



# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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

## An Evening of Our Favorite Things

### Temple Beth El Annual Cantor's Concert

Temple Beth El will hold its Cantor's Concert on Sunday, June 14, at 7 pm, at the synagogue. The event, called "An Evening of Our Favorite Things," will feature TBE's Cantor Magda Fishman and Cantor Randy Herman from Bet Torah in Mount Kisco, NY.

Over the course of their musical careers, Cantors Fishman and Herman have collected a mix of songs and melodies



*Cantor Magda Fishman*

—from Jewish rock to gospel, liturgy to Israeli music, jazz to Broadway. Accompanying them at the concert will be two Israeli-born musicians: pianist Gilad Cohen and drummer Nadav Snir-Zelniker. Chazzan Sidney Rabinowitz, TBE's cantor emeritus, will also make a guest appearance.

The concert officially welcomes Cantor Fishman  
*See "Evening" on page 2*

## JCC KidsTriathlon Returns

The Stamford Jewish Community Center will hold its sixth annual kids triathlon, for children ages 4-14, on Sunday, June 16, at the JCC on Newfield Avenue. The event, which is normally held on Father's Day, is being moved this year to an earlier weekend so it does not conflict with the beginning of the summer camp season.

"With the KidsTri, our mission is to establish and nurture children's abilities to live active and healthy lifestyles," said JCC CEO Eric Koehler. "Through the popular sport of triathlon, children are given the opportunity to be fit and active, build strong friendships and, most importantly, reach their potential and have fun. We always stress that, although this is a

competitive event, the focus is on fun, fitness and personal challenge."

Katchko and Sons is the presenting sponsor of the KidsTri.

The triathlon will consist of races in swimming, cycling and running. The event will begin in the JCC pool, then move to the bicycle course on nearby roads that will be closed to vehicular traffic. Younger children will remain on the JCC property for the bicycle portion of the race. The final running leg is held on JCC property for all of the racers.

Children will be divided into four age groups: 4-5 years, 6-7 years, 8-10 years and 11-14 years. Children who do not want to compete in all three events  
*See "Triathlon" on page 2*

## Where is the Jewish Aid to Nepal Going?

BY URIEL HEILMAN

NEW YORK (JTA) – Almost as soon as news of Nepal's devastating earthquake reached the wider world, Jewish aid groups began mobilizing humanitarian efforts to help the victims. In Israel, that meant dispatching first responders to Nepal; in America, it mostly meant raising and allocating money.

How is the Jewish aid being deployed in Nepal?

◆ The biggest Jewish on-the-ground

response has come from the Jewish state, which currently has more than 260 Israeli soldiers, doctors and rescue experts working in the disaster zone – the largest of all the international aid teams on the ground, according to the Israeli Consulate in New York. The 170-person Israeli Defense Forces delegation has been helping with search-and-rescue operations and setting up field hospitals consisting of two operating rooms, four intensive-care rooms, 80 beds and neonatal care.

*See "Nepal" on page 16*

## Who Will Care For Me?

### Challenges of Caring for an Aging Loved One

BY EVE MOSKOWITZ

Jewish Family Service, JFS Home Companion and the Stamford Jewish Community Center will present "Who Will Care For Me? – Challenges of Caring for an Aging Loved One." Dr. Janis Abrahms Spring, Ph.D., A.B.P.P. – clinical psychologist and author of "Life with Pop: Lessons on Caring for an Aging Parent" (Avery Penguin), a journal of a daughter caring for her father



*Dr. Janis Abrahms Spring, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.*

through his final years of life – will discuss her experiences working with clients faced with caregiving responsibilities. The program will take place on Wednesday, June 3, at 7 pm, at the Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave. The event is free and open to the entire community.

Last year, 50 million Americans served as caregiver for a family member or friend,  
*See "Care" on page 4*

Candle Lighting	2	Bits & Pieces	6	Family Central	13	Adult Education	17	Voices & Views	18	Senior Happenings	19
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### Lower East Side Revisited

Twenty-two women joined United Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy "Chapter Two" for its inaugural event, and traveled to The Lower East Side of Manhattan. The group visited the Eldridge Street Synagogue, a historic landmark from 1887 which is still in use today, and the Tenement Museum, which, in its heyday, housed nearly 7,000 working class immigrants. The group will continue to meet throughout the year, visiting exhibits and museums, hearing from authors and doing volunteer activities with UJF's partner agencies. Chapter Two is open to all women who are empty nesters or retirees. For more information about how to join the next trip, contact Avidan Pell by calling 203-653-2675 or e-mail [avidan@ujf.org](mailto:avidan@ujf.org).

Pictured are attendees in alphabetical order: Stephne Behrend, Barbara Brafman, Doris Freundlich, Sue Frieden, June Gold, Debby Goldberg, Sari Jaffe, Susan Krieger, Lorraine Kveskin, Marsha Matthews, Nancy Mimoun, Martha Moss, Ronnie Oster Falkenburg, Miriam Pell, Rebekah Raz, Gayle Rothman, Sheila Schleier, Janet Schneider, Barbara Shapiro, Joyce Shapiro, Ellen Weber and Hillary Weinroth.

For more information on future Chapter 2 programs, see the back page ad.



# President's Message Being Thankful

Winter this year seemed longer, colder and snowier than normal. When the first buds appeared on the trees and we were about to observe Passover, I was overcome with joy. A highlight in our family was celebrating the first seder at my daughter and son-in-law's apartment.



Ellen Weber, UJF president

Each year, as we read the haggadah and retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt, we ask questions that encourage participation from those around the table. After singing "Dayenu" and reading the levels of goodness that Hashem gave us, Mike, my son, posed the question, "What things are you thankful for?" The answers received were as expected: good health, happiness, our family, our hosts and being together.

Since that night, I have thought about that question many times. Recently, I attended the first get-together of United Jewish Federation's new Chapter Two group. Chapter Two is designed to engage women via monthly educational experiences and volunteer

opportunities. Along with 21 women, I joined a mini-mission to lower Manhattan, where we toured the Eldridge Street Synagogue and the Tenement Museum. Mitchell, our docent at the synagogue, showed photographs of boats filled with Jews coming to America for a better life.

As I looked at a picture from the early 1900s of hundreds of people packed on board, I thought about my grandmother, who, at 17, left her father in Russia for America, never to see him again. Her new husband, who had arrived earlier in the States, worked hard as a tailor so he could send for her. My Grandma Gitel came alone, not speaking a word of English. Had my grandparents not come to America, my mother would not have been here and neither would I.

I am so grateful that my grandparents had the courage to make that voyage. As Mitchell noted, "We must all be thankful for those who came before us. We are who we are because of them."

Just two days later, UJF's Community Yom Hashoah event took place, this year commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the camps. More than 400 people of all ages attended, including children from Bi-Cultural Day School, Carmel Academy and

the religious schools of Temple Beth El and Temple Sinai. Mirroring a Passover seder, four survivors, with the help of their grandchildren, told their stories, reliving their experiences during the Shoah. One survivor commented on how important it is to have young children hear what had transpired: "Little children came to me afterward to thank me for telling my story."

We, at Federation, are honored to organize this event annually and are thankful for the community's support. With your help, we provide funds to Federation's recipient agencies, like the Jewish Agency for Israel, ensuring that their remaining years are filled with dignity and comfort.

Throughout the almost 45 years of UJF of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien's existence, you, our donors, have helped thousands of Jews here locally, in Israel and around the world with your Federation dollars. We are thankful for you and your continued support as we together make a difference.

All the best,  
Ellen Weber

## Evening

and her family to Temple Beth El, and recognizes the role she will play in helping lead the congregation forward in the years ahead. A virtual journal honoring the cantor will be compiled.

The concert is open to the general public and a dessert reception will follow. Seats are priced at \$36 per person and may be purchased by credit card at [tinyurl.com/tbec15](http://tinyurl.com/tbec15) or by calling the TBE office at 203-322-6901, ext. 302. Persons wishing to place an ad in the journal should call the office for more information.

Cantor Fishman served in the Israeli Army Orchestra as a vocal soloist and trumpet player.



Cantor Randy Herman



Gilad Cohen



Nadav Snir-Zelniker

The recipient of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship, she came to the U.S. as part of the Tel Aviv Broadway Musical Theater Project. She has performed in Israel, Europe, the U.S. and Canada, and at such venues as the Kennedy Center, the Prague State Opera and the Bitter End. With her blend of traditional and contemporary styles, she is said to capture her audience through her voice and her soul.

Cantor Herman began his musical training at age 5, playing the piano by ear in nursery school. After graduating college, he worked briefly as a musician in Paris and as an actor on the East Coast. As a pianist, singer and songwriter, he has performed throughout the U.S. and abroad, in nightclubs and festivals, at private events and on live radio. He has been a featured guest cantor at several synagogues and is in demand throughout the country as a concert performer.

Cohen is an Israeli composer, performer and theorist of different musical genres, including concert music, rock and theater. Gilad is assistant professor of music at Ramapo College in New Jersey and performs regularly with various ensembles around the

Continued from page 1

U.S., playing piano, bass and guitar.

Snir-Zelniker became involved with the Israeli music scene as a teenager, playing the drums and recording with different rock and jazz artists. He moved to the U.S. in 1999, graduating from the Conservatory of Music at SUNY-Purchase. Nadav is a member of Trio Shalva, which performs original music that combines elements of jazz with Middle-Eastern, Israeli and Jewish influences.

## Triathlon

Continued from page 1

are invited to form relay teams. "This is an opportunity for young athletes to participate in an enjoyable life experience through athletics," Koehler concluded, "one that encourages self-confidence, good health and community spirit through participation."

For information or to register, visit [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org) or contact Mo Concepcion at 203-487-0971 or [mconcepcion@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:mconcepcion@stamfordjcc.org).

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



At left: Six-year-old Noah Mora (left) and seven-year-old Allison Richman ran the final leg of last year's JCC KidsTri. The youth triathlon is in its sixth year in Stamford.

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## Fore the Kids

### JCC Golf and Tennis Outing Supports JumpStart

More than 100 golfers and tennis players are expected to participate in the Jewish Community Center's 22nd annual Julius B. and Edward Kuriansky Memorial Golf and Tennis Outing on Monday, June 1, at Rockrimmon Country Club in North Stamford.

Dubbed, "Fore the Kids," the outing is held each year in memory of Julius B. Kuriansky and his son, Edward Kuriansky, who were dedicated supporters of the JCC. The event will include morning and afternoon tennis, buffet luncheon, shotgun start for golf at 12:45 pm and an awards banquet to end the day.

Proceeds will go to the JCC's JumpStart program, an early childhood education program for 2- and 3-year-olds with special needs. The JumpStart program is the only one of its kind in Fairfield County. Tuition is based on a sliding scale and the JCC is committed to the philosophy that no child should be denied admission due to financial hardship. The program is funded through voluntary contributions and through gen-



Golfers warmed up on the putting green prior to last year's Julius B. and Edward Kuriansky Memorial Golf and Tennis Outing sponsored by the JCC. This year's outing will be held on June 1 at Rockrimmon Country Club.

## UJF Launches "Shalom Baby"

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien has launched its newest welcome program, Shalom Baby. This is a sister program to Shalom Stamford, which welcomes people who are new to the community. The new Shalom Baby program is tailored to new parents in the greater Stamford community, and includes a personal visit and a complimentary gift bag for baby and family. Besides offering baby goodies, including baby toys, a swaddling blanket, and sweets from Stamford Treats, it is a chance for UJF to pass on helpful information about what is available to families in the community and to answer any questions.



Jessica Furmansky and her two daughters received a Shalom Baby bag.

This newly launched program is coordinated by Sharon Franklin, director of outreach at UJF. The idea came about from Rebekah Raz, UJF vice president, who in the past

was involved with a similar program elsewhere. "Based on the success I saw in this type of program, I thought it would be a wonderful addition to what we provide to the community in our own backyard. UJF is a wonderful source of information and programs, and we want to help make the transition of new parents or experienced parents an easier and informed one. One such program we offer is PJ Library. Jewish families have the opportunity to receive free books each month," says Raz.

Anyone who has a new baby or knows someone who has a new baby and would like more information or to receive a Shalom Baby bag, contact Sharon Franklin at [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org) or call 203-321-5364. For more information about PJ Library, contact Marcia Lane at [Marcia@ujf.org](mailto:Marcia@ujf.org).

## UJF Advisory Council Holds Inaugural Meeting

By ALISON PATNICK

Last year, the Board of Directors of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien approved several governance changes. While making the board smaller, UJF established an Advisory Council comprised of lay leaders from all of the recipient agencies and synagogues, as well as UJF appointees with community experience and communal institutional memory. As UJF's CEO James Cohen put it, "We very much wanted to establish a body that could provide UJF, and the community as a whole, advice and guidance as we tackle difficult challenges. The community needs a place to come together and learn from each other,

and the council will provide this venue."

The Advisory Council, which will meet three times a year, held its first session on March 31. Hosted by the Jewish High School of Connecticut and chaired by UJF Vice President Linda Gornitsky, the council first heard presentations from some of the agencies represented, and then delved into a topic on the minds of many in the community. Titled "Preparing for the Long Game," the group discussed how the community, working together can better prepare its teens and college students for what lies ahead of them - potential antisemitism on campuses, as well as ways to keep them connected

See "Advisory" on page 5

### CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

May 22	7:54 pm
May 23	after 9:01 pm
May 24	after 9:02 pm
May 29	8 pm
June 5	8:05 pm
June 12	8:09 pm
June 19	8:11 pm
June 26	8:13 pm
July 3	8:12 pm
July 10	8:10 pm
July 17	8:06 pm

### THE 2015-2016 UJF KURIANSKY TEEN TZEDAKAH CORPS

For more information, contact Marcia at (203) 653-2668 or [Marcia@ujf.org](mailto:Marcia@ujf.org).

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eral operating support provided by the JCC. Garry Feldman and Jeff Goldblum are serving as event co-chairs. Marni Amsellem and Dana Roth are this year's tennis co-chairs.

For reservations or information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Shannon Jacobs at 203-487-0965 or [sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org).

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

## Deadlines for articles

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

Friday, May 22 ..... July  
Monday, July 27 ..... September  
Monday, August 31 ..... October

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

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# Stamford Group Exhibits at Jewish Communities Fair

The Committee to Advance Modern Orthodoxy in Stamford (or CAMOS) was among 47 different Jewish communities that exhibited at the bi-annual OU (Orthodox Union) Jewish Communities Home and Job Relocation Fair, which was held this year on April 26 in New York City.

More than 1,500 people attended the show, which offered visitors the opportunity to meet leaders in various Jewish communities across the country. CAMOS assembled a contingent of representatives from several institutions in the Stamford Jewish community to promote the

advantages of living in Stamford. More than 125 leads were generated from the show.

"This is the fourth time that we have exhibited at the OU Fair," said Michael Feldstein, the founder of Stamford's community growth initiative, "and it continues to be the best source of new leads for us. We found that the people who visited our booth were genuinely excited about what the Jewish community of Stamford has to offer and I expect that several of the visitors will be spending a Shabbat weekend here with us soon."

See "Fair" on page 6



L-R: Jackie Herman of Bi-Cultural Day School and Elaine Finkelstein at the OU Jewish Communities Relocation and Job Fair.

# Living with Autism



Jewish Family Service will be starting a support group for families coping with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The group will follow up on the positive feedback received from the Support for Families Living with Autism event held recently at the JFS offices. A panel of experts in the community shared their professional expertise and experiences with parents and professionals dealing with the issues of life with an autistic child. L-R: Eve Moskowitz, JFS director of clinical services; Shirley Blajer-Stein, author of "Autism Mom: New Ways of Thinking" and mother of a child with autism; Kylie Rothman, JFS M.S.W. intern; Candy Murias, JFS M.S.W. intern; Liz Smith, board certified behavior analyst (BCBA); and Lindsay Kaplan, clinical coordinator/BCBA at The SEED Center. For more information on the new support group, contact Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.

# Care . . . . . Continued from page 1

and the numbers are growing. As a clinical psychologist for 37 years and her own firsthand experience counseling patients with caregiving issues of their own, Spring will speak about her journey. She will teach participants how to calm their "inner critic" when their resources run dry, balance their own needs and treat themselves with compassion. Using honesty and humor, she will address issues such as dealing with living arrangements, sibling rivalries, money anxieties, healthcare and end-of-life decisions, and the wish to resolve ruptures and move toward forgiveness. She will also share information about everyday moments of grace, and offer lessons about growing old gracefully.

A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation. Her book will be available for sale and signing.


Spring is a nationally known expert on issues of trust, intimacy and forgiveness. She is also the author of the award-winning books "After the Affair" (HarperCollins) and "How Can I Forgive You?" (HarperCollins). A diplomate in clinical psychology, she is a former clinical supervisor in the Department of Psychology at Yale

University and a recipient of the Connecticut Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Practice of Psychology. She is a media guest on programs such as NPR, "Good Morning America," "Anderson Cooper 360" and the CBS "Early Show." She presents regularly at professional and public venues such as The Smithsonian Institute, the 92nd Street Y, Smith College and Kripalu Institute. Spring has a private practice in Westport, CT.

JFS Home Companion, a program of Jewish Family Service, is a training and referral service that provides caregivers for families needing help for one of their members. For more information about the customized support JFS can provide, contact Isrella Knopf, JFS director of senior services at 203-921-4161 or isrellakn@ctjfs.org. For information about the event, contact Eve Moskowitz, JFS director of clinical services, at 203-921-4161, ext. 122, or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.

Eve Moskowitz is the director of clinical services for Jewish Family Service.

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



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Join the Young Leadership Division of UJF and Jewish Twenties and Thirties of JFS for the 2nd Annual Dodgeball Tournament to fight hunger at:

The Jewish Community Center of Stamford  
1035 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, CT 06905  
on July 22nd.

6:30 pm BBQ Dinner & Drinks  
7:30 pm Tournament Begins

\$25 Per Person, \$36 Sponsors, \$180 per team (max 7 ppl)  
Sponsors receive one "save from elimination" during play.

\$18 of the entrance fee and sponsorship will go directly to 3 Square a UJF program in partnership with JFS, which will provide supplemental nutrition to school children in need in our community. Because hunger doesn't take a break on the weekend.

To signup go to: [www.ujf.org/Dodgeball](http://www.ujf.org/Dodgeball)

For more information contact Sharon Franklin at (203) 653-2674 or [Sharon@ujf.org](mailto:Sharon@ujf.org)



# Remembering the Holocaust 70 Years after Liberation



More than 400 people attended Stamford's annual community commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah) on April 15 at Temple Beth El. The event was coordinated by J.E.E.P., the Jewish Education and Engagement Project of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. The standing-room only crowd participated in the Yom Hashoah "seder" led by Rabbi Joshua Hammerman and pledged never to forget. (Photos by Aviva Maller Photography)



Holocaust survivors Anita Ron Schorr, Guta Fischel, Erna Sten, Ellen Hersh and Elizabeth Deutsch lit memorial candles with Yom Hashoah Chair Peter Lilienthal.

# Celebrating 40 Years of JFS



L-R: Michael Alexander, president of the board of Jewish Family Service; David Martin, mayor of Stamford; David and Meryl Gordon, JFS Mitzvah Award honorees; Gayle Weinstein, first selectman of Weston; Rita Appel and Jon Fraade, JFS Mitzvah Award honorees; Robin Fischel, Young Leadership Award recipient; State Senator Carlo Leone; and Matt Greenberg, CEO of JFS, gathered together to celebrate An Evening with JFS, held on May 3 at Temple Beth El. The annual fund-raising event commemorated 40 years of JFS service in the community with a record attendance of 250 people. (Photo by Aviva Maller Photography)



Local clergy led the recitation of the Mourner's Kaddish in memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Shoah. L-R: Cantor Marcia Lane, Cantor Magda Fishman, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, Rabbi Philip Schechter, Cantor Micah Morgovsky, Rabbi Jay TelRav and Rabbi Daniel Cohen.

# Advisory . . . . . Continued from page 3

as Jews. Several agency representatives agreed to explore possible programs and events to undertake, and they will report back at the next meeting.

Many in the group recognized the potential such a council has to provide a common forum for collaboration. Arlene Rosen, president of Temple Sinai noted, "Temple Sinai's active participation in this Advisory Council is a win-win for the temple

and for the community at large. Our synagogue can contribute to the work of this Council and can in turn take advantage of the strategic thinking and inter-agency coordination that is certain to develop under this model."

The Advisory Council's will meet next on Wednesday, June 17. As it moves forward, council members will chose new topics to explore.

**Name The Newspaper Contest!**

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WE THINK IT'S TIME FOR A NAME CHANGE! CAN YOU HELP US?

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### BITS AND PIECES

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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



MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

**Jocelyn and Rov Avidan** on the birth of a daughter.

**Laura and Keith Brewer** on the birth of a daughter, Victoria Mary Celia Brewer; grandparents are **Carol and Wil Brewer**.

**Danielle and Jason Cohen** on the birth of a son, Phineas Asher Cohen; grandparents are **Judith Dalgin-Suchin and Norman Suchin**.

**Ilana and Yoni Greenberg** on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg**.

**Robin and David Maza** on the birth of a son, Dov Baer Maza; grandparents are **Sherry and Barry Hertzberg** and **Adina and Steven Adelman**.

**Emily and Jared Mudge** on the birth of a daughter, Abigail Zoe Mudge; grandparents are **Linda and Larry Rezak**.

**Tori and Gabriel Philips** on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Barbara and Alan Philips**; great-grandmother is **Helene Zimmerman**.

**Deborah and Matthew Reese** on the birth of a daughter, Isabela Grace Reese; grandparents are **Betsy and Mike Stone**.

**Jen and Ed Rosenfeld** on the birth of a daughter.

MAZEL TOV TO:

**Jewish Family Service 36th Annual Mitzvah Award recipients:** Meryl and David Gordon and Rita Appel and Jon Fraade; and Robin Fischel, recipient of the Young Leadership Award.

**Gloria Green and Phyllis Shapiro** on their recognition by Stamford Hospital.

**Fred Springer** for being honored by the Jewish High School of Connecticut at its Fourth Annual Spring Gala.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:  
**Rebecca Friedlander**, daughter of Barbara and Bruce Friedlander  
**Benji Hoff**, son of Tricia and Rob Hoff

**Shayna Raucher**, daughter of Nicole Raucher and Steven Finkel  
**Jessica Rozen**, daughter of Tara and Brian Rozen

**Nicole Schlesinger**, daughter of Jason Schlesinger

**Noah Weinberg**, son of Beth and Sandy Weinberg

CONDOLENCES TO:  
**Harav Menashe Bessaleli** on the loss of his wife, Hanna Bessaleli; son is **David Bessaleli**.

**Karen Farber** on the loss of her mother, Marilyn Meckler.

**Marlene Gatz** on the loss of her father, Harold "Hal" Standel.

**Kamal Haron** on the loss of his wife, Nancy Haron; children are **Dan Haron, Yoav Haron and Ronen Haron**; siblings are **Susie Singer and Bob Brauer**.

**Jules Kaplove** on the loss of his brother, James E. Kaplove.

**Peter Kempner** on the loss of his mother, Nancy Stone.

**Francie Leader** on the loss of her father, David Leader.

**Mark Rosovsky** on the loss of his father, Jerome Rosovsky.

**Richard Silver** on the loss of his wife, Vivienne Silver; children are **Lia Silver and Grant Silver**; sibling is **Jim Robinson**.

**Michael Spiesman** on the loss of his father, Melvin Spiesman.

**Robert Wechsler** on the loss of his wife, Barbara Wechsler; children are **Jeffrey Wechsler and Todd Wechsler**; siblings are **David Kaufman and Billy Kaufman**.

**Marc Weiner** on the loss of his mother, Adele Weiner.

**Joan Weisman** on the loss of her husband, Fred Weisman.

## JEEP TRACKS: MUSINGS ON EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT Six-Month Check-up

BY CANTOR MARCIA LANE



I think most people imagine that education is all about the answers: supplying information, correcting mistakes and responding to questions. In the 19th and early 20th centuries that was the prevailing opinion, and all educational writing and theorizing was focused on how best to deliver answers. Experts discussed how to present information using chalkboards and lectures, and how to diagram or create charts in order to make the facts easier to absorb. In fact, the notion of students as sponges, waiting to suck up words of wisdom, was the prevailing image. And the teacher was the fountain of knowledge.

In Jewish thinking the word "teach" is actually a variant of the word "learn." Both words utilize the same root letters; *lamed-mem-dalet* (L\*M\*D). In the second blessing before the *Shema*, in the morning liturgy, we recite, "V'tein b'libey-nu l'havin, l'haskil, lishmo-ah, lil-mod ul'la-meid..." Give our hearts (the desire) to understand, to discern, to hear, to learn and to teach...

First we seek to understand, to learn and then to teach, but the process is a never-ending back-and-forth of learning and teaching. It's a very mutual process, a symbiotic relationship. Or, in the immortal words of Rav Oscar Hammerstein II, "It's a very ancient saying, but a true and honest thought, that if you become a teacher by your pupils you'll be taught." That's why, in a Jewish educational setting, one

never asks, "What are you studying?" but rather, "What are you learning?" We are all learners and, if we lose sight of that fact, then we become mere recitation factories, spitting out the same answers, never really paying attention to the questions.

I started my job here on November 14, 2014. In UJF-Stamford terms that means I was one week pre-Tapestry. That means I was fumbling around in the center of a blur of purposeful, well-oiled movement, everyone understanding the function, the mission and the event. The only clueless individual was me. And I remained clueless for the better part of a month (OK, two months!), trying to get a grip on how UJF functions here in Stamford. I was getting an education in Jewish community organizational life in Connecticut. I asked whatever questions occurred to me, even if they seemed obvious or foolish. To this day, six months after I started, I am still trying to figure out the questions. What does the current educational paradigm in this community look like? What different paradigm might work better, and for whom? Who is looking for an opportunity to connect, and not finding it? What do you (whichever "you" I'm listening to or thinking about) want to learn or to do?

It is my sincere prayer that as I get some answers to some questions, I don't stop asking new questions. It's tricky finding the right questions to ask, but I will keep trying. And when I get answers, I pray to truly listen.

Cantor Marcia Lane is the United Jewish Federation's director of education and engagement.

J.E.E.P. is UJF's Jewish Education and Engagement Project.

## YLD Hosts Visiting Israeli Soldiers

The Young Leadership Division of UJF had the honor of hosting soldiers of the Israeli Defense Forces, at the home of Sam and Amy Gettler, on April 21. The event, chaired by Amy Davidson and Amy Gettler, allowed participants to meet and interact with the soldiers in an up-close-and-personal setting. As part of the JCC Tzahal Shalom program, the get-together was one of several events that took place during the week to introduce the soldiers to the Stamford community. Not only did the attendees have an opportunity to interact and socialize with the soldiers, but they heard, first-hand, about the soldiers' IDF experiences and personal stories.



L-r: Shira Nerenberg and Amy Gettler (event co-chair)

For more information about YLD, contact Sharon Franklin at Sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-5364, ext. 109.

At right (l-r): Danielle Kwalwasser, Evgenia Zilberberg, Taly Farber, Amy Davidson (event co-chair) and Sheri Jacobson



L-r: State Representative Caroline Simmons with Lisa Manheim and Dana Horowitz

### JCC's "J-Palooza" Features Local Bands

The JCC Center Women of the Stamford Jewish Community Center will host local rock and roll cover bands The Bagles, Wheels Up and Incidental Contact on Saturday, May 30, at 9:30 pm, at the Stamford JCC, located at 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Refreshments will be served and those attending the event must be age 21 or older. General admission is \$15 per person, or \$10 for JCC members. With beer and wine, admission is \$25 per person, or \$20 for JCC members.

Those interested in attending must register online at stamfordjcc.org. For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0942 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

### Tee Off at Carmel Golf Classic

Carmel Academy will hold its Annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 8, at the Glen Arbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills, NY.

The day will include an Elite 18 Hole Shamble on the Gary Player signature course, which has been host to The Westchester Open, USGA Amateur qualifiers and several Met section events. Golf will be followed by a cocktail reception, silent auction, awards dinner and raffle.

For more information about the Golf Classic, registration and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.carmelacademy.com/golfclassic or contact Seth Young at 203-983-3508, or seth.young@carmelacademy.com.

### An Evening of Art and Inspiration

Jewish Women Connected will hold an End of the Year Garden Party on Monday, June 8, at 7:45 pm, at Chabad of Stamford, 770 High Ridge Rd. This year's event will include collaborative art painting with Liron Sissman, a professional artist who is based in Stamford.

Sissman's oil paintings are featured in shows in New York City and throughout the country, and have won multiple awards. Her paintings are collected by institutional collectors nationwide and by individuals on three continents. For further information on Sissman, visit www.Liron.com.

JWC members can attend for free. The cost for non-JWC members is \$15. Those interested can be a hostess for \$180. To register for the garden party, e-mail programs@chabadstamford.org, call 203-324-223, ext 405, or visit www.chabadstamford.org.

Jewish Women Connected's goal is to reach out to Jewish women of all backgrounds and to help "nurture the nurturer" through its varied events.

### 11th Annual Rabbi Alex J. Goldman Memorial Essay Contest

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, and the Rabbi Alex J. Goldman Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce the 11th Annual Rabbi Alex J. Goldman Memorial Essay Contest for 10th-12th grade students. If you wish to participate in the contest, please write an essay based on your experiences in the Jewish community and Jewish identity by completing the following:

*"I never thought I would..."*

First prize \$1,000 ... Second prize \$500 ... Third prize \$250

The winning essays will be announced on June 19th, and winners will be honored at the Annual Meeting in December.

All entries must be received no later than 5:00 pm, Thursday, May 28, 2015. They can be emailed to Marcia@ujf.org.

**GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY SUBMISSIONS:**

- 500-750 words
- Double spaced using Times New Roman 12 point font
- The cover page should include your name, your school, grade, address, phone number and email
- Please do not put your name on the individual pages of the essay

For more information, contact Cantor Marcia Lane at (203) 653-2668 or Marcia@ujf.org.

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien

## Lower East Side Candy King Holds Firm Against Changing Neighborhood

BY DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

NEW YORK (JTA) – Walking into Economy Candy on Manhattan's Lower East Side, it's hard to know where to look first. To the foil-clad chocolate rabbits standing sentinel atop stacks of chocolate eggs? The stacks of kosher-for-Passover jelly rings and chocolate pops across the narrow aisle? The facing bins spilling over with peanut butter chews and saltwater taffy?

Make your way to the back of this Willy Wonka-esque store, past more of the 2,000 varieties of candy it sells, and the walls are lined with dispensers ready to release a rainbow of gumballs and jellybeans.

At a time when venerable Lower East Side companies like Streit's Matzos are

selling their increasingly valuable land to developers and departing (see related article on page 10), the decidedly old-school Economy Candy is holding firm.

Mitchell Cohen, who took over Economy Candy from his father two years ago after leaving his job at a leading investment bank, spent every Sunday he wasn't in Hebrew school, and each school vacation, helping his parents at the store. Now he gets a regular stream of calls from people wanting to buy the building.

"We're part of the neighborhood," said Cohen, 29. "We're not going anywhere."

Cohen's grandfather, Morris "Moishe" Cohen, started the business in 1937 as

Economy Shoe, a repair shop with a pushcart in front selling candy and dried fruits. When Moishe, whose family had emigrated from Greece, returned to the Lower East Side after serving in the Army, he and his brother-in-law took over the place and renamed it Economy Candy.

Moishe Cohen's family lived for a time on the third floor of the building that houses Economy Candy, back when it was a tenement. He died in his sleep in February at 97.

Today, Economy Candy inhabits all three stories, with the upper levels used for storage and packing web orders. The retail space on the first floor is



Mitchell Cohen at Economy Candy on New York's Lower East Side. (Photo by Debra Nussbaum Cohen)

## Fair. . . . . Continued from page 4

Elaine Finkelstein organized the Stamford group who attended the fair, which included representatives from the synagogues and day schools, along with real estate brokers. Finkelstein produced a retractable banner, which was hung in front of the Stamford booth and featured photos of various sites in the Stamford area. In order to attract more people to the booth, CAMOS raffled off a \$50 gift certificate to the Stamford kosher restaurant of their choice.

Since it began nine years ago, CAMOS has been responsible for hosting dozens of prospective residents for Shabbat – and a sizable percentage of these families have ended up moving here. Last year, CAMOS organized a Shabbaton that was attended by 11 families; one of the families has already committed to move here and two others are consider-

ing a move to Stamford. "I'm particularly gratified that some of the people who were the recipients of the hospitality that CAMOS extended to them when they were thinking of moving here are now actively involved in extending that same kind of welcome to other prospective residents," said Feldstein.

CAMOS is planning another Shabbaton later this year and will continue to recruit more young families to consider a move here. "Attracting more young families to Stamford is the lifeblood for our community," said Feldstein, "and we will continue to do what we can to convince more people to consider Stamford as a place to live. The more families who move here, the stronger all of our Jewish institutions will be, including our local kosher restaurants, day schools, synagogues and Federation."

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

Do you LOVE to read?  
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United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien  
 BETTER TOGETHER



At right (l-r): Danielle Kwalwasser, Evgenia Zilberberg, Taly Farber, Amy Davidson (event co-chair) and Sheri Jacobson

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[www.templesholom.com/tslc](http://www.templesholom.com/tslc)

# Temple Sinai Gala

Temple Sinai's annual gala, We Are Family, was held on April 18 with more than 165 people in attendance. Amy and Henry Bubel were honored as pillars of the Temple Sinai community and exemplars of what it means to help family – their own, Temple Sinai's and the community at large. Money raised at the event will be used by the temple to help support its numerous programs and activities.



Amy and Henry Bubel, gala honorees

# Ten Frames of Friendship

BY CASEY AUERBACH  
The Friendship Circle's Annual Teen Bowling League met on four Sundays in May at Bowlmor Lanes in Norwalk. "We were extremely excited for this year's Bowling League, and we had strong participation from both volunteers and FC families. It was a positive and fun experience for all involved. Kids and their families love having the opportunity to engage with others of similar situations, and we were delighted to be able to host and facilitate this inclusive program," said Malya Shmotkin, executive director of The Friendship Circle. "Events such as the Bowling League, and other programs that the Friendship Circle organizes, enable individuals with special needs to participate in age-appropriate activities with peers in a safe and non-judgmental environment. Due to the scale of the events and the



Eli Bayer (in front) at last year's bowling event. (Photo by Lia Feller Photography)



The Gala Committee members (l-r): Sadae Kadish, Wendy Lewis, Carl Rosen, Janet Barr, Shelly Welfeld, Jeri Appel, Eileen Besser, Larry Cryer and Andrea Greenburg. (Photos by Crane Song Photography)

# Live from Carmel... the Hawk Eye News Team

BY JULIE LAPIN  
Whether it's breaking news or a feature story, Carmel Academy's Hawk Eye News Team has it covered.

The school's budding student journalists – made up of middle-school writers, on-air reporters, film crew and editors – produce a weekly newscast covering everything from special events to campus and classroom happenings.

The Hawk Eye News Team, whose name references Carmel's Hawk mascot, gives students hands-on, real-life experience in being part of news production, said Andy Greenspan, Carmel Academy's technology teacher and news team faculty advisor.

"Each week the students show increased knowledge, confidence and sophistication," Greenspan said. "The entire crew really makes Carmel Academy proud, whether it's exhibiting their natural inquisitiveness during interviews, their eloquence in front of the camera, or their insightfulness in directing and editing."

"It's really nice to be able to do something fun and creative, and to do something good for the school at the same time," said seventh-grader and news team member Micayla Roth.

Seventh-grader Noah Bookstein agreed. "I really



Carmel Academy seventh-grader Micayla Roth and eighth-grader Carolina Hirschfield worked on a Hawk Eye News Team report with faculty advisor Andy Greenspan.



Eighth-grader Noam Gold interviewed Carmel music teacher Bill Magaliff for a Hawk Eye News Report.

like giving back to the school community. We are fortunate that we get to cover great events happening at Carmel Academy and then bring that information to people who are not here."

The students are learning lessons about how the news is reported – from meeting deadlines, to researching, planning and interviewing skills, Greenspan said. In addition, each student has a chance to learn the technical aspects of producing a news segment, such as shooting video, operating an HD video camera and editing the final piece.

The weekly newscast is broadcast on the school's website homepage ([www.carmelacademy.com](http://www.carmelacademy.com)) and in the school newsletter "Kol Carmel," as well as posted to Carmel's social media.

Members of the news team agree that seeing the final product each week is exciting.

"We feel accomplished and a little relieved that we have done something good. I have a much better appreciation of what it takes to put together a news report," said seventh-grader Sydney Eben.

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

## מזל טוב!

### Our graduating Class of 2015 is heading off to high school!


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AND

**Mrs. Michal Smart** ..... **Jewish Education Innovation Challenge** finalists for the creation and successful implementation of the innovative Mesora/Matmid middle school Judaic learning pathways.

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YOUR GIFT goes to families under missile fire in Southern Israel who are protected with Safe Houses.

YOUR GIFT feeds hungry children around the world. Spanning from Kosher meals provided by Stamford's JFS (Jewish Family Service) to Federation supported agencies across Israel, the Former Soviet Union, and beyond,

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## Bi-Cultural Sweeps Stamford Literary Competition

The students at Bi-Cultural Day School swept the literary awards at this year's annual Ferguson Library Stamford Literary Competition. This year's winners include Tamar Rosenfeld (grade four, second place, fiction), Nicole Peru (grade four, second place, non-fiction), Gaia Sokolov (grade four, honorable mention, poetry), Josh Sherman (grade six, first place, fiction, and honorable mention, poetry), Sophie Yellen (grade

six, third place, fiction), Rebecca Friedlander (grade six, honorable mention, fiction), Gavriel Genger (grade six, first place, poetry), Eitan Genger (grade seven, first place, fiction), Jordana Raich (grade seven, second place, fiction) and Joshua Labkoff (grade eight, honorable mention, fiction).

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



This year's Ferguson Library Stamford Literary Competition winners from Bi-Cultural Day School include (back row): Jordana Raich, Joshua Sherman, Eitan Genger and Gavriel Genger; (front row): Rebecca Friedlander, Gaia Sokolov, Tamar Rosenfeld and Nicole Peru. Missing from the photo are Joshua Labkoff and Sophie Yellen. (Photo by Dora Salm)

## Science, Technology, Engineering and Math at JHSC

BY SUSAN BIRKE FIEDLER

Since Greg Feldman was little, he wanted to become a doctor. His interest became more fully realized at the Jewish High School of Connecticut, where he has taken engineering courses, performed experiments in a world class lab and grappled with mathematical concepts in calculus.

"I particularly loved biology, which formed the basis of my interest in medicine, and I wanted to more fully explore how science relates to medicine in a laboratory setting," said Feldman. "With the support of my science teacher Meghan Fernandez, I applied and was

accepted to the Discovery to Cure High School Internship Program at Yale Medical School. The program will enable me to be a part of a research team exploring ovarian cancer. An incredible opportunity for me."

At the Jewish High School of Connecticut, the atmosphere and culture of the school encourages students to more fully explore their interests outside the classroom. "It is my goal to help my students find the right internships to expand on their knowledge, build new skills and be creative. Internships provide students with a

See "JHSC" on page 17

## Carmel Academy Students Remember Israel's Fallen

BY JULIE LAPIN

Carmel Academy's sixth grade led a community memorial service on Yom Hazikaron to honor those who lost their lives to create and sustain the state of Israel.

The Israel Memorial Day ceremony began the way Israel commemorates this solemn day, with the sounding of a minute-long siren. Students, faculty, parents and community members stood in silence and reflection. Among those in attendance were visiting IDF soldiers from Tzahal Shalom.

The ceremony, which was guided by Carmel Academy's Israeli *shlichim* (emissaries) Itamar Shoham and Matan Bouter, included songs, readings and a dance choreographed by the students. Members of the sixth grade played music to accompany the ceremony.

Each member of the Carmel Academy faculty who served in the Israel Defense Forces was called upon to light a commemorative candle. The students read the names of Carmel alumni and previous emissaries, who are serving, or who have served, in the IDF.

What was considered one of the most poignant moments of the service was a tribute to Max Steinberg, an American IDF lone soldier who was killed last summer in the Gaza conflict.

"When I came to Carmel Academy seven years ago, I wondered how the

students would commemorate this day. When I came to the ceremony, it was amazing. The ceremony was exactly like the ones in Israel – the entire atmosphere, the songs and the stories of our soldiers who sacrificed their lives," said Carmel Academy Judaic studies teacher and former IDF soldier Anat Ankava.

"Having our *shlichim* here helps bring Israeli culture into our school. It is so important that our students understand that Yom Hazikaron is not like Memorial Day here. They have services to remember all of those – each and every soldier and civilian – who were killed on behalf of the state of Israel to protect the Jewish people everywhere," said Erica Sokoloff, Carmel Academy's director of Jewish life.

At the end of the service, each student was given a candle with the name of one of the 75 people who lost their lives last year, most of them during Operation Protective Edge last summer. Each candle was brought home and lit that evening so that the community could collectively honor the memories of those lost. Also that evening, members of Carmel's sixth grade class performed the song "Misheberach" at Congregation Agudath Sholom's Yom Hazikaron memorial service.

Carmel Academy's eighth grade, which was in Israel for Yom Hazikaron, See "Fallen" on page 18



Members of Carmel Academy's sixth grade class lowered the Israeli flag during a Yom Hazikaron memorial service at the school. L-r: Josh Geffner, Josh Beder, Rebecca Katz and Shimmy Wohlberg.

## Gan Yeladim Launches Farm-To-Table Lunch Program

BY TALY FARBER

Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center has always strived to meet the needs of the parents and children that go to the school, whether through summer camp programs or after-school enrichment programs. When parents asked for a lunch program, Gan Yeladim Co-directors "Reb Dovid" Hordiner and "Morah Michal" Mendelow thought about how to give the parents what they were asking for.

When presented with the oppor-

tunity to work with Giovanni Green – "Chef D'Amour" of Break Bread Not Hearts (a farm-to-table healthy cooking initiative) – they knew that they had found the right partnership. Green creates plant-based, healthy foods. The monthly menu at Gan will comprise of nutritional, well-balanced, child-friendly meals for the children and use locally sourced and organic ingredients, when seasonally available. All foods will also be nut-free.

When asked about the program,

Hordiner said, "We wanted to create this lunch program to benefit the Gan parents. We wanted it to be a convenience and a way to support the parents to provide nutritious, well-balanced meals for their children. We believe it will be a welcome addition to the school, for the classes and the children to have good food on site. It was also an amazing opportunity to work with Chef Giovanni, who sees food so creatively and more than just for bodily sustenance but for

overall well-being." Mendelow said, "Healthy, nutritious eating is currently a part of the Gan curriculum and this will help us take it to the next level."

The Gan Kosher Lunch Program was to begin on May 4 and run for the final seven weeks of the 2014-2015 school year. It will then continue through summer camp and the full 2015-2016 school year. All lunches will be made on site in the kosher kitchen of Chabad Stamford.

## Kids Have Fun at Chabad Kids Club

Chabad Kids Club is a new after-school program for kindergarten



Morah Miri Katzman with Wyatt Elsner (back) and Nate Elsner (front) celebrated Nate's achievement of moving up a level in his aleph bet studies.

through sixth grade which meets on Wednesdays, from 4-6 pm, at the Keratanu Children's Library at Chabad of Stamford, 770 High Ridge Rd. CKC focuses on instilling children with a love for Judaism through *chesed* (acts of kindness), *aleph bet* studies, and *parasha* (weekly Torah readings) studies.



Rochel Shmotkin and Chana Deren displayed a Pesach Project.

## Carmel Choir Performs at Hebrew Song Celebration



Members of the Carmel Academy choir performed at the Hebrew Song Celebration in New York City on March 22. The concert, the first of its kind in North America, celebrated the music of Naomi Shemer and was co-sponsored by the World Zionist Organization. Carmel Academy was one of 10 choirs performing from the New York metro region. The choir of third grade girls, under the direction of CA music teacher Bill Magaliff, sang two songs in Hebrew – "Shire Shel Aba" ("Father's Song") by Naomi Shemer and "Ani Ve'ata" ("Me and You") by Arik Einstein and Miki Gavrielov. L-r: Zoe Hurwitz, Eva Specter, Sophia Geffner, Lily Lebuwohl and Emmy Brennan.

# FAMILY CENTRAL

## JUNE & JULY/AUGUST 2015

### AGES 4 TO 14

**5th Annual JCC Kids Triathlon**  
Sunday, June 14 • 7 am registration / 8 am start. For more information, contact Mo Concepcion at (203) 487-0965 or mconcepcion@stamfordjcc.org.

### BIRTH through PRESCHOOL

**Got Shabbat! Tiny Treasures Mommy & Me**  
(Birth to 30 months). Fridays, 9:45-10:45 am at Chabad. Caregivers welcome. Fee: \$15 per class (first timers FREE).

**Movin' and Groovin' at the JCC**  
12 - 30 months, with parent or caregiver. Tuesdays through June 16 • 10:00-10:45 am. Fee: \$230 for 11 sessions / \$190 JCC members.

**Music and Movement**  
For children birth - 30 months. For toddlers. Wednesday, June 10 • 1:30-2:10pm at Bi-Cultural Day School with Jonathan Cahr and Rachel Bahar. FREE. Information: Joanne Karow, 203-329-2186 x1310 or jkarow@bcds.org.

**Music Together at the JCC**  
Birth-5 years with parent or caregiver. To register, contact Music Together of Fairfield County at 203-256-1656.

**Tiny Treasures - Nurturing the Seeds**  
4 months to 3 years old. Wednesdays, 9:15-10:15 am at Gan Yeladim. \$90 for 10 weeks / \$15 drop in class. Fun, interactive, hands on activities led by Nechama Hordiner. RSVP to nhordiner@ganheladim.org.

### SHABBAT

For information about Shabbat services, call the individual synagogues

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS): 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 329-2186 • www.bcds.org  
CHABAD HOUSE: 770 High Ridge Rd, Stamford • 203-3-CHABAD #418 • Leah Shemtov: morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org  
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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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June & July/August 2015

# SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Elder Wisdom: Lessons for Living and Loving**  
**Thursday, June 4 at 7:30 pm** at Jewish Senior Services, The Jewish Home, 175 Jefferson St., Fairfield with Karl Pillemer, Ph.D., renowned gerontologist, researcher and international speaker on aging. Free. RSVP to Kim Gintoli at 203-365-6463 or kgintoli@seniors.org.
- JCC Support Group for Blind and Visually Impaired Adults**  
**Thursday, June 18 from 1-2:30 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. Free to all but reservation required.
- Who Will Care for Me? Challenges of Caring for an Aging Loved One** **Wednesday, June 3 from 7-8:30 pm** at the Stamford JCC. JFS will present Dr. Janis Abrahms Spring, Ph.D., ABPP, nationally renowned expert on issues of trust, intimacy, forgiveness and author of the award-winning book, *Life with Pop: Lessons on Caring for an Aging Parent*. She will offer advice on aging gracefully. Light refreshments will be served. Talk will be followed by book sale and signing. Co-sponsored by JFS Home Companion and Stamford JCC. The event is open to the community at no cost. For more information, contact Eve Moskowitz, JFS Clinical Director at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.

## COUNSELING, MEDIATION & CRISIS

- JFS For Children/ Adolescents Diagnosed With ADD/ADHD**  
**Wednesday afternoons.** Finding Your Focus with Dr. Lee Combrinck-Graham MD. Service includes psychiatric evaluation, review of previous evaluations, family assessment, on-going support, and medication management. Qualifies for insurance reimbursement. **For more information, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.**
- JFS College Counseling**  
 Need help navigating the college admission and application process? Qualified, experienced assistance provided by Claire D. Friedlander, JFS College Consultant. Competitive fees. **For more information, contact Claire Friedlander at (203- 921-4161 or clairef@ctjfs.org.**
- JFS 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 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.**

## CARING FOR SENIORS

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE:** Mayla Shmotkin • malya@friendshipct.com  
**JCC OR THE J: JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER:** 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org  
**JFS: Jewish Family Service:** (203) 921-4161; Stamford office: 733 Summer Street, Suite 602; Westport office: 431 Post Road East, Suite 11. www.ctjfs.org

## DIVORCE & BEREAVEMENT

- JFS Bereavement Support Group**  
**Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Free of charge.** Are you searching for a safe haven to explore your thoughts and feelings about grief? JFS provides an environment of emotional, physical and spiritual support. **For more information, contact Rosemarie Delia at 203-921-4161 or rdelia@ctjfs.org.**
- Parent Education Program (PEP)**  
 State-mandated workshop for divorcing parents with children at JFS Stamford. **Fee is \$125 per person. Call for date and to register at 203-324-3167.**
- JFS Focus on K.I.D.S.**  
 For divorced or separated parents experiencing high conflict around parenting decisions. Teaches both parents strategies for communicating in a non-hostile manner. **For more information, contact Erika Garcia at (203) 921-4161 or erikag@ctjfs.org.**
- JFS Divorce Support Group in Stamford**  
**Mondays from 7-8 pm in Stamford. Fee: \$10/session or \$50/entire 6 sessions.** For adults who would like to discuss all aspects of separation and divorce, JFS will provide a support group in the JFS Stamford office, 733 Summer Street, 6th Floor. You must register to attend by contacting Rebekah Kanefsky at rkanefsky@ctjfs.org or call 203-921-4161.
- JFS Divorce Support Group in Westport**  
**Tuesdays from 7-8 pm in Westport. Fee: \$10/session or \$50/entire 6 sessions.** For adults who would like to discuss all aspects of separation and divorce, JFS will provide a support group in the JFS Westport office, 431 Post Road E. Suite 11. You must register to attend by contacting Kylie Rothman at krothman@ctjfs.org or call 203-921-4161.

## 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 11:30 am.** 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. **For Information/ Register: Rosemarie Delia 203-921-4161 or rdelia@ctjfs.org.**
- JFS Seniors2Work**  
 Job Bank for age 50+. Lower Fairfield employers can list full/part time jobs for dedicated, skilled mature workers. No fees. **For more information, contact Ilene Locker or Jodi Maxner at 203-921-4161 or www.seniors2work.org**

## SUPPORT

- "NEW" Brain Fitness Program**  
 Trained volunteers will work with clients in early stage dementia or Alzheimer's in the client's home. An aide or family member will be present. The Brain Fitness initiative will last for 10 weeks for each client. If you are interested in being trained as a volunteer, or for more information, contact Caroline Temlock Teichman at crt3333@aol.com.
- JFS Caregiver Support Group**  
**Sundays at 5 pm at JFS Westport.** An open forum to provide support and help in dealing with the difficulties and stresses of caring for two generations. Fee: \$10/session or \$50 for fix sessions. Facilitator: Rona Wall, LCSW. For more information or to register, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-461-9161 or email 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.**
- Let's Talk**  
**Thursdays, 11 am at the Stamford JCC. Free.** Meet new people or deepen your friendship with those you already know. Engage in meaningful conversation about a wide variety of topics that are important in our lives. Topics 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 Kylie Rothman from Jewish Family Service, free of charge. For more information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman, Director of Senior Adult Services at Stamford JCC at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.
- Support for Families Living with Autism**  
 Time and Location TBA. Interested in joining a support group sharing the joys and challenges of living with Autism Spectrum Disorders? JFS will be launching a new group. For more details, contact Eve Moskowitz, JFS Director of Clinical Services at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org

# Cracking the Code at Bi-Cultural

BY DORA SALM

Ed Miranti, a middle-school math teacher at Bi-Cultural Day School, started the year off with a bang – and some code. Since the beginning of the school year, Miranti has been integrating coding – designing and writing computer programming source code – into his sixth grade math curriculum. He created a set of unit projects meant to solidify math concepts and intended to gradually introduce coding into these lessons. After a short time, he quickly realized how well his students responded and that coding was here to stay.

"I was pleasantly surprised at the level of engagement and initiative that I saw in the students right away," Miranti said.

The coding lessons included generating macros, creating password screens, and creating simple and compound interest calculators, all of which segue with the students' math lessons. "Programming a task into a computer not only helps to clarify how computers can save time in complex or voluminous computation, but also to clarify the actual process of completing the task," said Miranti.

Miranti explained that coding has not replaced lessons in the traditional math curriculum, but has enhanced his math class to make it more robust and focused. "Concepts such as conditional statements are so important in math and they are actually the foundation of coding," Miranti said.



Bi-Cultural math teacher Ed Miranti explained some coding concepts during a sixth grade math class as Yoni Semel and Danya Taub followed along on their laptops. (Photo by Dora Salm)

Using Microsoft Excel with Visual Basic, a Microsoft-specific programming language, the students are developing critical, higher-level thinking skills, enabling them to use both their mathematical and creative abilities.

"The skills that these kids use in coding will help them throughout their life and extend far beyond the classroom," Miranti said. He explained that coding can be used across all curriculums, from math and science areas to social studies, economics, anthropology and even art. "The major advances in most fields are

happening through programming and coding, which can make some powerful ideas come to life."

Coding became so popular that mid-way through the school year, several of Miranti's students approached Bi-Cultural's administration with a request to add coding as a course elective in the middle-school program. Soon thereafter, more than half the sixth grade class enrolled in the coding class, providing Miranti the opportunity to further develop coding with cross-curricular connections and address the changing skill sets of modern problem-solving and professional life.

One of Miranti's primary goals in introducing coding to the school is to ensure that the students are comfortable with, and not intimidated by, the process of coding. "I really want the students to understand what programming really means; it may seem like an abstract concept, but coding is really just using a computer to carry out functions otherwise done manually."

One of Miranti's students, sixth-grader Zev Mehl, has been actively coding all year and says he is excited to learn more. "I really liked learning how to create macros and coding a calculator, but the most fun I have had was creating movies and stories using code. I never knew that you could actually program in Excel. It's made math really fun."

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

# Bi-Cultural Commemorates and Celebrates

The students, faculty, parents and community members of Bi-Cultural Day School joined together to remember, commemorate and celebrate during the month of April. On April 16, the seventh grade class led an assembly to commemorate Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day); on April 22, the eighth grade class organized an assembly for Israel's Memorial Day, Yom Hazikaron; and on April 23, the entire school celebrated with guests from Tzahal (members of the Israel Defense Forces) for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Each assembly featured student-led assemblies that included original artwork, dance, musical and theater pieces.

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

At right: The sixth grade class performed a *adaglanut* (flags presentation) during the schoolwide Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. (Photo by Michelle Gordon)



Ethan Essensfeld read during the Yom Hazikaron service, led by the eighth grade class. (Photo by Lauren Canno-Frey)



The Bi-Cultural seventh grade class led the Yom Hashoah commemoration service, which included readings and musical pieces. Oren Gabay and Jakob Okun in the forefront and Douglas Herman, Nathaniel Herman and Gabriel Dweck in the background. (Photo by Lauren Canno-Frey)



# 3 SQUARE

because hunger doesn't take a break on the weekend  
 a ujf community cares program

In Connecticut, nearly one child in five is hungry or food insecure and does not get enough food outside of the free meal programs provided by the public schools. Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is joining other programs throughout the country to do something about this situation in our own backyards.

Your support helps 3 SQUARE provide elementary school-age children identified as "in need" with a bag of food each Friday to sustain them through the weekend. Most of these children are chronically hungry and don't have regular access to food.

For further information, please contact Rebekah Raz at rebekah@ujf.org.



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

# Nepal.....Continued from page 1

◆ Magen David Adom, Israel's version of the Red Cross, also sent a group of doctors, paramedics and medical supplies to the country, and rescue and recovery workers from ZAKA and United Hatzalah are in Nepal. The Israeli nonprofit Tevel b'Tzedek, which has had a presence in Nepal for eight years, is helping to provide emergency shelter relief and meet other urgent needs.

◆ IsraAid, a 14-year-old Israeli nonprofit that focuses on disaster relief work, made headlines on April 30 when its workers helped lead an international aid effort to rescue a woman in her 20s who had been buried in debris since the earthquake hit five days earlier.

◆ Some of the Israeli groups receive American Jewish support – IsraAid, for example, is funded by a few North American Jewish Federations, the American Jewish Committee and B'nai B'rith International – but most of the American Jewish money dedicated to Nepal is not going through Israeli groups.

**UNITED STATES**  
 ◆ Jewish Federations of North America: The Federation umbrella organization, based in New York, is the central address for the fund-raising efforts of individual Jewish Federations around North America (donors also can give to the umbrella group directly). Since the Nepal quake, non-Federation Jewish institutions such as the Orthodox Union also have appealed to constituents to make Nepal relief donations through the Jewish Federations. Most of the money raised for humanitarian aid goes to the Jewish Federations' overseas partner organization, the JDC. Totals raised from Federations for other recent major disasters overseas included \$1 million after the Philippines was struck by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, \$1 million after the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, \$5 million after the 2010 Haiti earthquake and \$10 million for the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

◆ American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:



Israeli soldiers established a field hospital together with the Nepalese army on April 29 in Nepal. (Photo by IDF Spokesperson/Flash90)

The JDC collects money for special disaster relief appeals from North American Federations and individual donors and foundations, and spends it on a variety of needs ranging from the immediate to the long-term. After the Nepal earthquake hit, JDC, which did not have a presence in the country, sent some medical equipment to the IDF field hospital that departed for Nepal on April 27, including two neonatal incubators. The JDC also sent funds to Magen David Adom to assist the Nepalese Red Cross, to UNICEF to provide emergency supplies for children, including water and sanitary materials, and to Tevel B'tzedek to assist with providing shelter.

Meanwhile, the JDC dispatched several staffers to Nepal, including a disaster relief expert who is also a field medic, JDC's India country director and others with experience in disaster relief and work in the developing world. Typically, JDC disaster relief efforts last for years. For example, of the \$2.7 million JDC raised for Philippines relief, as of last September \$1.5 million of it had been allocated along the following lines: 34 percent on emergency response and relief, 25 percent on restoring jobs and livelihoods, 15 percent on disaster risk reduction programs, 14 percent on rebuilding schools, 11 percent on psychosocial support and post-trauma care and 1 percent on public health initiatives.

JDC's disaster relief efforts included \$2.8 million after the Japanese earthquake, \$8.8 million after the Haiti earthquake and \$19.6 million after the Indian Ocean tsunami. The JDC also coordinates the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief, a collection of 49 Jewish agencies that have raised funds for various disasters and in some cases have implemented their own disaster relief programs.

◆ American Jewish World Service: AJWS works in six countries in Asia, but not Nepal. Following the April 25 earthquake, however, the organization sprung into action, raising \$800,000 for Nepal disaster relief in just five days and beginning to distribute the funds to local recipient organizations. AJWS's focus is on rural communities, minorities, women and gays.

To that end, the first round of AJWS grants to Nepal are going to a group providing medical support and earthquake relief to HIV-positive LGBT people; an organization that provides free and low-cost medical care to Nepal's most destitute; a group that focuses on health care, education and employment for poor communities in remote mountain villages; and a women's rights organization providing pregnant mothers with shelter and other basic necessities. AJWS is also supporting International Medical Corps' work providing earthquake survivors with first aid and psychosocial support.

AJWS became a major Jewish aid organization after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, for which it



An Israeli team in the process of rescuing Krishna Devi Khadka, a young woman in her 20s who was stuck in a hotel for five days in an air pocket covered by a body. (Photo by Mickey Noam Alon/IsraAID)

collected nearly \$11 million. It also collected \$6.6 million after the Haiti earthquake, \$1 million after the Philippines typhoon and more than \$1 million for Ebola relief. Some of AJWS's money has come from the Jewish Federations.

◆ Chabad: With outposts around the world, Chabad emissaries often are the first Jews to respond in person to disasters in far-flung places. After the earthquake struck Nepal, Rabbi Chezy Lifshitz of Chabad of Nepal began bringing hygiene supplies, hot meals, fresh water and fruit to clusters of Nepalese citizens whose homes had turned to rubble, distributing some 2,000 meals per day, according to Chabad. The rabbi also borrowed a helicopter to hitch a ride to the mountainous region of Dhunche on April 29, where some 25 Israeli hikers were stranded and later were airlifted out. The hikers will be sheltered in the Chabad House, which has turned into a crisis hub according to Chabad. The movement is also collecting funds for Nepal earthquake relief.

**TO DONATE TO RELIEF EFFORTS:**

- ◆ Magen David Adom – [www.mdais.com/Donations](http://www.mdais.com/Donations)
- ◆ ZAKA – [www.zaka.us/index.asp](http://www.zaka.us/index.asp)
- ◆ United Hatzalah – <https://israelrescue.org>
- ◆ Tevel b'Tzedek – [www.tevelbtzedek.org](http://www.tevelbtzedek.org)
- ◆ IsraAid – [www.israaid.co.il](http://www.israaid.co.il)
- ◆ American Jewish Committee – [www.ajc.org](http://www.ajc.org)
- ◆ B'nai B'rith International – <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/bbi-disaster-relief>
- ◆ Jewish Federations of North America – <https://secure-fedweb.jewishfederations.org/page/contribute/nepal-relief-fund>
- ◆ American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee – [https://secure3.convio.net/jdc/site/Donation2?df\\_id=4102&4102.donation=form1](https://secure3.convio.net/jdc/site/Donation2?df_id=4102&4102.donation=form1)
- ◆ American Jewish World Service – [www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org)
- ◆ Chabad – [https://chabad.org/cdonate.org/special/campaigns/nepal\\_earthquake/donate.htm](https://chabad.org/cdonate.org/special/campaigns/nepal_earthquake/donate.htm)

# Hippos in Israel? New Museum Re-animates Biblical Wildlife

BY ORIT ARFA  
 JNS.org

At the recent official opening of the Biblical Museum of Natural History in Beit Shemesh, Israel, Rabbi Natan Slikin – also known as the “Zoo Rabbi” – unveiled a huge skull, asking Beit Shemesh Mayor Moshe Abutbul and leading local rabbis to guess which animal the skull belongs to. Slikin gave some clues. It was mentioned in the Book of Job as a “*behema*.” It lives in swamps and eats grass.

“For a long time, nobody knew how to identify it, so instead of translating it, it was just translated as ‘behemoth,’” explained Slikin, the museum’s founder. “That is how the word ‘behemoth’ entered the English language, to refer to a monstrous animal. But we can identify it.”

The answer: a hippopotamus, an animal indigenous to the land of Israel. “They were on the coast as far north as Zichron Yaakov, and one of our guides here has a hippo tusk that he found in the Kinneret,” Slikin said.

The hippopotamus is just one example of an animal people associate more with African safaris than the land of Israel. During biblical times, the land was covered in dense forests, providing cover to a slew of creatures that these days Jews see only in zoos, the National Geographic channel and Disney movies.

One of the goals of the new museum is to bring Jews back in touch with biblical wildlife, a subject ignored by the people of Israel as they were exiled from the land, evolving into the so-called “people of the book” – only to return to the land as “people of the start-up.” But the land of Israel, located at the nexus of Europe, Asia and Africa, actually occupies a very special place from a zoogeographic perspective, according to Slikin.

“It’s our connection to historical Israel,” Slikin told JNS.org in his British accent, wearing one of

his signature animal-themed ties. The rabbi made *aliyah* with his family 20 years ago from Manchester, England, to emerge as one of the foremost experts on biblical zoology. His other lifelong “pet project” – “The Torah Encyclopedia of the Animal Kingdom” – will be launched in time for Passover.

“Every nation, every culture, has animals that are part of that culture – animals that appear in its cultural texts and traditions,” said Slikin. “For the Native Americans, it’s the buffalo and wolf. For the Aboriginals of Australia, it’s the kangaroo and emu... The people of Israel have lions, leopards, bears, vultures, crocodiles and hippos. These are not animals from the shtetls of Europe.”

# JHSC.....Continued from page 12

critical aspect of learning to be a scientist,” said Meghan Fernandez, one of the science teachers at JHSC. “Our extensive STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) curriculum with world class labs enables our students to gain the experience and knowledge necessary to be competitive and successful in obtaining internships.”

In addition to Feldman, other students have been accepted to the Yale program. A number of students have also been accepted to Brandeis University’s Global Youth Summit on the Future of Medicine 2014-2015. Eva Gerber, who will be graduating from JHSC this summer and going to Yale University in the fall, said she was thrilled to be accepted to the International Summer Science Institute at the Weizmann Institute in Israel. The program accepts 80 students internationally and 20 students from the United States. “I applied because of the high caliber of the faculty and the research, but I also wanted to spend time in Israel before I headed off to a college campus

But the animals that figure prominently in the Torah have largely been exiled or killed off, mostly due to deforestation and Roman-era hunting. The last bear in Israel was seen in Nahal Amud, in the Galilee region, in 1917. Crocodiles lived in a place called “Nahal Taninim” (Crocodile Creek) until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, exactly four leopards walk the Negev desert.

Slikin plans to put as many biblical animals as possible on interactive display at the museum, whether as live creatures in cages or taxidermy mounts. The taxidermed lion named “Simba” serves as the centerpiece, since the lion figures most prominently in

See “Hippos” on page 19

in the fall,” Gerber said. “I am acutely aware of the anti-Israel rhetoric and it is important to me that I have some time before college to immerse myself in the country, culture and people of Israel.”

“It is the combination of the astonishing number of STEM courses, in a challenging, but supportive environment, that sparks many students’ interest in STEM program or initiatives,” said Dr. Paul Castle, JHSC’s school principal. “At JHSC, we pride ourselves in helping our students learn to be scientists – to experience the thrill of learning scientific concepts and then applying it to life and to new ideas.”

To learn more about JHSC, call 203-357-0850 or [e-mail info@jhsc.org](mailto:info@jhsc.org). JHSC offers merit and financial aid scholarships. JHSC is located at the Stamford Technology Center, 1937 West Main St., Stamford.

Susan Birke Fiedler is the JHSC acting head of school.

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

# What’s On for Adults

June & July/August 2015

## OPEN EVENTS - JUNE

- 20s and 30s BBQ**  
 (Open to 20s and 30s – single or couples). Sunday, June 7 • 5 pm at the Shemtov deck. \$15 Early Bird / \$20 at the door. Hot dogs, hamburgers and all the trimmings.
- Gimmel Tammuz Evening of Tribute**  
 Thursday, June 18 • 7:30 pm at Chabad Stamford.
- Hadassah BBQ**  
 Wednesday, June 17 at the home of Elaine Finkelstein. For further information, contact either Allison Greenbaum, [fgreen@optonline.net](mailto:fgreen@optonline.net) or 203-253-1820 or Rhonda Greif at [rhonda.greif@gmail.com](mailto:rhonda.greif@gmail.com) or 203-829-9341.
- Hadassah Book Club**  
 Wednesday, June 3 • 7:15 pm • Location TBE. “The Lion Seeker” by Kenneth Bonert. For further information or RSVP: [rhonda.greif@gmail.com](mailto:rhonda.greif@gmail.com) or 203-829-9341.
- Israel Lunch & Learn at the JCC**  
 Thursday, June 11 • 12:00-1:00 pm with Or Berger, JCC’s Israeli *shlich*. Free of charge. Bring lunch; JCC will provide dessert (dairy). Register or for more information, contact Or at 203-487-09651 or [oberger@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:oberger@stamfordjcc.org)
- JCC Annual Julius B. and Edward Kuriansky Memorial Golf & Tennis Outing**  
 Monday, June 1 • 9:30 am tennis / 12:45 pm shotgun start for golfers at Rockrimmon Country Club to benefit JumpStart at the JCC. Includes lunch, cocktail hour and awards party. Contact Shannon Jacobs at 203-4878-0965 or [sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org).
- Jewish Historical Society 30th Anniversary Celebration**  
 Sunday, June 7 • 4:00-6:00 pm at Temple Beth El.
- JWC Garden Party**  
 For Women Only. Monday, June 8 • 7:15 pm (mingle, meet and nibble) • program at 8 pm at the home of Meredith Cohen. Collaborative artwork with artist, Liron Sissman. JWC Members free / \$15 non-members.
- Men’s Club George Lipton Golf and Tennis Invitational**  
 Monday, June 22 at Rockrimmon Country Club, Stamford. Presented by the Men’s Club of Jewish Senior Services, Fairfield. Information: 203-365-6407 or [jcarroll@seniors.org](mailto:jcarroll@seniors.org).
- Men’s End of the Year BBQ**  
 (Open to Men). Thursday, June 11 • 8:00 pm at the Shemtov deck, 10 Brandt Road, Stamford. \$36 per person. Sponsored by Chabad.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

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

# Adult Volunteer Opportunities

- JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC)**  
 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:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org)
- JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS)**  
 Drivers needed to deliver food from the Kosher Food Pantry to individuals in the community. For information: Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or [rkanefsky@ctjfs.org](mailto:rkanefsky@ctjfs.org)
- UJF’s READING PARTNERS**  
 Read one-on-one with Stamford public school children. One hour a week, mornings or afternoons. 12 elementary schools and 2 community centers. Training, literacy focused workshops and support network provided. Contact Marlyn Agatstein 203-321-1373 x115 or [Readingpartners@ujf.org](mailto:Readingpartners@ujf.org).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

- JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J): 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • 203-322-7900 • [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org)
- JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS): 733 Summer Street, Stamford • (203) 921-4161 • [www.ctjfs.org](http://www.ctjfs.org)
- UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN (UJF): 1035 Newfield Avenue, Suite 200, Stamford • (203) 321-1373 • [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org)

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY (JHS)**  
 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.

VOICES AND VIEWS

YOUNG VOICES

Insights into BBYO International Convention

BY STEPHANIE HAUSMAN

This past February, more than 2,200 Jewish teens attended the BBYO International Convention 2015 in Atlanta, GA. Among the crowd were 12 members from local Stamford chapters, Tikvah BBG and Leviticus AZA, and 82 from BBYO Connecticut Valley Region. It was inspiring to watch those in my delegation come together for a week filled with new friendships with teens from 20 countries, eye-opening speeches, a day of service, pluralistic Shabbat experiences and innovative programs.

Since returning home from the convention, I've had the time to reflect on the amazing experiences BBYO has given me so far. BBYO is the world's largest Jewish youth group, and as a teen led organization, the experiences are as unique as each member. I've gotten the opportunity to immerse myself in a welcoming Jewish atmosphere that I could never have imagined myself loving prior to entering high school. BBYO has given me a platform to want to be engaged in Jewish life in college, as well as adulthood. Additionally, it has given me exposure to leadership positions that I never would have been comfortable running for before my involvement. Through the mentorship of other teens



Stephanie Hausman

from Stamford and Connecticut, I've been continuously inspired and motivated to move beyond my comfort zone and take on new roles in the Jewish community.

That is why when I read my speech in front of more than 200 voting delegates in the election room in Atlanta, I was confident that no matter what the outcome was, I was prepared for a future of community involvement and leadership. When I heard my name announced to the room as the 71<sup>st</sup> international vice president of membership (*aym hachaverot*), I immediately saw the past two and a half years flash before my eyes.

Since joining in 2012, the Stamford Jewish Community Center has become my home on Monday nights from 7-9 pm. There, I reconnected with many of the friends I made from Sara Walker Nursery School, Bi-Cultural Day School and Temple Beth El. The members of Tikvah BBG #1233 provided me with inspiration and fun experiences, which sparked my interest in running for the vice president of membership (MIT Mom) for the 2013-2014 term. As this role, I got the chance to help grow our chapter from 43 girls to 70. Feeling empowered by our community's growth, I ran for the position of the Connecticut Valley Region's 55<sup>th</sup> MIT Mom for the 2014-2015 term.

This past year, I have helped my counterparts in 11 chapters throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts increase membership, retain their current members and educate their chapters about the history of BBYO. I've been supporting my peers, leading a team and working together for a shared purpose. Now, in my senior year, I will serve as the 71<sup>st</sup> international *aym hachaverot* of the B'nai B'rith Girls. I will work with teens around North America to continue growing BBYO, as well as promote next year's international initiatives. Without the incredible Stamford Jewish community I've grown up in, I don't think I would be where I am today.

Stephanie Hausman is an 11<sup>th</sup> grader at the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering.

My Bi-Cultural Israel Experience

BY MAYA WIENER

As a student of Bi-Cultural Day School, I have looked forward to the eighth grade Israel Experience trip for eight years. Then finally, after such a long wait, my grade and I went to Israel. I had traveled to Israel many times before with my own family, but there was something special about going to a foreign country with your own classmates, together as a group.

The first day of the trip was the most action-packed day because of all of the adrenaline and excitement. I could feel the energy in the air on the tour of Kibbutz Chafetz Chayim. As amazing as it was, we all knew that the experience would go by fast, so we had to make the most of it. After an exhausting day in Jerusalem, we arrived at our hotel, had dinner and went to sleep.

The time that we had in Jerusalem was the most exciting because we got to travel through water tunnels, a really physical activity for all of us. After that, we traveled to the Western Wall. This is the most interesting fact about Israel to me. Even though there are so many technological advancements and the country is so modern, there is still the factor of learning about stories that are in the Torah. I have been to Israel many times before, but never as a sight-seer of the country as a whole. It was a different experience altogether, to see

the country as old and new sometimes in the same day.

My favorite experience while we were there was the second week, when we hiked Gamla, Mount Arbel and Mount Ben Tal in the same day! I think the best hike was Gamla, though, because on the way back up I started praying to get up the mountain. Slowly, I was able to arrive at the top. It was the best feeling to achieve that hike, even if it took a little while. Afterward, I rewarded myself with a long nap on the bus back to our hotel.

Each day was filled with so many different, exciting adventures that it was nearly impossible to focus on the small, minor details of daily living. There was no point in worrying about the amount of days that we had left in our trip or even what time it was – we were on Israeli time and we there to experience everything that the country had to offer. What was important was that we were together and enjoying every minute. Every year at Bi-Cultural, the eighth grade comes back a new and improved grade. I think that the fun moments that all of us had with each other created a special bond that we will remember long after we graduate.

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



Bi-Cultural eighth-grade students Sydney Steinberg and Maya Wiener visited a fruit farm in Israel as part of the eighth-grade Israel Experience. (Photo by Peretz Cik)

Ten.....Continued from page 8

level of volunteer support, participants feel comfortable and successful." The Friendship Circle is a non-profit organization focusing efforts on outreach and programming for children with special needs and their families. With a network of more than 350 teen and adult volunteers, the organization is able to offer a full range of social and Judaic programs for children, teens and adults. Teen volunteers not only gain a sense of community and charity, but also have an opportunity to step outside their usual routine and partner with children to provide experiences and friendships that last a lifetime.

For more information about the Friendship Circle, visit www.friendshipct.com or contact Shmotkin directly at Mayla@friendshipct.com.

Casey Auerbach is an adult Friendship Circle volunteer.

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

Fallen.....Continued from page 12

attended a memorial service at Latrun, a tank army base. There they honored six fallen soldiers and met the parents of Michael Levin, a lone soldier who was killed during the second Lebanon War. Carmel Academy is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.



Carmel Academy's sixth grade class paid tribute to Max Steinberg, a lone IDF soldier, who was killed this past summer in the Gaza conflict.

Candy.....Continued from page 6

full of candies of every imaginable variation and is a thriving, if slightly bedraggled, remnant of the old Jewish neighborhood amid the hipster hotels and pricey boutiques that share Rivington Street with bodegas and bars.

Back in Moishe's day, Lower East Side streets bustled with hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants. There were six or seven other candy stores in the immediate vicinity, says Mitchell Cohen. "Now we're one of the only family-owned Jewish businesses left," he said.

With the departure of Streit's, which baked its last Passover matzah on Rivington Street on March 1, the only other one left is Russ and Daughters, the legendary lox-and-bagels shop run by its founder's great-grandchildren. A few other Jewish food purveyors remain – Katz's Delicatessen, Yonah Schimmel knishes, Kossar's bialys and The Pickle Guys (who took over the famed Guss' pickles) – but none are run by their founding families. The dairy restaurant Ratner's shut down in 2002 and the property is now being marketed as a development site.

"The Lower East Side has gone through so many transformations since my great-grandparents – and everybody else's – lived there a century ago that our ancestors would *plotz* if they saw it," said Julie Cohen (no relation to Mitchell), director and producer of "The Sturgeon Queens," a documentary about Russ and Daughters. "But when I'm down there I can still feel the spirit of what it used to be."

Today there are some 14,000 Jewish households in the neighborhood, says Laurie Tobias Cohen, the executive director of the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy, which runs tours of the area. The preponderance of residents are Chinese, Puerto Rican or African-American – and those who can afford the million-dollar apartments going up. Still, Tobias Cohen says, between synagogues, *shitebels* and new Jewish-owned boutiques and galleries, "There's still a lot of Jewish life kicking on the Lower East Side."

On a recent wintry afternoon, a constant stream

of shoppers flowed through Economy Candy's aisles. Manny Rodriguez, who describes himself as a regular at the store, had just purchased a fistful of Clark bars. "I come more than I should," he said.

Hand-dipped chocolate-covered graham crackers and chocolate-coated jelly rings are perennially popular, Mitchell Cohen says, with orders coming in from all over the country. Earlier that day, someone had ordered 300 pounds of orange jelly fruit slices.

Green tea-flavored Kit Kats, which a number of customers had come in requesting after trying them in Japan, were Cohen's biggest challenge: None of his usual distributors knew how to get them. He called Asian grocery distributors to no avail. Eventually he found one in Queens who could procure them and he placed an order for 300 bags. They were gone in two weeks.

The current candy crush is for English Cadbury chocolates, which are newly unavailable in the United States. The main ingredient in the American version is sugar. But the ones made in England list milk as the first ingredient, and devotees are fanatically loyal to their Flakes and Maltesers.

Hershey, which owns the American rights to Cadbury, has brought trademark infringement claims against a major distributor of the British product, which stopped importing them. Cohen stocked up as soon as he heard. And while he still has some on his shelves, he knows they won't last long.

Unlike some of his Jewish customers, Cohen isn't overly nostalgic for the bygone Lower East Side. His grandparents had left the neighborhood when his father was still young, and he was raised on Long Island. But Cohen is getting married in May, and he hopes to have children who will one day take over Economy Candy, as he always knew he would. Rivington Street will likely be different when they do.

"A lot of the stores – whether they're old or new, candy shops or jewelry designers – are quirky one-offs where you can find the owners working behind the counter. And there are still a few places that drag their

*shmatte* out onto the street to sell at a bargain price," Julie Cohen said. "So even though most of the residents and retailers aren't actually Jewish anymore, I guess I'd say the whole place is still actually pretty Jewy."

Hippos.....Continued from page 17

biblical tales and allegories, with "Ethics of the Fathers" (Pirkei Avot) teaching, "Be bold as a leopard, light as an eagle, swift as a deer, and strong as a lion to do the will of your Father in Heaven." Samson is recorded to have encountered lions a few miles from the new museum.

The bird section makes for an interactive discussion on kosher fowl. Animal skulls are used to demonstrate how kosher animals chew their cud. The reptile section seeks to identify which reptiles make up the eight *sheratzim* (crawling animals) that the Book of Leviticus mentions as imparting impurity upon their death. When guiding a tour, Slifkin lets children pet and hold the friendly reptiles, including the pythons.

Slifkin, a religious Zionist, has been a controversial figure within the *haredi* community, which banned his books reconciling modern science – such as the theory of evolution – with Torah. But he intends that the museum serve as a form of "animal therapy" for Jewish unity, as well as the first real tourist attraction in the largely religious city that the museum calls home.

"Beit Shemesh is a rapidly growing city with already 100,000 people, and we're going to double in the next few years," Slifkin said. "So, it's short on cultural attractions. But this is a unique institution. It's biblical national history. It's something that has tremendous appeal, but is little understood. And we see how people appreciate it when they come here and absolutely love it. No matter which stream they come from, whether it's Chasidic, *dati* (religious), secular, Jewish, or non-Jewish. Everyone just loves it."

June & July/August 2015

Senior Adult Happenings

PLEASE NOTE SPRING/SUMMER VENUE CHANGE:

• The JCC Senior Adults Program moves to Temple Sinai from Tuesday, June 23 through Friday, August 14 and returns to the JCC on Tuesday, August 18.

• For Retired Men's Club, please contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983.

The J (JCC) Social Senior Program

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at The J (JCC). FOR MORE INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS ON ANY SENIOR PROGRAMMING, CONTACT Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org Tuesday through Friday. Programs vary by day of the week. All welcome. Transportation available for Stamford residents.

AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE Wednesdays, June 3 from 8:30 am - 1 pm at the JCC. Reservations required. AARP members \$15 / All others \$20.

BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS Monthly, Tuesday June 16 • 12-1 pm. \$3 suggested donation. Reservations required.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING Tuesday, June 2 from 9:45-11:15 am. No appointment necessary. FREE.

CHAIR EXERCISE FOR SENIORS Tuesdays & Thursdays through June 18 from 10:15-11 am at the JCC. Energetic chair exercise class using weights and balls. FREE to all Seniors.

HOT KOSHER LUNCH for older adults (60+) Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 12-1 pm 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. Fridays through June 19 • 10 am. 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, 10am-1 pm. (members only); invited speaker at 11 am (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.

LIFE ENHANCEMENT CLASSES Tuesdays & Thursdays through June 18 from 11-11:45am at the JCC. Classes designed to entertain, educate and enrich. Aging Gracefully. Common-age related health issues with practical advice on how to support each other in aging gracefully Current Events and Timely Topics. Informal conversations and talks with various speakers about what's going on in Stamford, as well as national and international events and timely topics. Our Stories on Thursdays. Hear one-of-a-kind stories about the lives, experiences, occupations or pastimes of JCC senior program participants. Free to all seniors. Seniors in Song. Sing along with old favorites, Yiddish to Broadway

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

SUPPORT GROUP FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED ADULTS Thursday, June 18 from 1-2:30 pm at the JCC. Topics relevant to vision loss. Free to all, but reservations are required.

**THE NEW JEWISH VOICE**  
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## UJF Chapter Two Upcoming Events

**June 11th**  
**Jewish Life In Europe**  
 Agency Mission Visit to  
 the American Joint  
 Distribution Committee



~Lunch at Le Marais~  
 Afternoon tour of the




**July 9th**  
 Book Group with  
 guest speaker  
**Susan Jane Gilman,**  
 author of  
**The Ice Cream Queen  
 of Orchard Street**

*In 1913, little Malka Treynovsky flees Russia with her family. Slowly, she transforms herself into Lillian Dunkle, "The Ice Cream Queen" -- leader of an empire of ice cream franchises and a celebrated television personality.*

Chapter Two of UJF is designed to engage women who are empty nesters or retirees in the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien communities and educate them regarding Federation and our partner agencies.

**August 6th**



Visit to UJF Agency  
 Camp Laurelwood



**September  
 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Visit the Woman In Gold Exhibit  
 at the Neue Galerie in NYC,  
 then hear from Lisa Barr  
 author of the award-winning  
 novel Fugitive Colors.

*Hillier's war begins with the ruthless destruction of the avantgarde, but there is one young painter who refuses to let this happen. Twists and turns, loss and hope will keep you up at night.*



For More Information, Contact Avidan Pell  
Email: [Avidan@ujf.org](mailto:Avidan@ujf.org) or call (203)653-2675