JFS College Consultant Presents Three-Part Series

BY LYNN SALTZ

Jewish Family Service of Stamford, serving Greater Stamford, Greater Westport and Eastern Fairfield County, in conjunction with the Harry Bennett Branch of the Ferguson Library of Stamford, will present the three part series "The Race to College."

Designed for students currently in eighth, ninth, 10th and 11th grades and their parents, the program seeks to provide the tools and most up-to-date information to successfully complete the college admissions process. The sessions will take place on Mondays, December 7, January 25 and February 29, at 6 pm, at the Harry Bennett Branch of the Ferguson Library, 115 Vine Rd.,

See "College" on page 19

October/November 2015

SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

SPECIAL EVENTS

JFS Financial Education Workshops

Series of three, Tuesdays, Sept. 22 (Money Management/Budgeting), Oct. 20 (Credit Workshop) and Nov. 17 (Preventing Identity Theft) at 11:00 am. No Fee. In conjunction with LifeBridge of Bridgeport at the Westport office, 432 Post Road East, Suite 11. To register, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or email rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

JFS College Ahead!

Thursday, October 22 at 7:30 pm at Congregation Beth El, 1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield. No. Fee. Co-sponsored by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County. Moderated by Claire D. Friedlander, JFS College Consultant. For more information, contact, Claire D. Friedlander at clairef@ctjfs.org or call 203-921-4161.

JCC Support Group for Blind and Visually Impaired Adults

Thursdays, Sept. 17, Oct. 22, 1-2 pm at the Stamford JCC. No Fee. For more info: Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

COUNSELING, MEDIATION & CRISIS

JFS For Children/ Adolescents Diagnosed With ADD/ADHD

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

JFS College Counseling

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

JFS Counseling

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

JFS Individuals / Families in Crisis

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

CARING FOR SENIORS

JFS Caregiver Support Group

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

JFS Home Companion

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

JFS Residential Cleaning

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

Jewish Senior Services

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

DIVORCE & BEREAVEMENT

JFS Bereavement Support Group

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

Parent Education Program (PEP)

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

JFS Focus on K.I.D.S.

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

JFS New Beginnings

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

SUPPORT

JFS Brain Fitness Program

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

JFS Kosher Food Pantry

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

Living with Autism

Time and Location TBA. Interested in joining a support group sharing the joys and challenges of living with Autism Spectrum Disorders? JFS will be launching a new group facilitated by a professional in this field. For more details, contact Eve Moskowitz, JFS Director of Clinical Services at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

JFS Computer Training Courses

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

JFS Life Transitions

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

JFS Seniors2Work

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

Bi-Cultural...Continued from page 13

school located in a larger Jewish community. "The past two years were amazing and we all learned so much. We brought our Israeli culture to the school, but realized that in order to grow ourselves, we needed to be part of a community with a more active Jewish life," said Chaim. Lior added, "We found out about the opening at BCDS and decided that it was a great fit for us."

At Bi-Cultural, Chaim is teaching middle school Judaic studies and Lior is teaching fourth-grade Judaic studies. They both hope to help students connect with Israel in a personal and spiritual way, and focus on teaching Hebrew language skills, holidays and Jewish core values. "We want to teach Jewish history and explain about real life in Israel today. Israel has a strong tradition and we also have a future," said Chaim.

Joining the Helmans are two, newly-appointed *b'notsherut* (young women in the service) fulfilling their Israel National Service at the school this year.



Noam Bloch and Lior Shimon
(Photo by Dora Salm)

Noam Bloch, 18, grew up in Kfar Tapuach in Northern Israel. She served her first year of Israel National Service at Garin Katzin and the Centre for Jewish Identity where she taught Judaism and Israeli culture.

Lior Shimon, 19, grew up in Petach Tikvah close to Tel Aviv. She served her first year of Israel National Service at Kfar Hasidim Religious Youth Village with at-risk children, serving as a mentor and planning social and cultural programs. Shimon also guided teens in a B'nai Akiva youth chapter.

"We are fortunate to have such a talented group of faculty members joining us directly from Israel," said Rabbi David Israel, Bi-Cultural's rabbinic dean. "They have many exciting programs planned this year and what they bring to the school is beyond measure."

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

SAVE THE DATES!



United Jewish Federation
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

BETTER TOGETHER



MAIMONIDES SOCIETY

Maimonides Society Event:

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Maimonides Society Chairs:

Dr. Shara Israel and Dr. Marc Silver



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



United Jewish Federation
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

BETTER TOGETHER



ROTHSCHILD SOCIETY

Rothschild Society Event

Wednesday, December 2nd



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

For more information for both events contact Sharon Franklin
Email Sharon@ujf.org or call (203)321-1373 ext. 109

October/November 2015

Senior Adult Happenings

KOSHER LUNCH AT THE JCC

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

TRANSPORTATION TO JCC SENIOR PROGRAMS

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

AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE AT THE JCC

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

BLIND AND VISUALLY-IMPAIRED ADULTS SUPPORT GROUP AT THE JCC

Tuesdays & Thursdays, Oct. 22, Nov. 24 • 1-2 pm. Free of charge. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING AT THE JCC

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

EXERCISE YOUR BODY – CHAIR EXERCISE AT THE JCC

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:15–11 am • Through Dec. 31 (No class Sept. 29, Oct. 6 & Nov. 26). Free to all seniors. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

GAMES & GAB AT THE JCC

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

LIFE ENHANCEMENT CLASSES AT THE JCC

Tuesdays & Thursdays, Through Dec. 31 (No class Sept. 29, Oct. 6 & Nov. 26) • 11-11:45 am • Free to all seniors. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

LEARN TO PLAY MAH JONGG AT THE JCC

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

LET'S TALK

Thursdays at 11:00 am. Free. In cooperation with JCC Seniors program. Meet new people or deepen existing friendships and engage in meaningful conversation about a wide variety of topics that are important in our lives? Led by a Jewish Family Service clinical facilitator, at the Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Avenue. For more information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Senior Adult Services at Stamford JCC at 203-487-0983 or email at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

JCC MORNING MOVIE MATINEE/GAMES

Fridays, Through Dec. 18 • 10 am • Free of charge. For further information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Starting the School Year with Confidence

Back to School Shop's Inaugural Event

The Back to School Shop's inaugural event was called an unqualified success. More than 125 economically disadvantaged elementary school children from Stamford were able to choose their own brand new clothes, sneakers, winter coats, backpacks, school supplies and books.

"It was our goal to help build the confidence and enthusiasm these children need in order to have a successful school year, by making sure they had the necessary clothes and supplies, and letting the children make their own choices," said co-founder Meryl Japha. "We couldn't be happier with the way it turned out, and we want to thank all of the many community volunteers that helped



A happy shopper seemed to have found a new winter coat.

make Back to School Shop a reality."

Temple Sinai's Rabbi Jay TelRav, a volunteer personal shopper, shared, "God's energy was present among the volunteers and children throughout the day."

James Cohen, CEO of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, who also attended the event,

noted "One of the values we try to promote at Federation is the concept of *tikkun olam*—repairing the world. To see the smiles on their children's faces as they made their selections, reminded me of the beauty of this program – it repairs the world one kid at a time."

"We are hard at work planning next year's event," said Jane Levene,

co-founder of the program. We are determined to raise enough money and recruit enough volunteers to double the number of children we

are able to serve."

To make a donation, visit www.ujf.org/backtoschoolshop. Back to School Shop is under the auspices of UJF.



Rabbi Jay Tel Rav of Temple Sinai helped a shopper choose school supplies. (Names of children withheld on request.)



Personal shopper Jeff Levene helped his customer find just the right socks.



Volunteer Susan Krieger helped her customer check over his shopping list.



Co-Chair Jane Levene prepared for a live on-air interview with NBC Connecticut's Kristen Johnson.



Volunteer Bill Ecker helped a shopper find the perfect sneakers.



Steering Committee member Myrna Sessa trained a room full of volunteer personal shoppers.



A satisfied shopper checked out his new shirt in the mirror.

Looking for a Mitzvah Project? partner with 3 SQUARE

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

**WE NEED YOU
TO COLLECT, PACK & DELIVER**



If you are looking for a fun and meaningful bar/bat mitzvah project, please contact Jonathan Lerner at 203-321-1373 x 112 to learn more about 3 SQUARE Mitzvah Projects.



Adult Volunteer Opportunities

CHABAD STAMFORD

Betsy's Buddies Volunteers

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

Loaves of Loves Deliveries

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

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Adult Circle Program

Sundays, Oct. 11 & Nov. 8 from 1-4 pm at The Friendship Circle Center. Serving adults with a full range of physical, mental and cognitive needs through one-on-one friendships and social opportunities with other adults in our community. Opportunities this year will include a Vocational Readiness Program and Community Integration Employment. For more information, contact Sarah@friendshipct.com.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC or The J)

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

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS)

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

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY (JHS)

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

The Archives at the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County

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

UJF's READING PARTNERS

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

Friendship Day is Around the Corner!

BY FAYGIE HOLT

Friendship Circle of Connecticut will kick off its programming year on Sunday, October 18, with its annual Friendship Day. One of the highlights of this year's event will be the return of the Friendship Circle Walk.

"We had a lot of people in the community who wanted to come to Friendship Day, but they didn't necessarily have young children to partake in the rides and amusements," says Sarah Lipsker of Friendship Circle. "The walk was something they wanted to participate in and we are happy to be offering it once again."



Jensen Greif and Danny Freeman took part in Friendship Day '14.

The festivities will be held at the Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Rd., Stamford, from 12:30-3:30 pm. The day will feature rides, music, live entertainment, activity booths, food and more. New this year will be a wacky scienceshow and a performance by "Juggling Josh." There will be a number of different showtimes for each entertainer; to help ensure that families can see both programs during the day.

In recognition of the event's name, Friendship Day, other Jewish communal organizations – including local dayschools; United Jewish Federation

of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darian; the Stamford JCC; Jewish Family Service and more – will have their own activity booths at the festival. Friendship Circle initiated the organizations' booths last year.

"Our aim is to encourage friendship in the community using the model of Friendship Circle, which is so welcoming," says Lipsker. "We want to encourage friendship all around." Plus, she adds, "We all only gain from each other when we all support each other."

Showing support is crucial whether you are able to attend in person or sponsor those who do, say the event organizers.

"As Friendship Day quickly approaches, it is very important for each of us to do our best to attend in person

See "Friendship" on page 19

What's On for Adults

October & November 2015

Beginners Adult Hebrew

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm with Fran Schechter. Fee: \$180. This course will follow the school calendar. For further information, contact Temple Sinai office at (203) 322-1649.

Beginners' Torah Study

Fridays, 12 – 1 pm with Rabbi Jay TelRav, Cantor Micah Morgovsky and Amy Ritell. No Fee. Bring your lunch. For further information, contact Temple Sinai office at (203) 322-1649.

Bible Study with Rabbi Eugene Borowitz

Saturdays, 9 am at Temple Sinai. No Fee. For further information, contact Temple Sinai office at (203) 322-1649.

Biblical Hebrew with Rabbi Eric Hoffman

Mondays, 10:30 am - 12pm at the Stamford JCC. For further information: contact Rabbi Hoffman at RavEliahu@optonline.net

"Supervised Bridge" at the JCC

Mondays, Oct. 12 – Nov. 16. "Supervised" lesson at 11 am - 1 pm. Free play at 1 - 3 pm. Members \$54 / Community \$66 (6 sessions). Registration required by Sept. 24. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Brunch and Learn with JCC Shaliach Or Berger

Sunday, Sept, 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 22 & Dec. 20 from 10 - 11:30 am. No Fee. Contact Or Berger at (203) 487-0961 or oberger@stamfordjcc.org.

Card Party

Thursday, Oct. 1 at City Limits Diner. Reservations can be made by calling Jean Seidler at 203-348-2754. Sponsored by The Brandeis University Women's Committee. Reservations can be made by calling Jean Seidler - 203-348-2754.

The Center Women Gift Show

Thursday, Nov. 19 from 5:30 - 9:30 pm at the JCC. \$5 suggested donation for admission. All are welcome. Babysitting available, 5-10 years. \$12 / JCC members \$10. For further information, contact Nancy Schiffman at (203) 487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org

Learn to Crochet at the JCC

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

Hadassah Walking Program Culmination

Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 10 am – 12 noon. For further information, contact Melissa Bildner at Melissa@livebettertraining.com or (203) 554-6446.

Israel Folk Dancing with Leng

Thursdays at Temple Beth El. Let's dance! Connect with Israel while reaping the mental and physical benefits of dance. For other locations and schedule, call (203) 912.4086, www.ctisraelidance.com or twitter: @Israeli_Dance

Inside Israel with JCC Shaliach Or Berger Mondays, 7 – 8:30 pm at the JCC

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

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

Wednesdays, Oct. 14-Mar. 30 at 7:00-8:30 pm. Taught by Rabbi TelRav (Temple Sinai) & Rabbi Hammerman (Temple Beth El) with occasional guest presenters. Fee: \$180 and includes all materials (including books). For further information, contact Temple Sinai at (203) 322-1649 or Temple Beth El at (203) 322-6901.

Jewish Arts & Film Festival of Fairfield County

Saturday, Oct. 24 - Sunday, Nov. 1. Contact Nancy Schiffman at (203) 487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

JHS October Program – Preserving Your Legacy Life Stories

Sunday, Oct. 11 from 9:30 am - 1:00 pm with Joseph Kaplan and Sam Uhl at Stamford JCC. Fee: \$18 (includes materials and brunch) and open to the community. For further information, contact Marcie Schoenfeld at (203) 359-9148 or elissa@de-kaplan.com

JCC Speaker: Varian Fry, "The American Schindler"

Sunday, Nov. 8 from 1 – 3 pm at the JCC. Free. All are welcome. For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at (203) 487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

Jewish Senior Services Fall Gala

Wednesday Oct. 21 at 6:30pm at the Italian Center, Stamford. Sponsored by The Women's Auxiliary of JSS. If you are interested in making a reservation for the Gala, would like to receive an invitation or would like to place an ad, please call Dayna Hayden, Director, Development, at the Foundation Office, at (203)365-6409 or email dhayden@jseniors.org.

JLI Fall Semester

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

JWC Fashion Event

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

JWC Rosh Chodesh Learning

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

JWC Women's Luncheon in the Sukkah

(For Women). Thursday, October 1 at 11:03 am-1 pm. JWC Members FREE; Non Members \$15. For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

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

Second Sunday of each month, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 from 10 am - 12 pm at the JCC. For further information, contact keshetpg@gmail.com or visit www.pomegranateguild.org.

Louis J. Kuriansky Conference

"50th Anniversary of Vatican II." Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 7 pm in the GenRe auditorium at UConn-Stamford. Donation of \$10 per person is suggested and the conference is free to local educators, students and non-profit professionals. To register or for more information, go to www.stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu or (203) 251-9525.

Learn to Play Mah Jongg at the JCC

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

Come Play Mah Jongg

Monday evenings, 6:30 - 9:00 pm at Temple Sinai. No Fee but bring your own mah jongg card. For more information, contact the Temple office at (203) 322-1649.

Meditation As A Path To Mindful Living

Sunday, Oct. 25 at 10 am at Temple Sinai. Taught by Dr. Wynd Harris. No Fee. For further information, contact (203) 322-1649.

Men's Fabrengen

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

Neshama YogaTM at the JCC

Fridays, Sept. 11 – Dec. 18 (no class 11/27) at 9-10:30 am. Members \$252 / Community \$294 (14 sessions). For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

Neshama YogaTM

Wednesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28 at 6:30 – 8:00 pm at Temple Sinai Sanctuary. Taught by Jackie Tepper. For further information, contact Temple office at (203) 322-1649.

Parenting Club

Open to all. Begins Tuesday, October 27 at Chabad. For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org

Phantom UnMasked: The Songs of Broadway

Sunday, Oct. 18 at 7 pm at Temple Beth El. Seating is limited. General Admission: \$50; reserved seating: \$75; student tickets: \$36. You can also purchase tickets online at <http://tinyurj.com/tbebroadway>. For further information, contact Steve Lander at (203) 322-6901 ext. 304.

#raisingtodaykids

Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7:30 pm at the JCC. Lecture: \$12 per person / \$10 for JCC members. Purchase tickets at stamfordjcc.org or call (203) 322-7900. For more information, contact Sandi Waldstreicher at (203) 322-6541 or swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org.

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

Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7:30 pm at the Ferguson Library. For more information, contact Iris Morrison at (203) 921-4161.

Shal-Om Yoga

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

Torah and Tea

Starting Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 11 am-12:00 pm. For more information, contact programs@chabadstamford.org.

YOUNG VOICES

Second Place Goldman Memorial Essay Contest Winner

The winners of the 11th Annual Rabbi Alex Goldman Memorial Essay Contest for high school students were announced in June. The contest assignment was to write an essay, based on the student's Jewish experience, that completes the sentence "I never thought I would..." and discusses how the experience has affected the student's Jewishness. Below is second

I Never Thought I Would...

BY RACHEL STEINMETZ

I am very lucky that I am Jewish and live in the Stamford community. I never thought there would be so many opportunities for me to learn about who I am and what being Jewish means to me in my hometown. Jewish Student Connection, Friendship Circle, March of the Living, Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corp and Kulanu were extremely important to me. The support and encouragement I have received from the Stamford community has been overwhelming. These organizations prepared me to represent the Jewish community during my public high school years and when I attend college in the fall.

After attending a Jewish dayschool for my middle and elementary education, I transitioned to a Stamford public school. At Stamford High School, I found that there were very few Jewish organizations that I was able to participate in. During my sophomore year, I joined Jewish Student Connection, which has further impacted my Jewish experience.



Rachel Steinmetz

When I had the opportunity to be a part of Jewish Student Connection at Stamford High, there was no doubt I was going to join. Immediately I was welcomed with open arms by the advisor, Danny. He is very outgoing, positive and helped me explore what being Jewish means to me. During my junior year of high school, I became president of the JSC Club. I was unaware

and began to realize that some students are afraid and ashamed to be known as Jewish in a public high school. JSC welcomes all students, Jewish or not. I am proud to be part of such an accepting organization that strives to continue Jewish learning.

Four years ago I became part of Friendship Circle's Friends at Home

place winner Rachel Steinmetz's essay. Steinmetz graduated from Stamford High School this past June and is currently as freshman at Ithaca College. Alex Bergman's first place essay was printed in the September issue of this newspaper. Third place winner Jenna Plotzky's essay will be printed in the November issue.

Program. Each week, I visit a teenager whose special needs restrict her from properly interacting with others. She has taught me patience and to really appreciate my life. We both look forward to spending time together as we played games and laugh. Seeing her each week makes me happy. While I thought I was helping her, I realized that I am also learning from her. By being a part of the Friendship Circle I have learned the values of selfless giving and I hope to continue to give back to those who need assistance.

During my junior year of high school, I had the opportunity to attend March of the Living. The trip included traveling to Poland and walking between Auschwitz and Birkenau. I will never forget this trip and now have a better understanding of what the Jewish people, including

my grandfather, had to endure over 70 years ago.

Through the Teen Tzedakah Corp, I learned the teamwork and leadership skills needed to allocated funds to a variety of programs that we believe are deserving. I miss Kulanu and am sorry that it no longer exists in Stamford. However, I met many friends there that I still keep in touch with and enjoyed many of the activities offered.

I am proud to be Jewish in Stamford and call it my hometown. There are a variety of activities for Jewish teenagers that are practically in my backyard and I am glad I took advantage of them! I am very grateful! I would not be able to feel confident speaking about my Judaism and understand the importance of Israel without the support I have received from the Stamford Jewish community.

Israel.....

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to move ahead with the agreement, telling the Knesset in July that "we will not allow populism to bury the gas in the ground."

2. Will new reforms solve Israel's housing crisis?

Sure, Israelis are concerned about bombs and tunnels, but they're also worried about another threat to their ability to live in Israel: skyrocketing housing prices. Since 2008, prices have risen nearly 60 percent. The prohibitive costs of housing were what led half a million Israelis to take to the streets in protest in 2011.

Running on a promise to address the housing crisis, the upstart centrist party Kulanu won 10 seats in the March Knesset elections. Now Kulanu's chairman, Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon, has advanced a series of reforms designed to curb prices, including raising taxes on the purchase of second homes and streamlining Israel's housing bureaucracy, making construction and contracting more efficient. Time will tell if his efforts make it easier for young Israelis to buy a home.

3. Israel becomes more French

As antisemitism rises in France, Israelis have been hearing more and more French on the street over the past few years. Since 2010, some 20,000 French Jews have moved to Israel—and officials predict that 2015 will end up being a second straight record year for French *aliyah*.

Parisians have filled the streets of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and coastal cities like Netanya and Ashdod. Israelis already are feeling their effect; shwarma stands, for example, now offer the signature Israeli lamb dish in a baguette as well as a pita. As Israel's French community continues to grow, we'll see how else the French arrivals may shape their new home.

4. Israel grows closer to India and China

The European Union has long been Israel's top trading partner and the United States its strongest ally. Those things are unlikely to change anytime soon, but the past year has seen Israel look to the East as well as the West. India's new prime minister, Narendra Modi, wants to strengthen ties with

Israel—he intends to visit the country, and will be the first Indian head of state to do so—and has had friendly words for Netanyahu.

Israel, meanwhile, is looking to increase its trade with China. In 2015, Chinese investments in Israel reached \$6 billion, and Israel and China are looking to establish a free-trade zone between them.

5. The rise of the 5-shekel café

Israelis are fond of complaining about high prices, but one cost you won't hear them gripe about is coffee. That's because Cofix, a rapidly expanding café chain, sells everything on its menu—from espresso to sandwiches—for 5 shekels (about \$1.25). Since it launched in 2013, Cofix has opened nearly 100 branches across Israel, and has plans to open a total of 300 stores. A knockoff competitor, Cofizz, has a couple dozen branches of its own with the same 5-shekel concept.

Cofix has forced older chains to lower their prices and it's not stopping there. It's opened a handful of bars where everything goes for 5 shekels, and just opened a couple branches of Super Cofix, a dollar store-style supermarket with the same prices.

6. *Haredim* join the workforce

With *haredi* Orthodox political parties back in the governing coalition, *haredi* men are unlikely to be included in Israel's draft. But *haredim* have been integrating into mainstream Israeli society another way: through the workforce.

According to recent data from Israel's Economy Ministry, 16 percent of Israeli businesses now employ *haredim*, up from 8 percent in 2008. The number of *haredi* employees in the business sector also doubled, from 48,000 in 2008 to more than 100,000 now.

But *haredi*-secular relations still have a long way to go. A recent survey found that 45 percent of *haredim* had no interaction at all with secular Jews.

7. Marijuana legalization gets closer

Israeli cannabis growers are hoping to make the desert bloom. Medical marijuana is already legal in Israel, and Israel's deputy health minister announced new regulations in July

Continued from page 1

that will allow cannabis to be sold in pharmacies and prescribed by a wider range of doctors.

In the past few years, leaders of Israeli political parties have admitted to having a toke, and lawmakers from both right- and left-wing parties support marijuana legalization. Until 2015, the most outspoken advocate for legalization was the far-right Knesset member Moshe Feiglin, and while Feiglin didn't make it into the Knesset in the March election, his cause goes on.

8. A 14-year-old Israeli is the face of Dior

Move over, Bar Refaeli. Sofia Mechetner, a 14-year-old Israeli from the Tel Aviv suburb of Holon, was recently named "the face" of the French fashion label Dior.

Mechetner, who had no prior modeling experience, is the daughter of Soviet immigrants and reportedly shared a bedroom with her two siblings—whom she often cared for, as her parents were busy working to make ends meet. She landed the Dior job, in part, by running into the brand's creative director at a Dior store in Paris.

Her recent scantily-clad walk down a Paris runway reignited controversy about youth and high fashion, and fashion insiders have cautioned that modeling young comes with dangers and pressures. But at least for now, says her manager, her family's financial troubles are over.

JHSC.....

Continued from page 14

"The student and teacher dialogue around a table with less than 10 students creates an intellectual energy that encourages students to express their ideas and get excited about subjects," said Reimer.

"We are serious about foundational courses, but we give our students room to play and share their ideas. It is an intellectual incubator that motivates and inspires our students and our faculty," said Rabbi Paul.

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

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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Carmel Academy Inspires Students With New Engineering Program

BY JULIE LAPIN

Carmel Academy has been chosen by the Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education to launch an innovative STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) engineering program designed specifically for middle school grades.

The new, yearlong course expands on Carmel Academy's current STEM curriculum, integrating hands-on, project-based engineering and technology with a full physical science curriculum. In addition, students will be exposed to career engineers, who will visit the classroom each month to teach the students about real-world engineering.

"This is an exciting addition to our already rich STEM offerings," said middle school science teacher Rhonda Ginsberg. "This program will inspire students to pursue STEM and engi-

At right: Carmel Academy eighth-graders Sydney Eben and Micayla Roth worked on an engineering challenge during a year-long engineering class that integrates hands-on, project-based engineering and technology with a full physical science curriculum.



neering courses in high school, and give them a better understanding of the physical world.

"Throughout the year, students will apply their inventiveness and innovation skills in teams—developing all types of products and machines. This ranges

from light sticks, to bridge building to developing structures that solve everyday problems," Ginsberg said.

Many of the materials used by the students are everyday items that will be applied in innovative ways. For example, on the first day of school, students built tables from newspaper and cardboard that will be used in Carmel Academy's sukkah. As part of the new course, students will compete in an engineering challenge during the school's annual

Purim event.

Carmel Academy has a long history with CIJE and was one of the first schools in North America to offer its E2K math and science enrichment program. The school was also chosen as one of the first to implement SET3, an advanced engineering enrichment program. Through these programs, Carmel Academy has won nine national and international STEM awards.

"We believe that our programs greatly exceed what students are getting in typical public middle and high schools and it shows in the caliber of universities that our graduates are attending," says CIJE President Jason Cury.

"Studies have shown that the earlier students are introduced to STEM subjects, especially engineering, the more likely they are to pursue careers in the field," Ginsberg said. "Our country is sorely lacking in engineers and at Carmel Academy we hope to inspire our students to fill that gap."

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

► Join Carmel Academy for its Open House

Carmel Academy will hold an Open House on Sunday, November 1, from 10 am-noon. Guests will have an opportunity to meet the school's leadership and faculty, participate in interactive learning activities with Carmel's early childhood teachers, and tour the school's historic, 17-acre Greenwich campus.

Serving children from transitional kindergarten through eighth grade, the Carmel Academy community is diverse, attracting families of all Jewish affiliations from Fairfield and Westchester counties, Riverdale and Manhattan. Accredited as a school of excellence by the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools, Carmel offers each child a personalized educational experience with low student-teacher ratios and small instructional group learning. Carmel Academy's custom-developed dual curriculum and character development program is taught by master's-level teachers who are passionate not only about their craft, but about being on the cutting-edge of new educational initiatives and professional development.

"Carmel Academy offers rigorous academic preparation, using expertly designed integrated general and Judaic studies curricula," notes Carmel Academy Head of School Nora Anderson. "Carmel's child-centered focus results in students who are passionate learners, inquisitive problem solvers, confident leaders and dedicated to bettering the world."

To RSVP, contact Director of Admissions Daneet Brill at daneet.brill@carmelacademy.com or 203-983-3503.

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

College Continued from page 14

Stamford. The series is open to the entire community at no charge.

Claire Friedlander, Jewish Family Service college consultant, is a national board certified counselor and is a member of the American Counseling Association and National Association for College Admission Counseling. She is the organizer and moderator for the annual Stamford JFS program, College Ahead!, featuring guest panelists in college admissions. Friedlander authors articles on college trends in various publications, and visits several colleges and universities every year.

The Race to College will review the steps necessary to achieve stress-free management of the college admission process and will include time for questions and answers. For individual consultation for college planning, contact Friedlander at 203-921-4161 or e-mail clairef@ctjfs.org. For more information about College Counseling at JFS, visit www.ctjfs.org or follow JFS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CTJFS.

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

Friendship Continued from page 17

to show support for the many families with children with special needs who will be attending," says Howie Schwartz, a longtime supporter, board member and father of a Friendship Circle volunteer. "If you are not able to attend in person, you can still support the amazing work that the Friendship Circle accomplishes each day by sponsoring this important event online."

According to Lipsker, people can register for the event and set up a fund-raising page online at www.friendshipdayct.com. The fund-raising page can then be linked to social media accounts (like Facebook)

or via e-mail. This year, people will have their choice of creating a fund-raising page so friends and family can sponsor their participation in the Friendship Circle walk or their volunteer hours with the organization.

At the end of the day, Lipsker says, "it's really about honoring and supporting families with children with special needs."

To learn more or to register for the event, visit www.friendshipdayct.com or call 203-329-0015.


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

Bi-Cultural Rolls Out the Red Carpet



Second-grader Sharona Markovich was greeted by each member of the eighth-grade class in the annual tradition of walking on the red carpet on the first day of school at Bi-Cultural Day School. (Photo by Joanne Karow)


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Join Us for a Conversation With
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MARTIN FLETCHER

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3:30-5:00pm
at the New Canaan Library
151 Main St, New Canaan, CT
Chairs:
Anne Liebergall & Karin Petersen



3:30pm: Book Available for Purchase
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This free event is brought to you by
UJF of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien
For more information contact Rebekah at (203)653-2665.

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David Gregory

Journalist and Author

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International Religious Freedom

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veteran Middle East diplomat

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author & granddaughter of Nazi leader

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TED speaker & thought leader

For more information and to register:

www.GeneralAssembly.org