

- 3 An educational presentation on palliative care will take place at Temple Beth El on February 11.
- 3 The National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene will perform in concert at Temple Beth El on March 19.
- 10 Applications for the Jewish Family Service-Ben and Joan Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Program are now available.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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

TBE Scholar in Residence Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin

“You will be Shaken and Stirred”

Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin will be featured as the scholar in residence on the weekend of February 6-8 at Temple Beth El in Stamford. The theme for the weekend is “Martini Judaism: You Will Be Shaken and Stirred.”



Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin

On Friday, February 6, Rabbi Salkin’s topic will be “Israel Without Apology.” Among the questions he will discuss are: What do we need to know to be able to have a conversa-

tion about Israel? How can we equip our teens to be able to talk about Israel when they get to college? The talk will take place during the *Kabbalat Shabbat* service beginning at 7 pm.

On Saturday, February 7, the topic will be “What They Never Taught Us In Religious School.” He will discuss some of Judaism’s most controversial teachings and why they
See “Scholar” on page 4

Super Sunday, Super Community Day

Two, zero, one, five, hike! It’s time to kick-off the 2015 United Jewish Federation’s Better Together Annual Campaign. And to add to the excitement of the day, this year’s Super Sunday Kickoff on February 1 is actually Super Bowl Sunday.

Super Sunday, UJF’s largest fundraising phonathon of the year, has moved from December to February starting with the 2015 campaign year. The day will be filled with many activities. More than 100 volunteers are expected to gather at the Stamford Jewish Community Center to call family members, friends and neighbors

to solicit donations for the 2015 UJF campaign. Adults and students who volunteer will participate to raise monies used to strengthen the Jewish communities here in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and support Jews in 79 countries throughout the world and in Israel. Calls will end at approximately 4 pm, prior to the actual start of the Super Bowl game.

In addition to the monies pledged via the phone on Super Sunday, UJF *tzedakah* cans, distributed to the local Jewish Day schools, will be collected at the Jewish Community Center. The
See “Super” on page 6

Israeli-Developed TalkITT Aids People with Speech Impairments

BY MAAVAN JAFFE
JNS.org

A little boy with autism says “I love you” – and you understand it. Your grandfather is able to say “congratulations” when you graduate – despite the recent stroke he suffered that impaired his speech. That future is almost the present thanks to new Israeli-developed technology that can extract spoken words from the sounds of people with speech disabilities.

Danny Weissberg in 2012 co-founded VoiceITT, maker of the TalkITT soft-

ware, shortly after his grandmother had a stroke. He describes her as “the center of our family” and says it was “painful” to know she wanted to talk, but was being prevented from communicating.

Weissberg, who has degrees in civil engineering and computer science and has been working in the hi-tech industry for more than 15 years, began consulting with speech therapists and other related experts. Quickly, he realized the need for TalkITT – given that as many as 1.5 percent of the world’s
See “TalkITT” on page 19

“Chapter Two: Women Who Can”

A New Program from UJF

For some, the phrase “Chapter Two” will probably elicit thoughts of the 1970s romantic comedy drama written by Neil Simon, but at United Jewish Federation, the title “Chapter Two” has a very different meaning. “Chapter Two: Women Who Can” denotes United Jewish Federation’s new Women’s Philanthropy program, which will begin in March 2015.

“Chapter Two” of UJF is designed to engage women of varying backgrounds

in the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien communities and educate them about Federation and our partner agencies,” said UJF’s incoming Women’s Philanthropy President Lorraine Kwe-skin. “In addition, another goal of the program is to create a unique bond between the participants. The program is primarily created for women who are at a stage in their lives where they are looking to grow within the community
See “Women” on page 8

Bits & Pieces	6	Candle Lighting	6	Family Central	15	Professional Support	16	Happenings for Seniors	20	Adult Education	21
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Fatherhood and Apple Pie

More than 30 Bi-Cultural Day School dads met at one of the school’s recent “Dads Drop Off” mornings. Fathers with students in the school get the opportunity to drop off their children at school, walk them into their classrooms and visit their children in their own environment. BCDS dads then get a chance to socialize and have breakfast with each other in an informal and casual setting. Created by BCDS parent Craig Price, Dads Drop Off happens six times throughout the school year. (Photo by Joanne Karow)

Meet UJF's New President

BY ELLEN WEBER

Incoming President Ellen Weber gave the following address at the Annual Meeting of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien on December 10.



Ellen Weber, UJF president

For me, it all started in 2003 when I retired from Verizon after 27 years. I was looking for volunteer opportunities where I could help people locally – making a difference in their lives – and came across an article in the *Advocate* that drew my attention. It was about a program comprised of volunteers reading with students in the Stamford elementary schools. Recognizing how important reading is to a student's future success, I was intrigued and decided to join. This program was Reading Partners under United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

A short time after I started, the program expanded to include an after-school element and I became the team leader. When the after-school program appeared to be in jeopardy, I met with Marty Greenberg, then UJF's CEO, to make a pitch to save it. Following my presentation, Marty looked at me and said, "Who are you and how can we get you more involved in Federation?" He introduced me to Nancy Mimoun, then president of Women's Philanthropy and as I quickly learned, one can never say no to Nancy. I joined the Women's Philanthropy Board and before I knew it, I was hooked. Then in 2012, I became its president.

Volunteering was my entrance to Federation and I'm sure that among all of you here this evening, there are many equally unique stories. Whether you were raised in a Federation family, were introduced to UJF by a friend, or received services from one of our partner agencies, for Jews in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, there are multiple roads that lead to Federation's doors.

I feel honored and privileged to stand before you tonight as the in-

coming president of UJF, an organization committed to embracing every member of our Jewish community.

Over the last two and a half years, significant changes have been made to our Federation, which will help us better serve the needs of both our local and international Jewish communities. With Shoshana [Dweck] and Jim [Cohen's]

guidance, our leadership worked tirelessly to design a new structure that, as Shoshana said in her June Town Hall Meeting remarks, will ensure that we meet our recipient agencies' short-term needs while planning for the long haul, and will result in a strong Federation, a strong community and a strong campaign into the next generation.

Jim's vision of partnership led to the new UJF motto "Better Together" and this sense of collective Jewish identity is what brought us together during the summer as we prayed for the three Israeli students – Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaer and Eyal Yifrach, and then again showed our support for Israel as more than 500 people gathered jointly as one.

The redesign of our governance includes an Advisory Council, which will involve the community in addressing current issues and plan for tomorrow. And, increased cooperation with our neighboring Federations has resulted in the formation of a joint committee and agreement to work collaboratively to ensure that we become a more effective and efficient organization.

The Hertzl initiative, as just discussed by Shoshana, encourages legacy giving to any Jewish institution in our community for the future of our community.

And, not the least, the new mechanism added to our "Better Together" annual Campaign now allows you, our donors, to specify, if you so desire, the impact you want to make through your Federation donation, here at home, in Israel and around the world.

To Shoshana, Jim, the members of the 2014 board, committee members and our professional staff, I thank you for giving me such a solid platform on which to begin my term.

I've taken on this responsibility as president of UJF for one reason: I'm passionate about our Federation and fully believe in its mission. The answer to "Why Federation?" seems so obvious to me! We help people. Together we help Jews here and globally.

Last month, along with 12 other representatives from our community, I attended Jewish Federation of North America's (JFNA's) General Assembly, where I was inspired by a myriad of presenters. We heard Carole Sebbah, a young French Jewish woman, fearful of rising antisemitism in France, thank the Jewish Agency for helping her make *aliyah* and find a home in Israel. We were moved by Oksana Galkovich, a Ukraine native, who has spent the last 15 years working to revitalize Jewish life in Ukraine as a social worker and now as Director of external relations and government affairs for the Joint Distribution Committee.

We learned about the incredible programs designed to aid American Jews conducted by Federations across the country. And we were stirred by Jerry Silverman, president and CEO of JFNA and Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Britain's former chief rabbi, who each echoed the power of Federation as it "touches more Jewish lives than any other organization on Earth."

I envision the next two years as president as an opportunity for us to strengthen our Jewish community and safeguard its vibrancy for the future. As Rabbi Sacks said, although there might be times we disagree, it is our love of the Jewish people that draws us together. "I don't need you to agree with each other," he said, "I need you to care about one another."

Federations serve as magnets, co-alescing Jewish organizations and synagogues. If we succeed as a Federation, we all succeed, and the achievements of each of our partners means success for our whole Jewish community. We're connected, tied together.

I'd like to relate a short personal story. My husband and I love to bicycle and one of our favorite places is on the North Fork of Long Island. While biking there about two years ago, we passed, ironically, a church with a large placard on its lawn. Believe it or not, at that very moment, I was actually thinking about a Women's Philanthropy issue that had been on

my mind. The placard read, "The value of one's life is based not on its duration, but on its donation." It hit me that our value is in what we do for each other, how we give of our time and the financial support we provide – all to improve the lives of others. The very next year, once again we rode past that same church. This time, the placard read, "You make a living by what you get, you make a life by what you give."

I fully believe that our lives are made richer and more meaningful when we give back. I'm excited about the work of Federation and hope to motivate and engage Jews in our community to be equally excited and involved. Join me by becoming ambassadors for UJF. In doing so, we become ambassadors for the entire Jewish community.

Over the next two years, I'll be dedicated to working with Federation leadership, our professional staff, our agencies and synagogues to include more local Jewish residents in our Federation, in ways that are meaningful to them. Our job is to welcome, embrace, and engage all Jews: affiliated, unaffiliated, families, singles, married, men, women, Millennials, Gen X'ers, as well as re-introduce those who previously felt dissatisfied or disappointed in Federation. What differentiates all of us is not important, what can bring us together is what matters.

And finally, we must direct our efforts to increase our Better Together annual campaign so that we can distribute more funds to our partners and conduct more meaningful programs to serve and unify all of us. A wonderful example is the recent Tapestry evening, which drew 300 people together for an evening of education and camaraderie.

I want to thank you, our donors, for your support and dedication to Federation. Thanks to our board members who are finishing their term and who have given so much of their time to this organization. To Jim and our professional staff, we can't do any of this without you – thank you.

Finally, thank you again to Shoshana Dweck for her leadership and commitment in taking on an enormous challenge two and a half years ago, taking the bull by the horns and galvanizing us to make great things happen.

And as we approach the joyous celebration of Chanukah, I pray that the flames of the candles we light together as a community burn brightly and remain strong for many years to come.

Thank you.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene Presents "From Rosenfeld to Robeson"

Tribute Concert in Memory of Hesh Romanowitz z'l

The entire community is invited to the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene concert, "From Rosenfeld to Robeson," starring Elmore James and Zalmen Mlotek, to be held on Thursday, March 19, at 7:30 pm, at Temple Beth El in Stamford. The concert is presented free of charge to the community by Stamford's Holocaust Memorial Committee and the United Jewish Federation's Levy Romanowitz fund, as a tribute to Dr. Harry S. "Hesh" Romanowitz, z'l.

The mission of the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, now in its 100th season, is to celebrate the Yiddish experience through the performing arts.

"From Rosenfeld to Robeson," which debuted last summer at the Singer festival in Warsaw, Poland, takes the audience on a musical journey through the repertoire of both Morris Rosenfeld, the Yiddish poet of the Lower East Side sweatshops, and Paul Robeson, the African American singer, actor and civil rights activist.

Together, James and Mlotek explore the pathos inherent in love ballads, songs of the sweatshop and slavery, and melodies of spirituality, protest and hope. The concert will include classic Yiddish songs, songs

of revolutionary poets and Holocaust era partisans, and Broadway favorites.

"Hesh loved Yiddish music and culture. He routinely encouraged our family and friends to join him in attending performances and concerts. Many will recall 'My Yiddish Chanukah,' a concert presented by Folksbiene, that he arranged to bring to the community, in December 2012. On March 19, 'From Rosenfeld to Robeson' will be presented in tribute to Hesh. The theme of this particular concert resonated for him. When he saw and heard Elmore James perform in 'Soul to Soul,' he was enthralled and he always considered Zalmen Mlotek to be a treasure. I do hope many will join us for what promises to be a remarkable evening," said Sheila Romanowitz, who organized the event.

Broadway and international opera star James is a veteran of five Broadway shows. He sings in nine languages and first sang in Yiddish at Town Hall's "Yiddish in America," a Gala Concert Celebrating the Centennial of the Workman's Circle in New York City. James has performed at the Metropolitan Opera House, Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall and opera houses in Paris, Vienna, Munich, Berlin, Rome,

Verona, Sicily, Sweden and Norway.

Mlotek is the artistic director of the National Yiddish Theatre-Folksbiene and an internationally recognized authority on Yiddish folk and theatre music. Mlotek brought Yiddish-klezmer music to Broadway and off-Broadway stages. His award-winning shows include "Those Were the Days," "The Golden Land" and "On Second Avenue." He has served as music director for theatrical productions across the U.S. and has performed in Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Krakow, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and other cities in Europe and Israel as well as throughout North America.

Romanowitz served as chair of the Holocaust Memorial Committee for more than a decade. Contributions fund Yiddish cultural activities and Holocaust education, including subsidies for the March of the Living. Morris Glucksman is the current chair of the committee.

The event is co-sponsored by ADL, Chavurat Aytz Chayim, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Jewish Historical Society, Selah, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, UJA/JCC Greenwich, UJF of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, Union Baptist Church and Young Israel. For further information, visit nationalyiddishtheatre.org or call Temple Beth El at 203-322-6901.

Deadlines for articles

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

Monday, January 26 March
Monday, February 23 April
Wednesday, March 25 May

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.

Carmel Academy Honors Nora Anderson

School Celebrates 18 Years

Carmel Academy announced that it will honor Nora Anderson, the school's longtime head of school, at its annual Erev Tov Celebration. *Erev tov*, which means good evening in Hebrew, will take place on Sunday, March 15, at 5:30 pm, at Brae Burn Country Club, in Purchase, NY. This year's annual event will mark Carmel Academy's 18th year. Anderson will be recognized for her "instrumental and transformative work" on behalf of Carmel Academy and her leadership role within the educational world.



Nora Anderson

"In her 12 years at the helm of Carmel Academy, Nora has overseen our school's growth from a small community day school on the second floor of a synagogue to an institution with more than 250 stu-

dents on a 17-acre campus that has been accredited with distinction. Nora's vision, unwavering commitment to excellence and her strong leadership skills have put Carmel Academy on the map of Jewish day school education," said Carmel Academy President Evan Levy.

Anderson's commitment to a child-centered education, dedication to best practices and her emphasis on professional development have helped shaped Carmel Academy into the school it is today. Her background in mathematics and the sciences has put Carmel on the forefront of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (or STEAM) education. The school's cutting-edge

See "Anderson" on page 4

Relieving Suffering

Understanding Palliative Care

The Reyt (friendship) Committee of Temple Beth El will sponsor an educational presentation on palliative care on Wednesday, February 11, at 7:30 pm, at TBE. The guest speakers will be Donna Coletti, M.D., director of palliative care at Greenwich Hospital; Rabbi M. J. Newman, chaplain at Greenwich Hospital and member of the Palliative Care Committee; and Roni Lang, clinical social worker at Greenwich Hospital and member of the Palliative Committee.

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman will also be on the panel to provide a Jewish perspective on palliative care and explain how this type of care is in line with Jewish medical ethics. Those attending will learn about the goals of palliative care and the speakers will cover such topics as pain management, lifecycle of illness, end of life ethics and making peace.

Palliative care, a new field of medicine, focuses

See "Suffering" on page 6

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in a Private Home
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OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN
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SAVE THE DATE

BEN-GURION SOCIETY EVENT
MARCH 7TH

SPEAKER: DIMA SHIMELFARB
OF THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA
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The Ben-Gurion Society is a donor recognition program for individuals ages 25-45 who make a household minimum gift of \$1,000 to the UJF Annual Campaign.
To learn more about the Ben-Gurion Society, contact Sharon Franklin, sharon@ujf.org or call (203)321-1373 ext. 109.

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Chevra Kadisha Dinner Dedicated to Rabbi Ehrenkranz z'l

Rabbi Yakov Horowitz, the founder and dean of Yeshiva Darchei Noam, and founder and director of Project YES (Youth Enrichment Services), will be this year's featured speaker at the annual Chevra Kadisha Dinner, to be held at Congregation Agudath Sholom on Thursday, February 26, at 6 pm. His topic will be "How to Make Your Life a Kiddush Hashem."

said Michael Feldstein, who is on the Dinner Committee. "It's especially gratifying this year to honor the memory of Rabbi Ehrenkranz, and to welcome Rabbi Horowitz to our community."



Rabbi Yakov Horowitz



Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz z'l

three dozen local Chevra Kadisha volunteers, both men and women," said Feldstein.

Rabbi Horowitz is the author of two books, "Growing with the Parsha" and "Living and Parenting," and has produced several parenting audio-visual materials. He is a regular contributor to *The Jewish Observer*, *The Jewish Press*, *Mishpacha* and *Hamodia*, focusing on Torah, educational and parenting topics.

In September 1997, Rabbi Horowitz founded Yeshiva Darchei Noam in Monsey, NY, a school that is noted for its positive and child-centered learning environment. Rabbi Horowitz was awarded the 2002 Rockland Educator of the Year Award, and received national recognition as a recipient

of the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. The Covenant Foundation awarded Rabbi Horowitz with its 2008 Covenant Award, presented to outstanding Jewish educators in North America.

Rabbi Horowitz is also the founder of Project YES, which provides at-risk teens with a big brother and sister teen mentoring program, school and job counseling and placement, a parent mentoring program and a program to train educators in clinically proven methods of reaching out to children at-risk.

The cost of attending the dinner is \$36 a person. Sponsorships are also available at \$180, which entitles one to two dinner reservations and can be made in memory of a loved one.

Invitations to the dinner are being mailed in January. Anyone interested in attending the dinner should e-mail Sandi Waldstreicher at moms4sons@aol.com. Reservations must be received by Thursday, February 19, in order to guarantee a seat at the dinner.

Scholar.....Continued from page 1

aren't spoken more often. The lecture will take place as part of the morning Shabbat worship service, beginning at 9:30 am.

Also on February 7, Rabbi Salkin will speak on "The Gods Are Broken." The legend of Abraham breaking his father's idols is Judaism's most famous (non-biblical) story. He will discuss whether or not Jews still have the courage to break contemporary idols. The lecture will take place at the *kiddush* luncheon following the Shabbat morning worship service, beginning approximately noon.

On Sunday, February 8, he will speak about "The Gods Are Broken" at a session open to fifth, sixth and seventh grade students and their parents. The program will take place during the Sunday Religious School session from 9 am-noon.

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman stated, "Ever since his book 'Putting God on the Guest List' changed the way we think about bar mitzvahs, Jeffrey Salkin has had his finger on the pulse of American Jewry."

at Temple Beth Am in Bayonne, NJ. He has been called one of the most thoughtful Jewish writers and teachers of his generation. His work has appeared in many publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Reader's Digest*, and the *Congressional Record*. Rabbi Salkin is editor of "The Modern Men's Torah Commentary: New Insights from Jewish Men on the 54 Weekly Torah Portions" and author of the bestseller "Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Children's Bar or Bat Mitzvah."

Lisa Gittelman Udi commented, "You will be shaken and stirred! Rabbi Jeff Salkin offers a vision of how Judaism can transform your life and the world."

The community is welcome to all of the services and presentations by Rabbi Salkin. The Scholar in Residence program at TBE is sponsored by Penny and Michael Horowitz in loving memory of Bessie Silver z'l and Millie Reiss z'l.

For further information on TBE or its programs, contact Steven Lander, executive director, at execdir@tbe.org or call 203-322-6901, ext. 304.

Anderson.....Continued from page 3

STEAM programs have garnered both national and international awards. Carmel's Judaic studies department, under Anderson's tutelage, has been the subject of best-practice case studies; and Carmel's teaching methodology is used to train Jewish educators from all denominations. Her child-centered philosophy led to the start of the school's PALS program for children with language-based learning disabilities. She has worked to promote and encourage ongoing professional development for new and seasoned teachers alike.

In addition to her work at Carmel Academy, Anderson has done much to further the field of Jewish education on behalf of both students and professionals. She is a sought-after speaker and mentor who has presented at the RAVSAK and PEJE conferences, has served as a mentor in the RAVSAK-AVI CHAISuLaM program, and is a current mentor with the Day School Leadership Training Institute. Her leadership and vision are said to have transcended the landscape of Jewish education. This

past summer, she was appointed to the Board of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools, in which she serves with school heads from throughout the country.

"Her passion for education is matched by her commitment to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), an unwavering love of Israel, and a tremendous dedication to her family. Whether it's raising funds for lone soldiers serving in the Israel Defense Forces, cooking homemade dinners for the homeless, or bringing up five children with her husband, Jordan, Nora is a role model that Carmel Academy is proud to call its own!" said Levy.

For more information about Erev Tov, or to place a commemorative journal ad, contact Seth Young, Carmel Academy's associate head of school for institutional advancement, at seth.young@carmelacademy.com, 203-983-3508 or visit www.carmelacademy.com.

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

UJF Honors its Past, Celebrates its Present

On December 10, United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien held its Annual Meeting at Temple Beth El in Stamford. The evening celebrated the many accomplishments of those who have given their time and resources to UJF in 2014. Amongst those honored were

the outgoing UJF Executive Committee and board, including 2013-14 President Shoshana Dweck.

Lisa Manheim, the 2014 recipient of the Harvey A. Peltz Award for Young Leadership, regaled those gathered with stories from her Federation experiences, dating back to childhood

memories of being fed chicken soup as a thank you for her work.

Attendees voted on and approved incoming President Ellen Weber, who will serve for two years, as well as the incoming board. The program was capped off by a rendition of "Hatikvah" by Beth El Cantor Magda Fishman, followed by

a communitywide dessert reception.

UJF thanked those who have served on the board, and those members who were incoming and joined the board starting January 1. Thank you's were given also to those in the Jewish community who joined UJF for the Annual Meeting showing that "we are truly Better Together."



Harvey A. Peltz Young Leadership Award 2014 winner Lisa Manheim with United Jewish Federation CEO James Cohen.



L-r: Outgoing UJF President Shoshana Dweck and 2014 Volunteers of the Year: Michael Wirgin, Janet Welkovich, Nancy Schulman, Jill Kaplan, Robert Hoff, David Fogel, Zeena Hine and Peter Lilienthal.

David's Treasure Tree at Stamford Hospital

Women's Philanthropy and Partners Bring Smiles to Children

On December 17, members of Women's Philanthropy of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, students from Bi-Cultural Day School and Carmel Academy, and representatives from the Stamford Chapter of Hadassah delivered toys to the pediatric wing of

Stamford Hospital, filling the shelves of David's Treasure Tree closet.

Children who are ill and are patients in Stamford Hospital are given the opportunity to select a brand new toy from the closet. David's Treasure Tree was the idea of Robin and Joseph Kanarek, whose son David

died of cancer 14 years ago. Robin and Joseph Kanarek attended the event and spoke to the more than 30 participants, noting, "We got the idea of providing gifts to pediatric patients from when David was treated at Yale Children's Cancer Center when he was first diagnosed with leukemia. When he was in dire pain, the nurses took him to their toy closet to choose any gift he wanted. For a brief period of time, he forgot he

was so sick. He had been unwell for many weeks and it brought joy to us to see David smiling again."

According to Belinda Foster, Stamford Hospital Foundation's director of operations and development, "UJF has been coming to fill the closet for five years. Each year, there are more toys collected than the year before. Stamford Hospital thanks UJF, Bi-Cultural Day School, Carmel Academy and Hadassah

See "Treasure" on page 8



Rhonda Ginsberg, a science teacher at Carmel Academy; students from Bi-Cultural Day School and Carmel Academy; Ellen Weber, UJF president; Joe and Robin Kanarek; and Robert Potash, cousin to the Kanareks.

Carmel Academy: The Leader in STEAM Education

Congratulations to Carmel Academy's 6th Grade E2K Math and Science Team for its Outstanding 1st Place Finish in the National CIJE E2K Science Competition.

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A Lawyer's Affinity Group

Panel discussion about Burwell v. Hobby Lobby

February 25th from 6:45 – 9:00 pm
 \$36 / \$45 at the door
 at Franklin Street Works
 41 Franklin Street, Stamford
 Refreshments Will Be Served
 Dietary laws observed

The Cardozo Society is an affinity group of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. The society is comprised of members of the legal community, including lawyers, professors, judges and others and provides educational, leadership and networking opportunities with the objective of benefiting both the local and global Jewish Communities.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373 or www.ujf.org/cardozofeb25



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BITS AND PIECES

MAZEL TOV TO:

Peggy and Ron Bates and Gail and Bob Loonin on the marriage of their children, Nicole Bates and Jonathan Loonin.

Naomi Hersh and Bernard Shapiro on the marriage of their daughter, Rebecca Shapiro, to Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg, son of Miriam Brunn Ruberg and Rabbi Arthur Ruberg of Norfolk, VA.

Zeeva Hine, Robert Hoff, Jill Kaplan, Peter Lilienthal, Nancy Schulman, Janet Welkovich and Michael Wirgin, recipients of the UJF Volunteers of the Year Award at the UJF Annual Meeting.

Lisa Manheim, recipient of the Harvey A. Peltz Young Leadership Award at the UJF Annual Meeting.

Ilyse and Dean Schuckman on the marriage of their daughter, Rachel Schuckman, to Jay Camhi.

Susan and Len Mark, recipients of the Humanitarian Award from the Israel Cancer Research Fund.

Mila and Joseph Rubbak upon their daughter, Tanya Rubbak, becoming an assistant chair for the ComArts at the Otis College of Arts and Design in California.

Neil Ruben and Hilana Lewkowitz-Shpuntoff on their marriage.

Sandi and Moshe Speter on the marriage of their son, Joe Speter, to Audrey El-Gamil.

Sandi Waldstreicher for being named a "mover and shaker" of 2014 by the Connecticut Jewish Ledger.

Dr. Stuart Waldstreicher for receiving the Doctor of the Quarter at Stamford Hospital.

Rivkah and Rabbi David Walk on the engagement of Yehudah Walk to Tiffany Ben Shimol of Be'er Sheva, Israel.

Ellen Weber on her election as UJF president.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Shira Cohen, daughter of Stella and Isaac Cohen.

Sydney Eben, daughter of Alix and David Eben; grandparents are Barbara and Joseph Field.

Charlotte Freund, daughter of Cathy Bernstein and Bud Freund.

Sara Gatz, daughter of Marlene and Jeffrey Gatz.

Molly Herckis, daughter of Karen and Scott Herckis.

Mitchell Katz, son of Laura and David Katz.

Sophie Kriftcher, daughter of Jeanne and Brian Kriftcher.

Jessica Olin, daughter of Suzanne and Craig Olin.

Joshua Pickel, son of Elizabeth and Alan Pickel.

Tyler Pomerance, son of Lisa and Mitch Pomerance.

Kate Rich, daughter of Sarah and Ronald Rich.

Ashley Shapiro, daughter of Tara and Richard Shapiro; grandparents are Donna and Jerome Simon.

Ella Rose Shapiro, daughter of Sharon and Rony Shapiro; grandparents are Phyllis and Martin Shapiro.

Max Trell, son of Heidi Trell and Jeffrey Trell; grandparents are Gail G. Trell and Stephen Trell.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Karen Alter-Reid on the loss of her father, Jerome Alter.

David Bahar and Shirley Ephraim on the loss of their brother, Isaac Bahar.

Stephanie Benjamin and Evan Ackron on the loss of their father and Susan Joseph on the loss of her longtime companion, Dr. Lowell Ackiron.

Ilan Cohavi on the loss of his father, Yitzhak Cohavi.

Joel Evans and Eve Evans on the loss of their father, Leo Evans.

Miriam Flatow on the loss of her mother, Devora Wagenberg.

Carolyn Ginsberg on the loss of her sister, Roberta Schankle.

Jason Gold on the loss of his grandfather, Joseph Gold.

Debby Goldberg on the loss of her brother, Martin Colner.

Leo Levine on the loss of his wife, Judith Levine.

Charisse Litchman on the loss of her sister, Dr. Beth Deutch.

Stuart Madison on the loss of his mother, Betty Pfeffer.

Rachel Maryles on the loss of her grandmother, Betty Primis.

Irene Meltzer on the loss of her mother, Freida Topf.

Leslie Moskowitz on the loss of her mother, Jo Ann Weiss.

Howard and Neil Nusbaum on the loss of their mother, Anne Nusbaum.

Paul Ostriker on the loss of his wife, Marilyn Ostriker.

Howard Rothman on the loss of his aunt, Ruth Rothman Wayson.

Jonah Schrag and Valerie Warmflash on the loss of their sister-in-law, Janet Schrag.

Rose Stark and Lois and Amy Stark on the loss of her husband and their father, Bernard Stark.

Bruce Tobin on the loss of his mother, Gloria Tobin.

Eva Weller on the loss of her father, Noe Heitlinger.

NEW AROUND TOWN

Cantor Marcia Lane Joins UJF Staff

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien announced the appointment of Cantor Marcia Lane as director of education and engagement. A Waterbury native, Cantor Lane studied theater at the Central College of Speech and Drama in London, England. She morphed from actor to storyteller, and from there to arts-in-education director. After serving as the assistant director of education at Carnegie Hall and as the director of training for the New York City School Volunteer Program (now Learning Leaders), she entered the world of Jewish not-for-profits as the director of youth volunteer services at DOROT. Inspired by her participation at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, she took a single cantorial class at the Academy for Jewish Religion. Six years later, she was ordained as a chazan. She has served as cantor to congregations in Torrington, CT; Nyack, NY; Oakhurst, NJ; and Nashville, TN.



Cantor Marcia Lane

Cantor Marcia Lane is excited about the projects she'll be taking on in her new position: "I will see everyone from preschoolers (PJ Library), to teens (Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps), to seniors (Life Enhancement Classes), and everyone in between! Shabbat Across Stamford, Yom Hashoah, Tapestry. These are all programs that I will be helping to make happen!" Cantor Lane can be reached at Marcia@ujf.org or 203-321-1373, ext. 104.

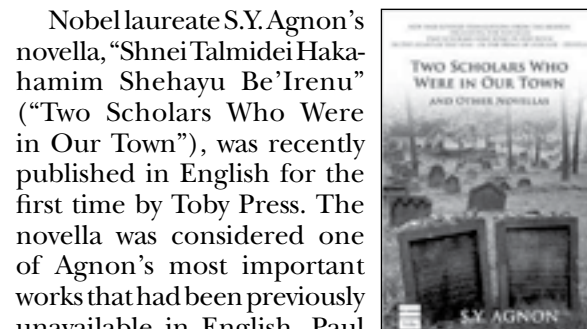
Suffering Continued from page 3

on relieving suffering and achieving the best possible quality of life for patients and their families. The expected outcome may not be a cure, but relief from distressing symptoms, the easing of pain and enhancing the quality of life. It is not the equivalent of hospice care. It can be offered simultaneously with life-prolonging curative therapies for patients living with serious illness. It can help patients and their families face difficult choices, assuring that comfort will be a priority and values and decisions will be respected. The role of palliative care is to find the right balance between cure and care. Care addresses the impact that disease may have physiologically, psychologically and spiritually. Palliative care is not about giving up hope or ceasing to find a cure for illness, but about embracing life. The community is invited to attend the presentation free of charge. For further information on TBE or its programs, contact Steven Lander, executive director, at excedir@tbe.org or call 203-322-6901, ext.304.

Super Continued from page 1

contents of the cans will be counted and the class raising the most money will win a pizza party as an award. Teens are encouraged to attend the Super Sunday event as well and will be invited to join friends in the JCC Teen Room where they will make fund-raising calls, while enjoying pizza and gaining the satisfaction of knowing that they are contributing to the Jewish community. Just like during the real Super Bowl, everyone will have the opportunity to view some unique commercials. As part of the Super Sunday event, recipient agencies were asked to submit original 30-60-second commercials highlighting their organizations. The scheduled "half-time show" will provide an opportunity for everyone to view the commercials, vote on their favorites so that winners will be identified. And the winners will, of course, be provided monetary awards. Additionally, the half-

A Labor of Love
New Translation of Israeli Nobel Laureate's Work



The cover of S.Y. Agnon's novella "Two Scholars Who Were in Our Town" is shown. The book is a translation of his work by Rabbi Jeffrey Saks and Toby Press.

Nobel laureate S.Y. Agnon's novella, "Shnei Talmidei Hakhamim Shehayu Be'Irenu" ("Two Scholars Who Were in Our Town"), was recently published in English for the first time by Toby Press. The novella was considered one of Agnon's most important works that had been previously unavailable in English. Paul Bashan and Rhonna Rogol, both active in the Stamford Jewish community, translated the story and prepared the annotations together with the volume's editor, Rabbi Jeffrey Saks, director of the ATID Academy for Torah Initiatives and Directions in Jerusalem. Their collaboration as translators was initiated by Rogol, with the encouragement of Professor Nehama Aschkenasy of the University of Connecticut, while they were discussing the story's talmudic underpinnings and its influence on the Oscar nominated Israeli film "Footnote." "I'm still amazed that something that started just for my own personal fulfillment turned into an opportunity to make one of Agnon's most important stories accessible to English speakers all over the world. Not only does the story immerse the reader in the rich European Jewish life that Agnon strove to preserve, but it invites the reader to examine modern dilemmas through a new lens," said Rogol. As explained by Rabbi Saks, in his preface, "The narrator waxes nostal-

gic - even elegiac - for a time when 'Torah was beloved by Israel and the entire glory of a man was Torah, [when] our town was privileged to be counted among the most notable towns in the land on account of its scholars.' And yet, as the plot unwinds and insults are traded in the beit midrash... [the reader is led] to the tragic denouement. And here we see Agnon's power as a tragedian on an almost Greek scale. With his typical irony at work, the narrator pines for an earlier, more ideal time which turns out to have been rife with

flaws and tragic personalities of its own. This draws the reader to question - was it always ever thus?" Bashan and Rogol presented a session at Tapestry on November 22, exploring the story's tragic plot and ironies, and Agnon's mixture of nostalgia and condemnation. They also shared the journey that brought them to undertaking and completing this project, and the challenges that Agnon's translators faced due to the richness, nuance and idiosyncrasies of his language. Toby Press recently contracted the two translators to do an English rendition of Agnon's novella "With Our Young and With Our Old," a political satire that centers on the activities of the young Zionists in Shibush, the literary correlative of Agnon's hometown of Buczacz.

Communities Team Up to Assist Kosher Food Pantry

BY LYDIA FAN AND LYNN SALTZ

This Thanksgiving, children from Greenwich and Stamford worked together across communities to create Thanksgiving food baskets for people experiencing financial difficulties. Greenwich children in grades kindergarten-two got out their measuring spoons to create rainbow bean soup jars as part of the Sunday Funday program at Jewish Community Center Greenwich. The jars were donated to the Kosher Food Pantry at Jewish Family Service of Stamford and were subsequently organized into Thanksgiving food baskets by third-sixth-graders from Chai 5 Mitzvah Club of Chabad House, Stamford.

Leah Schechter, assistant director of JCC Greenwich, said, "It is a wonderful

thing to be a part of helping our kids learn that even though they are young, they can make an incredible difference in the lives of others." Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford, said, "Our Mitzvah Club collected food and then partnered with JFS to prepare the Thanksgiving bags. What a fun surprise to find one of the items being put in had been prepared by another kids group! We truly felt like a community coming together from all sides to do good for others!" Both the Sunday Funday program at JCC Greenwich and the Chai 5 Mitzvah Club at Chabad of Stamford meet monthly to provide hands-on experiential learning programs infused with the values of giving and doing for others. See Pantry" on page 14



A group of children from Chabad Chai Five Mitzvah Club visited Jewish Family Service to help organize bags of food to distribute to those in the community who are in need. Top row (l-r): Maury Rosenbaum, Chabad of Stamford; Leah Shemtov, Chabad of Stamford and Rebekah Kanefsky, JFS case manager.



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: Liz and Alex Dancho on the birth of a son, Maxwell Henry Dancho; grandparents are Carole Brafman and Mike Sharpe.

Anna and Paul Felix on the birth of a son.

Natalie and Jon Gordon on the birth of a son; grandparents are Bach-Yen and Alan Garner.

Leah and Greg Miller on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are Flossy and Sam Fischel, and Charlotte and Alan Miller; great-grandmother is Guta Fischel.

Lauren (Wexler) Hazony and Dan Hazony on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are Nurit and Mark Wexler and Ruth and Yehonathan Hazony of Newton, MA; great-grandparents are Debbie and Ben-Zion Soifer.

Judy and Bob Raymond on the birth of a grandson.

Melissa and Andy Rosen on the birth of a son, Ezra Ian Rosen; grandparents are Arlene and Carl Rosen.

Amanda and Scott Strother on the birth of a son, Asher Warren Strother; grandparents are Cindy and Steven Warren.

Shira and Jon Waldstreicher on the birth of a son; grandparents are Sandi and Stuart Waldstreicher.

Rivka and Yosef Wolf on the birth of a daughter.

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.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES table with columns for date and time.

Reading Partners advertisement with checkboxes for 'Do you LOVE to read?', 'Do you LOVE to be around children?', and 'Are you looking for a WAY to contribute?'. Includes logo for United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

Bi-Cultural Day School advertisement featuring a photo of children and text: 'Every student matters. Every moment counts. Our hopes. Our dreams. Our future. Embracing children from all Jewish backgrounds in grades Pre-K through 8.' Includes contact information for Joanne Karow.

UJF Kicks Off Super Sunday Season

On December 7, the Greater Stamford Jewish community joined together to kick off the United Jewish Federation's Super Sunday season at a Tail Gate Event at the Stamford Jewish Community Center. There were activities for the whole family and the first chili cook-off contest was held. The event's goal was to bring awareness and attention to Super Sunday and the agencies UJF supports. Super Sunday will be held this year on February 1 at the Stamford JCC.

Families had the opportunity to visit and learn about 10 local agencies that UJF supports in the Greater Stamford area. Attendees were given tailgating scorecards and, after visiting each agency, they could enter a raffle for a chance to win movie tickets and popcorn. UJF congratulates Remi Rosenberg for completing his scorecard and winning the raffle. It also offers thanks to the State Theater for donating the prize. Other activities included children's crafts and games, as well as a competition for prizes in field goal kicks and football tire throwing.

A chili cook-off contest provided attendees with the chance to taste area kosher restaurants and caterers' best tailgate fare. Winners were as follows: Best Overall Chili – Main Event; Boldest Flavor – Six Thirteen; and Best Non-chili – Navaratna. UJF thanks Joseph Craig, Abel Caterers, Beth Torah Caterers and Mike's Center for also participating.

In addition, UJF thanks to Lael and Dani Shapiro for chairing the event, to Super Sunday Chairs Lisa and



United Jewish Federation CEO James Cohen and Jewish Family Service CEO Matt Greenberg in front of JFS display.

Jeff Manheim and to the many volunteers who made it a successful and fun-filled day. The community had an interactive opportunity to learn about some of the agencies and schools that United Jewish Federation supports and how the community is "Better Together."

For more information about UJF or Super Sunday, or to learn how to volunteer on February 1, contact Dana Horowitz at dana@ujf.org or Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.



Peter Wolly and event Co-chair Lael Shapiro



Jewish Student Connection

Women..... Continued from page 1

and give back at a time when they feel they can most contribute. "Chapter Two" is geared to women who are empty nesters, retirees or generally those who have more flexibility than before – a group that has the life experience, time and desire to focus on what the community needs and the ability to obtain results as effectively as possible."

The program will occur once a month and consist of four agency tours/volunteer projects, four book club events and four mini-missions throughout the year.

Co-chaired by Sari Jaffe and Susan Frieden, the main focus of the program is the volunteering experiences in which women will participate. These opportunities will be coordinated in conjunction with the agencies. Women in the group will meet with the heads of agencies and learn how the agencies benefit from a relationship with Federation.

The second phase of the program will be a book club event, focused on Jewish-themed books. Hosted in a private home, the more intimate setting is designed to encourage greater interaction of the participants. Additionally, the goal is to invite the book's author to attend as leader and speaker at the event.

The third piece of the program will be mini-missions to exhibits, museums and places of Jewish importance. The advantage of being in close prox-

imity to New York City will afford the group the opportunities to explore numerous Jewish museums and historically significant Jewish communities in the surrounding areas.

As Sari Jaffe said, "We came back from the September 2014 International Lion of Judah Conference and were very inspired. The nine Stamford participants really bonded. Sue Frieden and I felt that this feeling, sense of involvement, interconnection with a group of women and increased knowledge could be something that occurs throughout the year in our community through our Federation. We feel confident that the "Chapter Two" program will fulfill these goals."

For more information about the "Chapter Two: Women Who Can" program, contact Avidan Pell at 203-321-1373, ext. 112.



Grinspoon Awards
for Excellence in Jewish Education

The 2015 Grinspoon Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education is now accepting nominations. These awards are designed to honor outstanding Jewish educators. Over the past 15 years, we have honored over 700 exceptional educators in more than 78 communities across North America.

To read more about the awards program, and to download the application and the criteria, go to: <http://www.hgf.org/What-We-Do/Programs-and-Resources/Recognition/GrinspoonSteinhardt-National-Awards.aspx>

The deadline to submit nominee applications is **March 11, 2015**. For more information, contact Cantor Marcia Lane: Marcia@UJF.org

"Innovation begins to occur when something about the teacher, the learner, the setting, or the curriculum intentionally changes. Successful innovations engage learners and result in evidence of learning."



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



Hayley Levine and Stephanie Bilenker



UJF Tailgate Party

More than 150 people attended UJF's Tailgate Party on December 7th. Part of the festivities included a Chili Cook-off sponsored by local kosher restaurants and caterers.

AND the winners of the Chili Cook-off are...

Best Overall Chili—**MAIN EVENT**
Boldest Flavored Chili—**SIX THIRTEEN**
Non-Chili Chili—**NAVARATNA**

Congratulations to all who participated.

From Civil War to Civil Rights Through Southern Jewish Eyes

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

Nationally-known public speaker, raconteur and author Michael H. Rubín will speak about his first novel, a legal thriller named "The Cottoncrest Curse," as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's February Featured Program. According to Donna Meredith in her review on the Southern Literary Review's website, the novel



Michael H. Rubin

the novel also takes readers from the period after the Civil War to the 1960s. The program, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Sunday, February 22, at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford, starting at 1:30 pm with refreshments at 1 pm.

"The Cottoncrest Curse" tells the story of Jake Gold, loosely based on Rubin's great-grandfather, a Russian immigrant who left home at age 12, came to America and started earning a living as a travelling peddler. The novel opens with the apparent murder-suicide of

Augustine and Rebecca Chastain at Cottoncrest Plantation in 1893. Sheriff Raifer Jackson thinks it was a double murder, and Jake Gold is his leading suspect in the deaths. One of the major themes of the story is how Southern justice was carried out for plantation owners and for the descendants of slaves. Through the characters, settings and plot, Rubin demonstrates his knowledge of Louisiana during Reconstruction and in the 1960s, considered two intense and dramatic eras of American history. The Chicago Bar Association Record states that, "Rubin has struck gold in his debut novel."

Rubin, a full-time practicing lawyer, is one of the managing partners of

the multi-state law firm of McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC. He leads the firm's appellate practice team. In addition, he is an adjunct professor at three of Louisiana's four law schools, where he teaches courses in ethics, real estate and finance. Rubin has produced many legal papers, which have been recognized as authoritative by state and federal courts, and have been used in law schools around the country. He has received national awards for his legal writing from the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice and the Burton Foundation.

According to Fred Goldstein, Rubin's uncle who is also a Louisiana native now living in Stamford, "Michael is an excellent

See "Rights" on page 20

Terrorism Experts Address Crowd at UConn-Stamford

Dr. Bruce Hoffman of Georgetown University and Dr. Michael Rubín of the American Enterprise Institute addressed a packed auditorium at the fall 2014 Louis J. Kuriansky Annual Conference, hosted by the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford. A record crowd of nearly 300 people were in attendance to hear the experts' lectures on the topic of "The Dangerous Neighborhood of the Middle East." Hoffman, a leading expert on Al Qaida, discussed the reasons for the proliferation of ISIS, not just in the Middle East, but in African nations. Rubín, a leading expert on Iran, asserted that any strategies aimed at mollifying Iran and other rogue countries would inevitably

end in failure and frustration. The evening culminated in a question-and-answer session moderated by Dr. Jeremy Pressman, director of Middle East Studies and Professor of Political Science at UConn.

The 2014 Louis J. Kuriansky Annual Conference is made possible through the generosity of the Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation. The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies is supported by donations from the community and is a recipient agency of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

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



L-r: Ed Backer and Sary Backer, Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation trustees; Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, professor and Center director; Dr. Michael Rubin; Dr. Bruce Hoffman; and Dr. Jeremy Pressman.

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For more information or to register, please contact O-la-mi Director Emily Eisen at eisen@stamfordjcc.org or 203-487-0973.

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Stamford, CT 06905 | 203-322-7900 | stamfordjcc.org

The JCC is a recipient agency of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan & Darien, and the United Way of Western Connecticut.

Camp Scholarships Available from JFS this Year

BY LYNN SALTZ

Applications for the Jewish Family Service-Ben and Joan Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Program for summer 2015 are now available. The deadline for completed applications is Friday, March 27.

While there has been some improvement in these economic times, tightened budgets may still dictate families' priorities, and JFS understands that many households are finding they have only limited funds to send their children to a Jewish summer camp program. Through the JFS camp scholarship program, financial assistance is available for eligible families from the Greater Stamford, Darien, New Canaan, Westport, Weston, Wilton and Norwalk area who are searching for Jewish summer experiences for their children.

The Ben and Joan Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Fund, established for this purpose, provides the funding for the program. The Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation and the United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien provide assistance as well, all increasing the number of scholarships JFS is able to award. Other charitable individuals, who understand the impact of this Jewish experience, have also contributed to the camp scholarship program. As a result of their generosity, more than 50 children were able to attend Jewish summer camp last year.

It is well-documented that attendance at Jewish camps helps to strengthen youngsters' Jewish identities and involvement in Jewish communities, now and into the future. To quote one of JFS' grateful

recipients, "Thank you ever so much for helping me return to the greatest place on earth... My camp journey this year helped me become more proud of my Jewish heritage. Thank you for all you have done for me."

For those interested in applying, your child or children must be entering first grade or above in September 2015, plan to attend a Jewish day or sleep-away camp, and the family must demonstrate financial need. To obtain an application for the Jewish Family Service - Ben and Joan Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Program for the coming summer, call Maria McNulty in the JFS office at 203-921-4161. All information is kept strictly confidential.

Anyone wishing to help support the Camp Scholarship Program should contact Matt Greenberg, executive director, at 203-921-4161 or e-mail mgreenberg@ctjfs.org.

Lynn Saltz is the JFS marketing and communications coordinator.

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

Wine, Cheese and Chocolate

An Enlightening and Enlivening Tu B'Shevat Experience

BY RABBI JAY TELRAV AND CANTOR MICAH MORGOVSKY

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th of Shevat, is also called "Rosh Hashanah La'Ilanot," or the "New Year of the Trees." This Jewish Arbor Day is named in the Mishnah as one of the four new years of the Jewish calendar. Originally celebrated as an agricultural festival marking the emergence of spring, today Tu B'Shevat is a celebration commemorated by Jews worldwide as an environmental holiday with an added element of spiritual awakening. In the 16th century, the mystical Kabbalists developed a ritual for Tu B'Shevat based on the Passover seder. Rabbi Isaac Luria of S'fat and his disciples instituted this festive meal in which eating fruits and drinking four cups of wine could bring human beings, and the world, closer to spiritual perfection.

This year, inspired by the Kabbalists' creativity, Rabbi Jay TelRav and Cantor Micah Morgovsky of Temple Sinai in Stamford have re-envisioned the Tu B'Shevat seder for Jews today. On Tuesday, February 3, Temple Sinai will host a Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Tu B'Shevat seder; an event that aims to bring all in attendance closer to spiritual, as well as spirited, perfection.

Why wine, cheese and chocolate?

Wine plays an integral role in almost every aspect of Jewish life and ritual observance. It is considered a holy drink - the only liquid drink that, before



Rabbi Jay TelRav and Cantor Micah Morgovsky (Photo by Crane Song Photography)

consuming, has its own blessing. Wine is meant to inspire and comfort, to lend dignity and importance to an occasion, and to elevate any event to a higher spiritual level. At Temple Sinai's Tu B'Shevat seder, four varieties of wine will be enjoyed, just as the mystics instructed.

Similarly, chocolate - the fermented, roasted and ground beans of the cacao tree - was believed by the Aztecs to be a gift of Quetzalcoatl, the God of wisdom. Originally prepared as a beverage, chocolate was believed to give the drinker strength. At Temple Sinai's Tu B'Shevat celebration, chocolate will be enjoyed as a delicacy and for the sheer pleasure of the

See "Chocolate" on page 14

YLD Sushi Holiday Social

BY PETER WOLLY

On December 2, the Young Leadership Division of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien hosted a holiday social event at Soosh in Stamford. The event was attended by a crowd of about 50, who enjoyed sushi, drinks and the atmosphere at the recently opened kosher sushi restaurant. The event was co-chaired by YLD board members Taly Farber and Peter Wolly.

Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz, a member of the local community and the co-chair of National Young Leadership of The Jewish Federations of North America, spoke to the crowd about her mission experience in Russia. The event generated a plethora of toys that were donated to David's Treasure Tree toy closet in the pediatric ward at Stamford Hospital.



Co-chairs Taly Farber and Peter Wolly



Ari Yasgur, Jenn Kruzansky and Loren Steinfeldt



Amy Gettler and Devra Jaffe Berkowitz

Tapestry: A Community Celebration of Adult Jewish Learning



Rabbi Ron Fish, of Congregation Beth El in Norwalk, taught a class.



At left: Cantor Magda Fishman and Cantor Micah Morgovsky at Havdalah.



Tapestry Co-chair Adam Batkin with Paula Snyder



Dr. Kareem Adeeb, of the American Institute for Islamic and Arabic Studies, taught "The Need for Spirituality."




Tapestry co-chairs Rhonda Ginsberg (left) and Carol Lilienthal (right), with UJF Education Vice President Ricky Arbron (center).



At right: Attendees Jack Goldberg, Debby Goldberg and Marsha Collen.



Tapestry participants enjoyed dessert.




JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS
www.pjlibrary.org

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


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

HOW? Signing up is easy! To sign up for PJ Library, visit www.pjlibrary.org or email sandy@ujif.org

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



Sammi Bradley was librarian for a day at Bi-Cultural Day School and chose one of PJ Library books "Hoppy Hanukkah" to read to the Kindergarten class.



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The National Yiddish Theatre - Folksbiene presents

PROGRAM IS CO-SPONSORED BY
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FROM ROSENFELD TO ROBESON
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After an extraordinary debut at the Singer Festival in Warsaw, Poland, Broadway and international opera star, Elmore James and Artistic Director of the National Yiddish Theater - Folksbeine, Zalmen Mlotek take you on a musical journey through the repertoire of Paul Robeson, the great African-American singer, actor and civil-rights activist.

Together, they explore the pathos inherent in love ballads, songs of the sweatshop and slavery, and melodies of spirituality, protest and hope. With inspiring interpretations, this new concert breathes fresh life into songs of revolutionary poets and Holocaust-era partisans, classic Yiddish songs and Broadway favorites.

Concert will be held at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT. For more information, visit nationallyiddishtheatre.org or call Temple office at 203.322.6901.

Presented free of charge to the community by the Holocaust Memorial Committee and the UJF Levy Romanowitz fund, as a tribute to Hesh Romanowitz.



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Come join hundreds of participants as we raise money for the Stamford Jewish community and Jewish people worldwide.



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February 1, 2015
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SUPER SUNDAY



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Half Time Show:
What's the best part of the Superbowl?
The commercials!
We will be viewing the entries of our UJF Agency Commercial Contest, Find out who wins!



Children's Programming:
Mitzvah Day events include Tzedakah Coin Project, PJ Library, Face Painting, Clowns, Popcorn and More!

Curious George Illustrator Delights Gan Yeladim



The Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center PTA held a communitywide event on December 11 in which Curious George illustrator, Mary O'Keefe Young, was welcomed to the school. Co-director of Chabad of Stamford, Morah Leah Shemtov, read from "Happy Hanukkah, Curious George" (at left) while Young drew George before the children's very eyes (at right). After the reading, the children had an opportunity to ask Young to draw pictures of George and Chanukah. The evening included dinner and time to play and socialize for kids and adults alike.



Community Chanukah Celebration



On the eve of the sixth night of Chanukah, more than 650 people from all over Stamford gathered together at Rippowam Middle School to celebrate Chanukah. The afternoon started off with tables of Chanukah crafts, activities, food and games. Children from Bi-Cultural Day School and Carmel Academy performed Chanukah songs, and a short video featuring the Sara Walker and Gan Yeladim preschools was shown. The 8th Day Band rounded out the festivities with a concert that organizers said "rocked the house, and had old and young literally jumping in their seats!"



Shmutive Marcus of the 8th Day Band danced with Rabbi Moshe Shemtov of Chabad of Stamford and Dovie Zucker.

Chocolate. Continued from page 10

taste sensations. Dark and milk chocolate, chocolate dipped strawberries and various nuts and dried fruit encased in chocolate will reflect the Kabbalists' use of fruits with pits and rinds, and serve as a reminder of the kabbalistic spiritual journey through the various levels of Four Worlds Judaism.

And finally, cheese. The earliest evidence of cheese making dates back to 5,500 B.C.E. in Poland, where shards of pottery pierced with holes are hypothesized

to be cheese strainers. Today's artisans have elevated the craft to such a level that Divinity can be seen in their creations. Rabbi TelRav and Cantor Morgovsky will use this third element of the triumvirate to complete the Tu B'Shevat seder ritual, including goat's milk, stinky and wine-soaked cheeses.

The event is open to the public, but RSVPs are required. Contact Temple Sinai's office at 203-322-1649 for more information.

Cantors' Concert at Bi-Cultural

On November 20 at Bi-Cultural, students in the early childhood school enjoyed a three-part cantors' concert. Cantor Uriel Catton from The Conservative Synagogue of Westport, Weston and Wilton, Cantor Asa Fradkin from Temple Sholom in Greenwich and Cantor Magda Fishman from Temple Beth El in Stamford joined Bi-Cultural's musical director, Jonathan Cahr, to provide a morning of song, dance and musical education. Each cantor showcased their own musical style and explained the meaning behind each selection they performed.

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



Cantor Uriel Catton, Cantor Asa Fradkin, Cantor Magda Fishman and Jonathan Cahr performed for the early childhood school at BCDS. (Photo by Dora Salm)

Pantry. Continued from page 7

JFS Kosher Food Pantry accepts donations to help those who need assistance with food, gas, pharmacy or supermarket cards. To donate to the Food Pantry, contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

JCC Greenwich provides programming for children and adults. Families interested in JCC Greenwich programs may contact Schechter at 203-552-1818 or Leah@jccgreenwich.org. For more information, visit jccgreenwich.org.

To learn more about the Chai 5 Mitzvah Club at Chabad of Stamford, visit chabadstamford.org or contact Shemtov at 203-3CHABAD, ext. 418, or morahleah@chabadstamford.org

Lydia Fan is the JCC Greenwich communications marketing manager and Lynn Saltz is the JFS marketing and communications coordinator.

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



Group leaders helped the children prepare the rainbow soup bean jars at the Greenwich Jewish Community Center Sunday Funday. The jars were donated to the Jewish Family Service Kosher Food Pantry.

FAMILY CENTRAL

February & March 2015

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

- Annual Purim Bash at Chabad House**
Open to All. Wednesday, Mar. 4 at Chabad House Stamford, 770 High Ridge Rd., Stamford, CT. Megillah Reading at 6:15pm followed by Purim festivities for the entire family! Entertainment, music, food and more! Music, dancing, dress up and get a prize, special kids megillah reading with interactive additions!
- JCC Purim Carnival**
Sunday, Feb. 22 from 1-4pm. Circus performances, games, food and prizes. Admission is free. Tickets and bracelets available for purchase. Volunteers needed. For more information, contact Harrison Peck at 203-487-0970 or hpeck@stamfordjcc.org.
- Limmud NY**
Friday - Monday, Feb. 13-16 at Stamford Hilton Hotel & Executive Meeting Center. Celebrate the rich diversity of Jewish culture, life and learning through art, music, text study, film, hands-on workshops, performances and more. Programming for the whole family including babysitting and Camp Ramah at Limmud NY. All meals are glatt kosher. Financial aid and student pricing available. Register now at www.limmudny.org.
- Shabbat Across Stamford - community event**
Friday, Mar. 13. Stamford Jewish community will come together at Rippowam Middle School to celebrate Shabbat with prayer, a traditional Shabbat dinner and the opportunity to learn with Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. Save the date!! For more information, contact Marcia Lane at (203) 321-1373 ext. 104 or Marcia@ujf.org.
- Shabbat Your Way... We've got something for everyone**
Friday, Feb. 27 at 6:30pm at Temple Sinai. Come for Shabbat dinner and then decide among: Neshama Yoga with Jackie Tepper; A Knitters' Group; A ZenTangle Workshop; Hangout time in the youth lounge (if you're a teen); Watching a kid-friendly movie with popcorn (for kids and kids-at-heart); Beer and Darts (seriously!); Shabbat Worship Services. RSVP for dinner to Temple office by Feb. 21. \$10.00 per adults (13+); \$5.00 per child (5-12); and children 5 and under are free

GRADES K-8

- 4th Annual Havdalah & Hoops Tournament at The J**
Grades 6-12. Saturday, March 7 at 6:30 pm. Father and son 3-on-3 basketball tournament. For more information, contact Mo Concepcion at 203-487-0971 or mconcepcion@stamfordjcc.org. \$18 per person.
- Bat Mitzvah Club & BMC Beyond**
For Bat Mitzvah aged girls. Sunday, Feb. 8; Mar 22 from 6:00-7:30 pm at Chabad. Bat Mitzvah coming up? Caught up with the theme, clothing and party favors but clueless about the meaning. Do you think a Bat Mitzvah ends or begins with your party? Did you already celebrate your Bat Mitzvah and are wondering "what now?" Then this club is for you!
- BBYO**
For Grades 8-12. Every 2nd Monday from 7:00-9:00 pm at The J. For further information, please contact BBYO Regional Office (203) 389-2127 or CVR@bbyo.org www.cvrbbyo.net. Leviticus AZA (Boys) & Tikvah BGG (Girls). Teens engaged in opportunities for leadership, athletic, social and community service.
- CKC - Chabad Kids Club**
Grades K-6. Wednesdays, Feb. 4, 11, 25 from 4-6 pm at Chabad. Incorporating POGS, Chai 5, Hebrew School and Aleph Bet. Hands on Chesed Club, science and cooking, weekly Torah Portion, snacks, aleph bet and Hebrew reading. Judaic homework help included - plus one-on-one tutoring option available.
- JCC Matzvah Ball 'Pretty in Pink'**
Ages 4-10. Saturday, Feb. 7 from 6:30-8 pm at The J. Fathers and daughters will dance and play games. For further information, contact Galit Roloff at 203-487-0974 or groloff@stamfordjcc.org. Fee: JCC Members: \$36 per couple (\$5 each additional child) and JCC non-members: \$45 per couple (\$5 each additional child).
- JCC Supper and Song - Purim Party with Amy Rogel**
See description under Birth through Preschool.

BIRTH through PRESCHOOL

- Babies and Babble at the JCC**
Birth - 2 years with parents or caregivers. Monthly playgroup on Fridays from 3:30-4:30pm. To register, call the JCC welcome desk at 203-322-7900. For further information, contact Galit Roloff at 203-487-0974 or groloff@stamfordjcc.org or Dana Drazin-Polikoff at Babiesandbabble@yahoo.com. Fee: \$18 for JCC Members; \$25 for non-members.
- Got Shabbat! Tiny Treasures Mommy & Me**
Birth to 30 months. Fridays from Feb. 6 at 10-10:45am at Chabad. Bring your little one to feel, taste, touch, see and experience a hands-on Shabbat celebration. Caregivers welcome. Fee: \$15 per class (first timers FREE).
- JCC Supper and Song - Purim Party with Amy Rogel**
Ages 1-8 with parents or caregiver (no charge for children 6 months and younger). Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 5:30-6:30pm. Sing along, sup along in a concert tailored to young children. Pizza and a Purim dessert for children and adults. For further information, contact Galit Roloff at 203-487-0974 or groloff@stamfordjcc.org. Fee: \$9 per person for JCC Members and \$12 per person for non-members (if registered before Feb 18. Beginning February 19, \$11 for JCC Members and \$14 for non-members.
- Movin' and Groovin' at the JCC**
12 - 30 months, with parent or caregiver. Tuesdays through Mar. 24 (no class 2/17) from 10am-10:45am. Children will swing, spin, jump, stretch, leap, roll and climb. Rhythm, music and song aid in the development of fine and gross motor skills, listening and social skills while playing and learning. Fee: \$209 for JCC Members; \$253 for non-members (11 sessions).
- Music and Movement**
For children birth - 30 months. For toddlers. Wednesdays, Feb. 11, 25; Mar 11, 25 from 1:30-2:10pm at Bi-Cultural Day School with Jonathan Cahr and Rachel Bahar. For more information, contact Joanne Karow, 203-329-2186 x1310 or jkarow@bcds.org. Music, movement, nursery rhymes, dramatization and folk song. Join in whenever you can. FREE.
- Music Together at the JCC**
Birth - 5 years with parent or caregiver. Music education program that nurtures children's natural enthusiasm for music and movement. To register, contact Music Together of Fairfield County at 203-256-1656.
- Wonderful Ones**
Ages 1-2 years old with parents or caregiver. Thursdays through Apr 2 from 9:15-10:15am at the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School located at Temple Sinai. Led by Sandi Waldstreicher. Children get a social, classroom experience including free play, art projects, stories, songs; parents benefit from parenting tips and discussions. Fee: \$195 for JCC Members; \$234 for non-members (13 sessions).

GRADES 9-12

- BBYO**
For Grades 8-12. Every 2nd Monday from 7:00-9:00 pm at The J. For further information, please contact BBYO Regional Office (203) 389-2127 or CVR@bbyo.org www.cvrbbyo.net. Leviticus AZA (Boys) & Tikvah BGG (Girls). Teens engaged in opportunities for leadership, athletic, social and community service.
- FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**
For volunteers in Grades 9-12 at Chabad
• At Home: Every week, pairs of teen volunteers visit special needs children in their homes offering friendship and unconditional support.
• Children's/Teen Circle: 15 Sundays through the year. Volunteer to work with special needs children under the guidance of professionals. Activities include art, music, cooking & sports.
• Special Events: Throughout the year for Friendship Circle volunteers and children and families they support.
For further information: Malya Shmotkin at 203-329-0015 #414, Malya@friendshipct.com or www.friendshipct.com
- Jewish Student Connection**
For Grades 9 - 12. Tuesdays at 2:15 pm at Stamford High School. or Thursdays at 2:15 pm at Westhill High School. For further information on either Tuesday or Thursday, contact rebecca@myjcc.org
- BBYO**
For Grades 8-12. Every 2nd Monday from 7:00-9:00 pm at The J. For further information, please contact BBYO Regional Office (203) 389-2127 or CVR@bbyo.org www.cvrbbyo.net. Leviticus AZA (Boys) & Tikvah BGG (Girls). Teens engaged in opportunities for leadership, athletic, social and community service.
- Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps**
For Grade 10. Meets once a month on Sundays: Feb 22; Mar 22 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at The J. For further information or to nominate a teen, contact 203-321-1373. Come together to learn about philanthropy, leadership, the importance of community, and work together to make our community, Israel and the world a better place. The group will create a mission statement and allocate funds to a non-profit of their choosing based on that mission statement.
- Speak Up for Israel**
Sundays, Feb 22; Mar 22 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at The J. For further information or to nominate a teen, contact Or Berger, JCC Israeli Shaliach at 203-487-0961. For grades 11 and 12. Israel gets a bad rap, especially on college campuses. Join an elite group of high school juniors and seniors and learn from experts in the field, how to respond and take action. Students enrolled will attend the AIPAC Policy Conference in March. Spaces are limited. A partnership between the JCC and UJF.

SHABBAT

- Ruach Services at Temple Sinai**
Friday, Feb. 20. For further information, contact Temple Sinai office, 203-322-1649. Ruach means spirit. All musical services are energetic & informal. Open to the community.
- Tot Shabbat at Temple Sinai**
Birth - 7 years old Friday, Feb. 13 at 5:00 pm or Saturday, Mar 14 at 9:00 am. Fee: Free. For further information, contact Temple Sinai office. Open to the community. Dancing, singing, praying and playing. Led by Rabbi TelRav and Cantor Morgovsky.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS): 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 329-2186 • www.bcds.org
- CHABAD: 770 High Ridge Rd., Stamford • 203-3-CHABAD #418 • Leah Shemtov: morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org
- JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J): 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org
- JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS): 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203) 921-4161 • www.ctjfs.org
- TEMPLE BETH EL (TBE): 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203) 322-6401 #306 • education@tbe.org • www.tbe.org
- TEMPLE SINAI (TS): 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203) 322-1649 • www.templestamford.org
- UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF): 1035 Newfield Ave., Suite 200, Stamford • (203) 321-1373 • www.ujf.org



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Open for Business

UJF Inaugural Rothschild Event

On December 3, the United Jewish Federation's new business affinity group, The Rothschild Society, held its premier event. People from all walks of the business world met to network, socialize and dine on sushi from Stamford's newest kosher restaurant, Soosh. Those attending had the opportunity to hear Professor Edi Pinker, of the Yale School of Management, give a talk on Israeli businesses and innovative inventions.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to meet with other Jewish business professionals in the Stamford area and make connections that are usually not available

to you," said Janet Welkovich, chair of the event. Based on the success and positive feedback on the evening, a future event will be planned for Spring 2015. The Society will continue to provide educational, leadership and networking opportunities with the objective of benefiting both the local and global Jewish communities.

The event was sponsored by Nahum Daniels of Nahum Daniels, LLC and by Myrna Sessa of HR Innovations. To learn more about the Rothschild Society or to get involved, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or 203-321-1373, ext. 109.

At right: Miriam Pell, Caren Ferster-Borowski and Christine Bloom



Caryn Halbrecht and Michele Piskin



At left, l-r: Dean Schuckman, Sandy Weiner, Nahum Daniels and Joe Zalis.

Carmel Students Win STEM Competition

BY JULIE LAPIN

A team of Carmel Academy's sixth grade students captured first place in a national STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) competition for gifted math and science students. Carmel Academy's E2K team answered every question correctly for the first place trophy.

E2K, the acronym for Excellence

2000, is an enrichment program developed in Israel that encourages advanced students to use logic, analysis, creativity and teamwork to approach math and science. The Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education, which runs the E2K and other STEM-based programs in the United States, organizes national and international virtual contests throughout the year. Teams compete

in real-time, using the Internet.

Carmel Academy's 14-member sixth grade E2K team studied high school chemistry concepts to prepare for the contest, which explored the phases of matter and transitions from one phase to another. Concepts included sublimation (going directly from solid to gas) and deposition (going directly from gas to solid), said Rhonda Ginsberg, Carmel Academy's E2K Coach and Middle School science teacher.

During the two-hour competition, the students performed three experiments, observed results and answered questions based on the experiments. The sixth-graders performed so well that the contest organizers asked them to further explain four of their answers to the competitor schools, Ginsberg said. "I am so proud of our E2K students," said Ginsberg. "They voluntarily spent much of their free time preparing for the competition, and they did so because they were excited to learn. Their enthusiasm is truly contagious."

"The CIJE E2K virtual activities foster a healthy sense of competition in an exciting and unique way," said Linda Goldberg, the CIJE math and science coordinator. "We congratulate Carmel

for their first place finish and all participants as they gained both knowledge and a sense of sportsmanship from this exciting and educational venue."

Carmel Academy was one of the first Jewish day schools in the country to implement E2K eight years ago, when it was invited by CIJE to pilot the program. Carmel Academy has been so successful with E2K, the school was tapped by CIJE to implement a SET3 Science, Engineering, Teamwork, Technology and Training enrichment program, as well as an eighth grade engineering program.

"It is our intention to continue to be in the forefront of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education," said Carmel Academy Head of School Nora Anderson. "At Carmel, we prepare our students to be leaders in our fast-paced, 21st century global economy. Starting from the earliest years, we offer cutting-edge curriculum, resources, facilities and tools so that our students have the learning experiences, the critical thinking skills and the foundation for future success in a competitive world."

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

Carnival Theme at Bi-Cultural's 2014 Auction

On November 16 at Temple Beth El in Stamford, the Bi-Cultural Day School community gathered to celebrate together and raise funds for the school at the annual BCDS Auction. With a carnival-inspired theme, the event included games, food and entertainment. As part of the activi-

ties, Alan Kalter, announcer for the "Late Show with David Letterman," moderated the live-auction portion of the evening, gathering bids and entertaining the crowd.

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



Auction committee: Jenny Fuchs (Parents Association co-president), Tara Shapiro (Parents Association co-president), Maria Reicin (Parents Association co-president), Robyn Winarsky (Auction chair) and Eve Nachman (director of development) gathered for a pre-event meeting on the night of the Bi-Cultural Day School Auction. (Photos by Lauren Frey)



Students from the eighth grade class helped with the evening's activities: Sophie Teitel, Michal Yaari, Mia Brenner and Isaac Schildkraut.



Jill Kaplan, Sue Yellen and Stacey Essensfeld posed for a picture at one of the carnival-themed photo booths.



Members of Carmel Academy's sixth grade E2K Team posed with their trophy after winning first place in a recent national STEM competition. Bottom row, l-r: Sara Goldstein, Daniel Kesler, Leah Brill, Daniel Mozer, Josh Ament and Noam Schuk. Top row: Rebecca Katz, Ezra Ament, Zachary Sturza, Jady Daniel, Hannah MacDonald, Racheli Milichen, Andrew Finkelstein and Doron Loewenberg.

Imagining a World Without Hate

Local Leaders Honored at Annual ADL Dinner

The Anti-Defamation League honored Carol and Peter Lilienthal at ADL's 2014 Daniel R. Ginsberg Humanitarian Award Reception on December 7.

The Lilienthals are both involved in education and outreach for the United Jewish Federation of Stamford,

New Canaan and Darien. They are also on the board of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, members of AIPAC and longtime supporters of ADL. Additionally, they are both mentors with the Starfish Connection Mentoring program.



Honorees Peter and Carol Lilienthal, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Honoree Judith Alter Kallman, ADL Connecticut Regional Director Gary Jones and Karyn Ginsberg Greenwald. (Photo by Harold Shapiro)

February & March 2015

SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

JFS DIVORCE & BEREAVEMENT

JFS Bereavement Support Group
Tuesdays at 11 am. Free of charge. For more information, contact Rosmarie Delia at 203-921-4161 or rdelia@ctjfs.org. 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.

JFS Divorce with Dignity - Avoid Adversarial Dissolution
For more information, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 x122 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org. Divorce mediation program at JFS Stamford.

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 Single Parent Support Group
at JFS Westport, 431 Post Road East. Fee: \$10/session or \$50/entire 6 sessions. For more information, contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org. Open to all single parents in an environment for support, friendship and the exchange of parenting techniques. Topics: scheduling, coping strategies, introducing new partners, extended family dynamics and emotional support. Please call or email to register to attend.

JFS 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 illocker@ctjfs.org.

JFS Life Transitions
Wednesdays at 11 am. For Information/Register: Rosemarie Delia 203-921-4161 or rdelia@ctjfs.org. Support group for the unemployed at Stamford JFS office. Discuss concerns and issues related to job loss and alternative solutions for career satisfaction. Supported by both JFS Counseling and Employment & Training Departments.

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

SUPPORT

Friendship Circle Program for Adults with Special Needs
Sunday, Mar. 1 from 1-4 pm at Chabad. To learn more about engaging in the Adult Chapter as a participant or volunteer, please contact Miriam Sperber at miriam@friendshipCT.com or 203-329-0015.

JCC Support for Blind and Visually Impaired Adults
Thursday, Mar. 19 from 1-2 pm at the Stamford JCC. For more info: Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org. Guest speaker on topics relevant to vision loss. JCC Reservations required. Free to all.

JFS 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 Community and Family Mediation Services
Use third party mediator to help families/individuals resolve conflict. Nominal fees - available on a sliding scale. Resolve conflicts such as unsatisfactory purchase or repair, landlord dispute, neighbor conflicts, issues with children, marital partners and divorce. For more information, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@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.

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

JFS CARING FOR SENIORS

JFS Caregiver Support Group
at JFS Westport, 431 Post Road E. Fee: \$10 per session. An open forum to provide support and help in dealing with the difficulties and stresses of caring for two generations. For more information or to register, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 or Email: emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.

JFS Counseling At-Home for Seniors
A therapeutic, counseling program to serve older community members in their homes. A skilled social worker will help explore issues, such as adjustments to living independently, improving social interaction, separation from family members and emotional issues. Service can be billed to Medicare. Strictly confidential. For more information, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203- 921-4161 ext. 122 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org

JFS Home Companions & Certified Nursing Assistants
Trained aides assist seniors with daily activities, chores, and socialization. Services provided hourly, daily or up to 24/7. For more information, contact JFS Home Companion at 203- 921-4161.

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.

Chesed Comes Alive at Bi-Cultural

BY DORA SALM

The age-old adage is that charity begins at home. But at Bi-Cultural, *chesed* happens at school – and it happens on a daily basis in many ways.

The word *chesed*, translated as “kindness” or “acts of kindness,” is central to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and is an essential guiding principle in Bi-Cultural’s educational foundation.

Rabbi Yehuda Jeiger, coordinator of Middle School Jewish Life, oversees the school’s Chesed Club, an in-school activity for students in fifth through eighth grades. The group of more than 20 students meets weekly during their lunchtime to discuss ways in which the school can become involved in helping charitable organizations, either through volunteering, donating or awareness-raising. Jeiger explained that the students play an active role in setting goals and choosing which organizations they will coordinate with, gather supplies for or raise funds for.

“All the *chesed* projects within the school are student-driven – the students choose where all the effort goes. They also contact the right people to make it happen and really get the ball rolling,” Rabbi Jeiger said.

Recent *chesed* projects have included collecting and delivering more than 100 toys to David’s Treasure Tree toy closet, an organization in the pediatric



Josh Warhit, a “lone soldier” of the IDF, is presented a donation check by Bi-Cultural student Isaac Schildkraut. Also in the photo are Rabbi Yehuda Jeiger and Anat Chavkin, FIDF director for the Westchester and Connecticut areas.

unit at Stamford Hospital that provides gifts to any child admitted to the hospital and fulfilling the Chanukah gift wishes of more than 20 children through the Ohel Children’s and Family Services agency. The students also helped collect \$250 in donations for Stamford’s Jewish Family Services, which was allocated directly for the food pantry. Matt Greenberg, CEO of JFS,

explained: “The students’ generosity will support and buy food for the JFS Kosher Food Pantry – food which JFS will then distribute to hungry people in need.”

Being part of a global Jewish community, the Chesed Club recognized the importance of supporting Israel, especially Israeli soldiers. Eighth-grader Isaac Schildkraut spearheaded

a project to collect donations for the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces. “All the money that we collected goes for helping Israeli soldiers in their recreation times. Books, games, exercising; the soldiers are there to protect our homeland and we want to support them in any way that we can,” explained Schildkraut.

Anat Chavkin, FIDF director for the Westchester and Connecticut area, who worked with the Chesed Club, said, “It is so powerful to see the students choose different organizations to give *tzedakah* to; I’m proud of them for caring about the soldiers.”

In addition to their support of Israel, students have also reached out to other countries around the world, collecting shoes for children in Africa and school supplies for children in Honduras.

Providing a forum for students to achieve *chesed* and provide for *tzedakah* is multi-faceted, Rabbi Jeiger explained. “We do a lot within the school because *chesed* represents the fiber of the school. Our year-long theme is respect, and this encompasses what the committee is all about. This prepares our students for real life in the Jewish community, where I hope they will continue to do *chesed* long after they graduate.”

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

A Year of Chesed at JCC Nursery School

BY LUISA VILADAS

With the goal of building a caring community where young students, parents, teachers and administrators treat each other with kindness, the theme of the year at the JCC Sara Walker School is *chesed*, the Hebrew word for loving-kindness.

For the past five years, the school has incorporated a different Jewish value into its curriculum each year. *Chesed* (kindness), *havod* (respect), *mishpacha* (family), *mitzvah* (good deed) and *ahava* (love) are values that have become part of the children’s, teachers’ and parents’ everyday vocabulary.

“Children can identify, understand and relate to these values,” said Sandi Waldstreicher, educational coordinator for the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School. “Learning to be a kind and respectful person, helping others, and sharing your life with friends and family comes naturally when these values

are woven into the preschool curriculum and reinforced in the children’s homes, ultimately becoming a part of their world.”

“We think of kindness as being equivalent with niceness, but the implication of *chesed* is much greater than this,” added Anne Liss Johnson, managing director of the school. “It is loving-kindness without expecting anything in return or any strings attached.”

According to Waldstreicher and Johnson, *chesed* can take many forms for children: visiting the sick, collecting clothes for the poor, feeding the hungry, or just simple acts of going out of one’s way to make someone’s day special.

Every Friday, students bring *tzedakah* money to school and add it to a *tzedakah* box. From week to week, the children notice the money increasing. The first semester of this year, *tzedakah* was des-

igned for the non-profit organization Wildlife in Crisis, and a total of \$434 was collected.

In December, the school’s pre-kindergarten class attended the JCC’s Chanukah luncheon for senior adults. After the children sang to the seniors, they stayed for lunch and handed out bags of treats.

The children also collected food and other items to donate to the JFS Kosher Food Pantry. Toys for Tots received a donation of two large bags of toys donated by students and their families.

“Parents and teachers hope and dream that their children will grow up to be kind, caring human beings,” Waldstreicher concluded, “but children are not born knowing how to be kind. By providing them with opportunities to practice *chesed* and by role-modeling kind behaviors, we can teach children that they can help



Hannah Zelazny, a 4-year-old student at the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School, learns the meaning of *chesed* as she and classmates make weekly donations to their classroom’s *tzedakah* box.

make the world a better place.”

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

BCDS Students Donate Funds to JFS Food Pantry



At left: Jewish Family Service CEO Matt Greenberg accepted a *tzedakah* donation from Bi-Cultural Day School middle school students, grades five-eight. The contribution will be used to purchase food or gift cards for the JFS Kosher Food Pantry. L-r: Rebekah Kanefsky (JFS); Michal Smart (BCDS); Johanna Freud (JFS); students Mia Brenner, Helene Leichter, Maya Weiner, Sidney Steinberg, Sophie Teitel and Michal Yaari; Matt Greenberg (JFS); and Rabbi Yehuda Jeiger (BCDS). For more information about how to donate to the JFS Kosher Food Pantry, visit www.ctjfs.org or contact Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or rkane@ctjfs.org. Jewish Family Service is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

Bi-Cultural Offers Adult Education Symposium Series

BY DORA SALM

Bi-Cultural Day School and its faculty are offering adults a glimpse inside its Jewish education program through its upcoming faculty-led “Take an Hour Symposium Series.” The set of interactive learning workshops, open to all members of the community, is centered on holidays, having recently launched a Chanukah session and continuing with its upcoming Passover (including a parents’ guide to preparing a model seder for young children) and Shavuot.

Jewish studies teacher Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein organized the series, explaining that each class has a spin for the adult learners: “I was inspired to create this seminar series by personally observing the dynamic interaction between the teachers and the students at Bi-Cultural. I felt that the parent body and the community at large would really enjoy experiencing that same love for teaching that our BCDS students experience every day. There is so much talent here and being a central place for Jewish learning is a real service to the whole community.”

Bernstein explained that each program is specifi-

cally designed to provide an overview of the history, laws and philosophic underpinnings of each holiday included in the series, and that each workshop has “something for everyone.”

“By using a cross section of the faculty each evening, people should really enjoy experiencing the variety of teaching styles, methods and expertise of each of the faculty presenters, first-hand,” he said.

Bernstein explained attendees will have the opportunity to share some of what he most values about BCDS: “The time I spend with my class in the vibrant learning environment is such a wonderful experience. For this program, I want people leaving each session saying to themselves, ‘I am really glad I came this evening because I learned something I didn’t know about our Jewish tradition.’”

The first symposium, “Perspectives on Chanukah,” took place on December 11. BCDS faculty presented four perspectives on the holiday. Robert Abrams provided an historic analysis of events that led up to the Maccabean revolt; Rabbi David Israel presented an analysis of the talmudic question, “Why celebrate

Chanukah?” Bernstein discussed the unique aspect of lighting the Chanukah menorah in a manner that is described by the rabbis of the Talmud as “the most beautiful way”; and Rabbi David Walk discussed the meaning behind the eight-day celebration.

Jacqueline Herman, principal and head of school, said of the premier event, “The first symposium was a wonderful night of learning. We had more than 50 attendees and it was incredible to see current parents, alumni parents and members of our community coming together to learn. We are so fortunate to have such a special faculty who can teach such insightful knowledge and understanding of the holidays.”

Upcoming “Take an Hour Symposium Series” sessions will take place at BCDS at 7 pm on the following days: Monday, March 23 (Passover); Tuesday, March 24 (“A Parent’s Guide to the Model Seder”); and Monday, May 11 (Shavuot). All sessions are free of charge and open to the entire community.

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

Friendship Circle Alumni Gather Together

BY JACKIE SCHECHTER

On December 21, more than 40 young adults gathered at the Stamford restaurant Six Thirteen to socialize, celebrate Chanukah and give back to the Friendship Circle, an organization they had all been a part of in high school.

The Friendship Circle is a nationwide organization that pairs Jewish teenagers with children with special needs, engaging them in holiday celebrations, fun activities and home visits. The recent alumni event was the first of its kind, as the growing organization (there are currently 350 high school volunteers in the Stamford area) looks to connect its expanding alumni base.

Alumni enjoyed the food and atmosphere at Six Thirteen. The evening included a short speech by Raquel Spilka about the importance of giving back to the Friendship Circle and a video of local special needs teens completing their bar and bat mitzvah ceremonies with the help of the Friendship Circle. Fred Springer, the Friendship Circle Board chair and father of two former volunteers, said a few words, and alumni each received a Friendship Circle travel mug before heading home. Springer said, “This inaugural gathering of ‘graduated’ Friendship Circle participants is a great first step to building a committed alumni base of support; not only for the FC, but for



Friendship Circle Alumni celebrated Chanukah at Six Thirteen.

our larger community, for years to come.”

David Wayne, an alumnus and a current board member, shared that he felt invigorated and inspired: “It was beautiful to see how much Friendship Circle plays an active role in the lives of past volunteers – whether in school or at work. I am truly humbled by the passion that these young adults display as a result of their volunteer experiences at the Friendship Circle. It was a wonderful evening, infused with Chanukah spirit – a night that will stay with us for a long time.”

For more pictures, become friends with Friendship Circle on Facebook at Friendship Circle Connecticut. For more information on the Friendship

Circle, contact Malya@FriendshipCT.com or call 203-329-0015, ext. 414.

Writer’s note: As a former Friendship Circle volunteer who attended the event, I thought it was wonderful to catch up with former volunteers and meet others my age who had been involved in the organization. Many of them are now pursuing careers related to the work they did with special needs children through the Friendship Circle, a testament to the organization’s impact not only on the families it serves, but on its volunteers as well.

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

TalkITT. Continued from page 1

population has a speech disability or impairment – and decided that with enough innovation, a solution could be created.

“The solutions that exist today, none of them actually use personal or normal speech,” Weissberg, who serves as CEO of Ramat Gan-based VoiceITT in Israel’s Tel Aviv District, tells JNS.org. “They all bypass speech. Some even monitor head and eye movements. But none of them allow people to communicate in the most natural way: their voice.”

The TalkITT software works by creating a dictionary of sounds and associating them with meaning or words. The user makes a sound and associates it with a word on the software. The app recalls the translation for future conversations. Weissberg equates the process to how a mother of a child with a speech disability will learn to understand her child, associate his or her sounds with meaning and know what he or she wants when no one else can do so.

“Like the mother that makes that association, so, too, will the software. Once the software learns, then he is now not limited to talking only with his mother. He can speak to friends at school, because the software can translate what he says for anyone,” says Weissberg.

Due to its functionality, the software would work for people who speak any language – English, Hebrew or even the speech pattern of an autistic child who has invented his own language (as long as it is consistent). The software app can currently run on tablets and smartphones.

Matthew Arnheiter – vice president of innovations, research and development for Netsmart, the country’s longest-standing healthcare information technology company – says mobile healthcare technologies like TalkITT have burst onto the scene since the iPhone came out in 2007. Before then, many new technologies were catered to niche markets, were expensive, or were purpose-built technologies that were difficult to



The Israeli-developed TalkITT software helps a boy with a speech impairment communicate “I love you.” (Photo courtesy of VoiceITT)

purchase and equally as challenging to implement.

“The phone makes it so we can do things easily and distribute them to the population rather quickly,” says Arnheiter, noting that today is “a better time than yesterday” for struggling with a disability. Arnheiter says that with the increased focus on understanding the brain, the drive to reduce the stigma of some of these challenges, and the dedication to creating new solutions to meet the needs of people with disabilities, “we’ll figure out better ways of bridging the gap.”

Since launching, TalkITT has won many prestigious awards, helping it gain exposure and the funding needed to keep the project going. Most recently, the company, which has offices in Boston, won the Phillips Innovation Fellows Competition. TalkITT is currently in the alpha testing phase, partnering with hospitals and other medical associations to get access to voice recordings of people with speech disabilities and to test them through the system. Next, the technology will enter the beta testing phase, when it will give the software back to these hospitals and associations and make it available for clinical trials.

“We applaud innovative technologies that open the door for individuals with disabilities to become more of a part of the broader community,” says Renee Dain – co-founder of the Baltimore Jewish Abilities Alliance, which promotes the communal inclusion of people with disabilities – upon learning of VoiceITT. “Ultimately, these will change people’s lives.”

Once Weissberg perfects TalkITT in its current version, he hopes to perfect the solution for other, similar users. For example, he envisions that the next version of the software will be able to learn new words automatically – the user would have speech patterns that TalkITT picks up on, after which point the software would suggest words (“did you mean X or Y?”) and remember those words for future conversations.

Weissberg also believes that people diagnosed with degenerative speech disabilities, such as those associated with Parkinson’s disease or Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), could begin using the software upon diagnosis. This way, as speech deteriorates, TalkITT would be part of the solution at an early stage. “The software could learn and then speak in the speaker’s voice, real voice,” Weissberg says.

For now, Weissberg is traveling with his team around the U.S. to build new partnerships and increase funding. The company recently made a presentation in Maryland at the Israel-Adventist mHealth Innovation Forum, and Weissberg says he or his colleagues are willing to attend similar events to share their work.

Weissberg adds that he has many people working or volunteering for him who understand the need for TalkITT due to a personal connection to the issue the technology is addressing. “It is a great feeling to be a part of something that can really change the lives of so many,” he says.

Maayan Jaffe is an Overland Park, KS-based freelance writer. Reach her at maayanjaffe@icloud.com or follow her on Twitter, @MaayanJaffe.

JCC Lecture Will Help Parents Crack Toddler Code

The JCC Sara Walker Nursery School's #raisingtodayskids lecture series, for parents and educators, focuses on issues encountered while raising children in today's world. The third lecture in this year's series will be held on Thursday, February 26, at 7:30 pm, at the JCC on Newfield Avenue.



Tovah Klein, Ph.D.

children, and how they can shift their perspective to view the world from the child's point-of-view. She will also discuss how to create clear routines, limits and boundaries; how to interact in ways that help parents through day-to-day struggles; and how to ensure that toddlers receive the kinds of attention, guidance and interactions they need to develop the skills of resilience, self-reliance, self-regulation, empathy and compassion.

"How Toddlers Thrive" will be the subject of a presentation by author Tovah Klein, Ph.D. Klein will give parents the tools they need to enjoy interactions with their toddlers, and at the same time help sow the seeds for a lifetime of success. Klein is the author of the book by the same title, with a foreword by Sarah Jessica Parker.

Klein will discuss how parents can understand the often-mystifying aspects of the behavior of young

Rights Continued from page 9

speaker and a really smart guy. There is history in his lineage. His great-grandfather (my grandfather) founded the Orthodox synagogue in Alexandria in the late 1800s; his grandfather, a Louisiana legislator, participated in Huey Long's impeachment proceedings; and his father was a federal judge with the Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. His mother was a published writer, so his novel is a natural product of his heritage. On a personal

Tickets to the lecture are \$12 each, or \$10 for JCC members. Purchase tickets at stamfordjcc.org or call the JCC welcome desk at 203-322-7900. For more information, contact Sandi Waldstreicher at 203-322-6541 or swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org.

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

note, he composed the music for his wedding in the historic Touro Synagogue in Newport, RI." Those with questions about the program are asked to contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148 or e-mail elissa@de-kaplan.com. The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

February & March 2015

Happenings for Senior Adults

The J (JCC) Social Senior Program

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at The J (JCC). For more information or reservation: [Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:Connie.Cirillo.Freeman@stamfordjcc.org)
Programs vary by day of the week. All welcome. Transportation available for Stamford residents.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING. Feb. 3; Mar. 3
HOLIDAY LUNCHES • Purim. Tuesday, Mar. 3 from 12 - 1:00pm. Suggested \$3.00 donation. • Stanley Ferber Memorial Senior Passover Seder. Tuesday, Mar. 31 from 11:30am-1:30pm with Hazzan Sidney Rabinowitz. Free to all seniors
HOT KOSHER LUNCH for older adults (60+). Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 12-1pm at The J. Suggested donation: \$3 for lunch and \$1 each way for transportation. Reservations are required for both lunch and transportation. Lunch reservations: call Tuesday by noon for Thursday and Friday lunches. Call Friday by noon for Tuesday lunch. Call every Monday to make/confirm reservations for the week. Cancellations: call as soon as possible.
JCC MORNING MOVIE MATINEE FOR SENIOR ADULTS ON. Fridays through Mar 27 at 10am. Coffee and a movie on the large screen TV in the JCC's Senior Adult Lounge. Free to all seniors.
JCC RETIRED MEN'S CLUB. Mondays from 10-11am (members only); invited speaker at 11am (open) at the JCC. Every meeting is followed by a soup-and-sandwich lunch and a bridge game after the meal. Reservations required. Lunch Fee: \$3 suggested donation. For information or to make a reservation: Connie Cirillo Freeman cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org or at 203-487-0983. Speaker and kosher lunch. Bridge game after lunch. All welcome.
LET'S TALK. Thursdays, 11am-Noon. Feb 12, 19, 26; Mar 12, 19, 26 at the JCC. Free (6 sessions). For information or to make a reservation: Connie Cirillo Freeman at cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org or at 203-487-0983. Engage in meaningful conversation about a wide variety of topics that may range from how to live a fulfilling life, creating healthy relationships, savoring our cherished memories, to embracing changing life circumstances. All will be encouraged to express their feelings and experiences related to the themes that emerge in a safe and supportive environment. Led by a facilitator from Jewish Family Services. Limited capacity.
LIFE ENHANCEMENT CLASSES. Tuesdays & Thursdays through Mar 26 from 11-11:45am. Classes designed to entertain, educate and enrich. • <i>Aging Gracefully.</i> Common-age related health issues with practical advice on how to support each other in aging gracefully • <i>Current Events and Timely Topics.</i> Informal conversations and talks with various speakers about what's going on in Stamford, as well as national and international events and timely topics. • <i>Our Stories on Thursdays.</i> Hear one-of-a-kind stories about the lives, experiences, occupations or pastimes of JCC senior program participants. Free to all seniors. • <i>Seniors in Song.</i> Sing along with old favorites, Yiddish to Broadway
MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS. Tuesdays, Feb 24; Mar 24 from 12-1pm. \$3 suggested donation. Reservations required.
SHABBAT WITH OR BERGER – JCC ISRAELI SHALIACH Fridays from 11:30 am-12 pm at the Stamford JCC. Discussions on Israel prior to Shabbat lunch

Adult Volunteer Opportunities

JCC (The J) Jewish Community Center 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
JFS (Jewish Family Service) 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
JHS (Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County) • Harry Rosenbaum 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. • 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. 11 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 .

FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

- BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS):** 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203)329-2186 • www.bcds.org
- CHABAD:** 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203)3-CHABAD #418 • Leah Shemtov: morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org
- JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J):** 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • (203)322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org
- JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS):** 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203)921-4161 • www.ctjfs.org
- TEMPLE BETH EL (TBE):** 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203)322-6401 #306 • education@tbe.org • www.tbe.org
- TEMPLE SINAI (TS):** 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203)322-1649 • www.templestamford.org
- UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF):** 1035 Newfield Ave., Suite 200, Stamford • (203)321-1373 • www.ujf.org

What's On for Adults

February & March 2015

OPEN EVENTS

3000 Years of Jewish Music in 3 Hours (3rd in the series) at the JCC Tuesday, February 3 • 11 a.m. Cantor Marcia Lane, director of education and engagement for UJF, will lead this session for senior adults on the Americanization of synagogue music, Israeli music, Broadway portrayals of Jewish music, and Sephardic musical styles. To register or for more information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .
Beginners' Torah Study with Melissa Cohavi Fridays from 12:00 – 1:00 pm at Temple Sinai. Fee: Free. Learn about the Torah, its law, its stories and the ancient people. Bring lunch.
Being Marc Chagall's Granddaughter is a Gift and a Burden, Bella Meyer Sunday, Mar. 29 at 1:30pm (1pm nosh). Location to be determined. This program is sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County and is in memory of Edythe Siegel.
Bible Study with Rabbi Eugene Borowitz Saturdays at 9am at Temple Sinai. Fee: Free. Join a special group of people who meet to share in Shabbat and study Torah
The Center Women of The J present, 'What Every Woman Should Know' Wednesday, February 25 • 8:30 a.m. A morning of enrichment designed for all women in the community, covering a range of health-related topics of interest to women across all stages of adulthood. No charge. For information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org .
Cooking Club at Temple Sinai Thursday, February 5 at 6:30pm. Fee: \$36.00 per session, registration for one session at a time or all 4 – payment is due at time of registration. Taught by Chef and Food Writer Ronnie Fein. Maximum: 12 people per sessions. Each session will focus on different types of cooking.
Couples Chef Night - CHOPPED! For couples. Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7pm. Early bird sign up by Jan. 16th- \$75 per couple After early bird- \$100 per couple. A date like you've never experienced! Cooking, wine, judges, prizes!
Crochet at the J Fee: \$24 for JCC Members / \$30 non-members plus cost of materials (purchased separately). For information on both classes or to register: Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org . Learn how to crochet a scarf or hat in 3 sessions. Taught by Madeline Field. Limited capacity.
Free Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Tu B'Shvat Seder! Tuesday, Feb 3 at 7:00pm at Temple Sinai Don't miss our creative and tasty take on the Tu B'Shvat Seder as we celebrate the season with Wine, Cheese and Chocolate. Space is limited so make sure to RSVP to the temple office today. As always, feel free to call or email Rabbi TelRav or Cantor Morgovsky with any questions.
Games & Gab at the J Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 1 – 3 p.m. FREE. Bring your game of choice - bridge, Scrabble, canasta and more. For information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org . All are welcome.
Israel Folk Dancing Connect with Israel while reaping the mental and physical benefits of dance. Light, Kosher refreshments. For other locations and schedule, go to www.ctsraeidance.com .
Israel Lunch & Learn Series at the J First Thursday of each month: Feb. 5, Mar. 5 from 12-1 pm at the J. Fee: FREE. Join Or Berger, the JCC's Israeli shaliach, for a lunch and learn series focusing on interesting topics and current events related to Israel. Sessions will include time for questions and answers often short videos. Bring lunch. JCC will provide dairy dessert. For further information or to register: Or Berger t 203-487-0961 or oberger@stamfordjcc.org .
JCC Annual Spring Gala, 'A Night of Amazement' Sunday, Mar. 8 at 6pm at Rockrimmon Country Club. The JCC's major fundraiser of the year will recognize community leaders Sue McGraw, Garry Feldman, Craig L. Price and Jeannie Kasindorf. The evening will include dinner, entertainment and a commemorative journal. For more information, visit stamfordjcc.org or contact Shannon Jacobs at 203-487-0965 or sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org .
#raisingtodayskids: 'How Toddlers Thrive,' lecture by Tovah Klein, Ph.D. Thursday, February 26 • 7:30 p.m. at The J. Author Tovah Klein will discuss the tools parents need to enjoy their interactions with their toddlers, and at the same time sow the seeds for a lifetime of success. For information, contact Sandi Waldstreicher at 203-322-6541 or swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org .
Jewish Historical Society: Book Talks, February - An Officer and a Spy by Robert Harris Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 10:30am at the JCC. Fee: Free. Presenter: Peter Lilienthal. A fictional account of the Dreyfus Affair of 1895, portraying this historical conspiracy with all its intrigue and infamy. For further information, contact Marcie (203) 359-9148.
Jewish Historical Society: Book Talks, March - Suddenly, Love by Aharon Appelfeld Wednesday, Mar. 18 at 10:30am at the JCC. Fee: Free. Presenter: Bob Abrams. Set in Israel, this is a novel of two lonely people who come together amidst memories of their pasts and the challenges of the present. For further information, contact Marcie (203) 359-9148.
Jewish Historical Society February Program: "The Cottoncrest Curse: From the Civil War to Civil Rights through Southern Jewish Eyes" Sunday, February 22 at 1:30pm (1pm nosh) at Temple Beth El. Fee: Free.
Jewish Historical Society March Program: From Rosenfeld to Robeson, The Folksbeine Yiddish Theater Thursday, Mar. 19 at 7:00 at Temple Beth El. Refreshments to follow.
Jewish Values: Where the Rubber Hits the Road Sundays, Mar. 8, 22, 29; Apr. 5 from 9:45-11am. Fee: Free. Taught by Rabbi Jay TelRav. Judaism teaches us to "Honor our Father and Mother" but what about when they are abusive? Everybody cheats on their taxes, don't they? Those little soap bars are mine to take home from the hotel, aren't they? From the profound to the mundane, life presents choices every day. Torah tells us to "do good" but it isn't always so clear what that means. We'll use real-world examples to examine what our tradition has to say.
Judaic Needlework: The Keshet Chapter of the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework Sundays, February 8 and March 8 • 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the J. When members of the Pomegranate Guild sit down to stitch, they are reviving Jewish traditions through their work with textiles. Meetings are a rich blend of needlework, culture, tradition and religious practices as they relate to Judaic textiles. In the Jewish tradition, an item created by an unrecognized stitcher is as esteemed as one created by a master artisan. The Guild recognizes this tradition and encourages membership, beginner and professional, women and men alike. For more information, please email keshetrg@gmail.com or visit pomegranateguild.org .
Monthly Lunch and Learn at Chabad Open for Men and Women. Wednesdays, February 25 2015, 11:30-12:45pm. \$10 per class. A special Wednesday Lunch and Learn class that will meet monthly in the conference room at Chabad House Stamford. Join us for a great fresh lunch, friends- new and old, and of course some Torah learning together with Leah Shemtov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

- BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS):** 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 329-2186 • www.bcds.org
- CHABAD:** 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • 203-3-CHABAD #418 • Leah Shemtov: morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org
- JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J):** 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org
- JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS):** 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203) 921-4161 • www.ctjfs.org
- TEMPLE BETH EL (TBE):** 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203) 322-6401 #306 • education@tbe.org • www.tbe.org
- TEMPLE SINAI (TS):** 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203) 322-1649 • www.templestamford.org
- UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF):** 1035 Newfield Avenue, Suite 200, Stamford • (203) 321-1373 • www.ujf.org

Mah Jongg at the J
\$35 for 5 sessions / JCC members \$25. Learn to play this classic game from resident Mah Jongg masters. All levels welcome. Bring a 2014 National Mah Jongg League card. To register, to schedule lessons or for more information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Mah Jongg at Temple Sinai
Mondays from 6:30-9pm. FREE but bring your own mah jongg card. For more information or if you are new to mah jongg, call the Temple office at 203-322-1649.

National Yiddish Theatre – Folksbiene
Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 pm at Temple Beth El. For more information, visit nationallyiddishtheatre.org or call Temple Beth El at (203) 322-6901.

Neshama Yoga at the JCC
Fridays, Through Mar. 27 (no class 2/13) | from 9:00-10:30am. FEE: \$198 JCC members / \$231 non-members (11 sessions). A fusion of Kundalini Yoga and Jewish spirituality. Led by Jackie Tepper Rabinov.

Parenting Conference
For parents of all children- babies, toddlers, preschool, elementary and teens. Sunday, Mar. 15 from 9:00 to 1:00pm at Chabad House Stamford, 770 High Ridge Rd, Stamford, CT 06905. \$36 per person, \$54 a couple, \$10 per child (full children's program) \$80 max/per family. Join other parents to hear from our panel of presenters on topics to help parents gain insight into this awesome "career path" we all share. Forty five minute sessions by presenters on topics that you want to hear about for your kids. Health, psychology, nutrition, education PLUS full Brunch and kids programming too.

Shabbat Across Stamford
Friday night, March 13th, the Stamford Jewish community will come together at Rippowam Middle School to celebrate Shabbat with prayer, a traditional Shabbat dinner, and the opportunity to learn with Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. Save the date!!

Shalach Manos Packing Party
Open to all. Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7:30pm and Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015 at 9:00am at Chabad House Stamford. Come and pack Shalach Manos sent to our friends all over Stamford. Be a part of the Purim project- lend a hand!

Speak Up for Israel for Adults
Monday, Jan. 26 from 7-8:30pm at the J. 8 sessions. Fee: Free – All welcome. Monthly sessions to learn the history and complexities surrounding Israel, past and present. All levels of knowledge are welcome. Hear from guest speakers from AIPAC, ADL and other organizations and engage in deep meaningful discussions. Led by Or Berger, JCC Israeli Shaliach. JCC program in partnership with UJF. For further information or to register: Or Berger t 203-487-0961 or oberger@stamfordjcc.org.

Torah and Tea at Chabad
For Men and Women. Tuesdays from 11 am - 12pm at Chabad Loft Café. Fee: \$5.00 per class. For further information: Leah Shemtov at 203-324-2223 or morahleah@chabadstamford.org

Trip to the Westchester Theatre
Thursday, March 19 (matinee performance). Fee: \$65.00 (includes lunch). Join The Brandeis University Committee and see "Camelot". Contact Blossom Katz to make reservations at 203-322-4673.

Tu B'Shvat Seder
What could be better than a Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Tu B'Shvat Seder? Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 7pm. Fee: Free. Celebrate the season with Wine, Cheese and Chocolate. Space is limited so make sure to RSVP to the temple office today at 203-322-1649. Feel free to call or email Rabbi TelRav or Cantor Morgovsky with any questions.

UConn Judaic Studies: To register for the 2014 Lunch & Learn Lecture Series, the annual conference, or for more information about these or other programs of the Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies, please contact the Center at stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu or (203) 251-9525.

FOR WOMEN

Hadassah Book Club - February
Wed., Dec. 10 at 7:15pm. Location TBD. "Human right day selection – The Sandcastle Girls" by Chris Bohjalian. For further information or RSVP: Rhonda Greif at Rhonda.greif@gmail.com or 203-829-9341.

Hadassah Book Club - March
Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7:15pm. Location TBE. | LOCATION: TBD. "My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Family's Past" by Ariel Sabar. For further information or RSVP: Rhonda Greif at Rhonda.greif@gmail.com or 203-829-9341.

Pesach Preparedness
For Women. Monday, Mar 16 at the home of Rachel Maryles. 7:15pm (mingle, meet and nibble); 8pm (programs); JWC Members Free / Non Members \$15. Join us for an evening that will set you on the path for Perfect Pesach Preparedness- on every level, physical and spiritual (& emotional)

FOR MEN

Tefillin Club
Every Sunday from 8-9am at Chabad. For men and kids. Join the guys to wrap Tefillin, say Shema, share some words of Torah and inspiration and bond over bagels and lox breakfast.

Men's Night Out Pizza & Bowling
For Men. Thursday, Mar. 19 at 8pm at BowlMor Lanes (Old Rip Van Winkle lanes), Norwalk

ADULT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

JCC (The J) Jewish Community Center
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](mailto:Connie.Cirillo.Freeman@stamfordjcc.org)

JFS (Jewish Family Service)
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](mailto:Rebekah.Kanefsky@ctjfs.org)

JHS (Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County)
• **Harry Rosenbaum 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.
• **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. 11 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](mailto:Marlyn.Agatstein@ujf.org).

save
the date



Stamford's Jewish Community
Comes Together to Celebrate Shabbat
Featuring UJF Scholar-In-Residence

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

Friday, March 13, 2015 5:30pm

Rippowam Middle School

381 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT

For more information,

e-mail Marcia@ujf.org

or call (203)321-1373 ext. 104



Organized By:



& the Stamford Board of Rabbis
in partnership with community organizations.