



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

“Disobedience: The Sousa Mendes Story”

Portuguese Holocaust Rescuer Honored in Stamford

BY KAREN DENKER

Community members are invited to a film screening of the award-winning docudrama “Disobedience: The Sousa Mendes Story” on Wednesday, September 7, at 7 pm, at The State Cinema, 990 Hope St., Stamford.

The film tells the true story of Aristides de Sousa Mendes, the Portuguese consul stationed in Bordeaux, France, during World War II. When the Nazis invaded in 1940, Sousa Mendes granted Portuguese visas to thousands of refugees against the strict orders of his government in a feat described by

historian Yehuda Bauer as “perhaps the largest rescue action by a single individual during the Holocaust.” As a result of his act of conscience, Sousa Mendes was punished by his government for “disobedience,” stripped of his position and blacklisted. He died in 1954 in poverty and disgrace.

The film screening will be followed by a brief testimonial by Stamford resident Karen Denker, the daughter and granddaughter of Sousa Mendes visa recipients. “Finding out that my mother and her family had been saved by the compassion

See “Story” on page 2

“Reverse Birthright” Gives Israelis a Look at America’s Jews, from Philip Roth to the Three Stooges

BY BEN SALES

NEW YORK (JTA) – Instead of visiting the Western Wall, they visited Ellis Island. Instead of hiking in the Negev Desert, they took a day trip to a Habonim-Dror summer camp. Instead of basking in the sun on the Tel Aviv beach, they watched clips of the Three Stooges mocking the Nazis. And instead of Birthright, a 10-day trip meant to acquaint American Jews with Israel, a cohort of Israeli graduate students

participated in a 10-day trip to get to know American Jews.

The trip, which began on June 18, is the highlight of a year-long master’s degree program at Haifa University, the Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies. The program teaches 25 students about American Jewish history, religion and culture to have them better understand and identify with their American counterparts.

See “Birthright” on page 15

Behrend is Back

UJF Announces 2017 Behrend Leadership Institute

United Jewish Federation announced that the Behrend Institute for Leadership will be offered again in 2017. The next cadre of the elite training program for community leaders will start in January and continue throughout the calendar year. The 2017 program will feature new instructors leading workshops on a variety of topics, including adapting and managing change within the community and organizations, managing committees, fund-raising, effective communication and others.

Program founder Kerrin Behrend said, “We are happy to be initiating our eighth cohort of the Behrend Institute for Leadership in 2017. By



Stephne and Kerrin Behrend

adding to the over 100 existing alumni, we believe this program enhances the future leadership ensuring the

See “Behrend” on page 2

How to be a Successful Blended Family

BY LYNN SALTZ

Jewish Family Service, in partnership with the Stamford Jewish Community Center, will present “How to be a Successful Blended Family” on Thursday, September 22, from 7-9 pm, at the Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave.

“What is a blended family?” In its most basic sense, a blended family is one where the parents have children from previous relationships, but all the members come together as one unit. The areas to be discussed at the “Successful Blended Family” event will not

only cover conventional re-marriages with children and stepchildren, but will explore the challenges faced with an interracial marriage, a gay marriage and a marriage joining two different religious backgrounds. The focus of the discussion will be on the children involved in the various types of blended families.

The evening program will include Bob Abrams, Jewish educator and father of a blended family; Dr. Lee Combrinck-Graham, JFS psychiatric consultant with a family background in

See “Blended” on page 18

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Connecticut Yankees in King David’s Court

The state of Connecticut boasted 14 participants on the recent Campaigner’s Mission to Israel in July. Participants hailed from Stamford, Greenwich and Hartford Federations. The group welcomed Shabbat on the Haas Promenade overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem.

Pictured with members of the Hartford and Greenwich Federations were Stamford residents (kneeling from left) Nahum Daniels, Tracy Daniels and Rebekah Raz; and (standing from left) Arlene Rosen, Ricky Arbron, Carl Rosen and Sherry Steiner.



President's Message

An Adventure to Remember

This past summer, my husband, Richard, and I went on a biking adventure from Buffalo to Albany, NY, traveling 379 miles on the towpath of the Erie Canal, the hills of upstate New York and along the Mohawk River. For those who bicycle long distances, I'm sure you will agree that while this sport provides great exercise, it is, oftentimes, quite solitary. We have been on many long distance bike trips and each one provides me with an opportunity to do some thinking as my wheels go round and round. On this latest trip, biking about seven hours a day, I did plenty of that! My thoughts focused on family, the environment and, yes, on Federation.

I thought about the wonderful upcoming addition to our family (my daughter and her husband are expecting their first child in the fall); how exciting



Ellen Weber,
UJF president

these changes will be and how grateful I am to G-d.

As we pedaled mile after mile, I was amazed by our surroundings, the beauty of the canal and the efforts that went into making what some considered the "eighth wonder of the world." While the brainchild of one man, Dewitt Clinton, it took grit, hard work and determination of thousands working together to turn his dream into a reality.

It was this idea – that people working together can accomplish great things – that led me to think about Federation. I am so proud and inspired by what we achieve in our community through our mutual acts of giving, and by the lasting impact we have on Jews locally and throughout the world.

Did you know that Federations' contributions to the Jewish Agency for Israel collectively support thousands of Jews making *aliyah* each year, many coming from countries like France, where it is increasingly dangerous for Jews to live? Since 2000, nearly 10 percent of the French Jewish community has made *aliyah* to Israel with 7,800 just last year.

Did you know that your Federation dollars allocated to the American Jewish Joint Distribution

Committee supports Jewish camping programs, which help Jewish teens in Russia and Ukraine connect with their Jewish roots? Without these programs these children might have no link to their Jewish past.

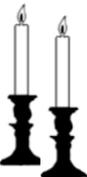
And, did you know that monies from our Federation given to World ORT help train newly arrived Ethiopian immigrants in our sister city of Afula in Israel, so they can be employed and self-sufficient?

Let's also not forget the impact of Federation, here, in our own community. Your financial support of Federation helps 14 local agencies provide programs and services to Jews across the age spectrum, from students to the elderly. Federation-sponsored programs such as Yom Hashoah remembrance, Shabbat Across Stamford, the upcoming Tapestry on November 19 and Global Day of Learning on November 20 engage, energize, inspire and educate our community.

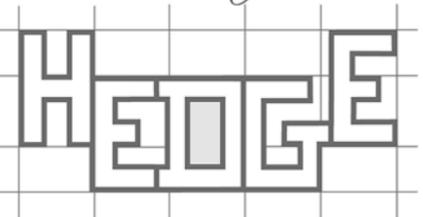
Since this is my last message prior to Rosh Hashanah, I would like to wish everyone a "Happy and Healthy New Year." I recently read the following saying, "No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it." I pray that we continue to make great music together for 5777.

All the best to you and your families,
Ellen Weber

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

	August 19.....	7:28 pm
	August 26.....	7:18 pm
	September 2.....	7:06 pm
	September 9.....	6:55 pm
	September 16.....	6:43 pm
	September 23.....	6:31 pm
	September 30.....	6:19 pm
	October 2.....	6:16 pm
	October 3.....	after 7:13 pm
	October 7.....	6:07 pm

Design by *Christy Bloom*



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Behrend Continued from page 1

continuity of a strong Jewish community."

Behrend fellow and current interim director of Jewish Philanthropies of Eastern Fairfield County, Shoshana Dweck, credits the Institute for deepened relationships within the community. "The Behrend Institute was about so much more than the curriculum; it was about the community and our commitment. Gaining skills and insights and confidence was just the tip of the iceberg. By working together, we learned to respect the needs of the various organizations that make up our community, and we learned – and keep learning – from each other. The relationships I made and knowledge I gained remain the backbone of all of my communal work."

Past Behrend fellows have included presidents of all the Jewish institutions in Stamford. Current UJF President Ellen Weber remembers her Behrend year: "I was really honored to partake in the Behrend Institute several years ago. It gave me an excellent opportunity to meet others within our community, to understand what makes an effective leader, to enhance our presentation skills and to learn and participate in in-depth discussions about our Jewish values and history." Skills and values are called the heart of the Behrend experience.

In speaking about the changes in the new Institute, Stephne Behrend said, "We are delighted that next

year's program will be facilitated by Jonathan Fass, who has extensive experience with Jewish leadership education. The 2017 program will also include new nationally recognized speakers creating an excellent opportunity for participants to fulfill personal growth and bring new leadership skills to their institutions."

Participants are nominated by all the Jewish organizations and synagogues in Stamford in recognition of their potential to be future leaders. Information and applications for the 2017 Behrend Institute for Leadership are available by contacting Cantor Marcia Lane at 203-653-2668 or Marcia@ujf.org.

Story Continued from page 1

and selfless acts of this heroic Catholic man was literally life-altering," said Denker. "It is a lesson that should never be forgotten and must be told to all."

In 1966, Sousa Mendes was posthumously recognized as a "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust authority. The Portuguese government eventually honored Sousa Mendes in the 1980s, as a result of pressure from the U.S. government. The Stamford screening is part of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Yad Vashem recognition.

The Sousa Mendes Foundation, founded in 2010, is dedicated to honoring the memory of Sousa Mendes and to teaching the importance of moral courage in a civilized world. Named "Organization of the Year" in 2012 by *The Portuguese Tribune*, the Foundation is engaged in a worldwide search for families who escaped the Holocaust through Portugal. More information about the foundation can be found at www.sousamendesfoundation.org.

Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Robert Jacobvitz at 877-797-9759 or robert@sousamendesfoundation.org.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

JCC Celebrates 100th Birthday with Block Party

The Jewish Community Center of Stamford will celebrate its 100th birthday with a community block party on Sunday, September 25, from 1-3 pm, at the JCC on Newfield Avenue.

The event will feature entertainment for all ages, a time capsule, music and more.

A highlight of the afternoon will be the revival of the Stamford cult classic, "The Truth About Youth," an original JCC musical production by Carol Sels-

berg and Jeffry Chase. First presented in 1981 with a cast of elementary, middle school and high school aged children, the show was created as a way to raise money for the new Jewish Community Center. Many members of the original cast will return to reprise their roles in the musical, as will writer and director Carol Selsberg.

In the 100 years since its dedication in 1916, the JCC has been called a second home for tens of thousands

of families and individuals in the Stamford Jewish community. Scores of volunteers have been at work planning programs to mark the centennial year with events such as the Centennial Gala in March, the JCC Maccabi Torch Relay in May, the 2016 JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest in August, and the 100th birthday block party on September 25.

"From our original home in the basement of the Agudath Sholom synagogue on Greyrock Place, to the first dedicated building on Prospect Street, to the 14-acre campus the JCC calls home today, we have endeavored to serve as the center of the Jewish community," said JCC CEO Eric Koehler. "We are fortunate to have begun our second century with a legacy of service to our neighbors, and we hope that the community will join us as we celebrate this wonderful milestone."

There is no charge to attend the block party and the entire community is invited to attend. For information, visit stamfordjcc.org or contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

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

Walking for Friendship

Friendship Circle's Annual Day of Outdoor Fun

BY FAYGIE HOLT

Show your support to children with special needs and their families, while spending an afternoon with your friends and family on Sunday, October 9, at the annual Friendship Day and Walk in Stamford. The festivities, open and free to the entire community, will be held at the Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Rd., Stamford, from 12:30-3:30 pm.

Friendship Day is a "great day that is designed to be fun for the whole family," said Howie Schwartz, a 14-year supporter of FC. "There are many activities for children of different abilities and ages to enjoy.

"It's a wonderful event to show [your] support for all of the families with special needs. As a community, we need to teach our children to be inclusive with our actions and taking your kids to Friendship Day is a great way to do this," added Schwartz, whose children are volunteers with Friendship Circle.

A key component of Friendship Day is the Friendship Walk, which helps raise money for FC programming. The walk is open to the entire community, and anyone can create a walking team to help fund-raise for Friendship Circle. To get everyone moving to the beat, a truck with live music will lead the way around the Friendship Circle neighborhood.

Designated stops along the walking route will give everyone the opportunity to do a mitzvah, a good deed, during the FC walk. The "Mitzvah Booth" stops will include a spot to give money to charity, to say a blessing and more.

Friendship Day will also feature free lunch and snacks, rides, music, face-painting and more.

New to the program this year will be a performance by Perfection on Wheels, a BMX stunt show. For the younger set, there will be a petting zoo and pony rides.

Reinforcing the theme of friendship, Friendship Circle has invited a number of local Jewish communal organizations – including local day schools and the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford,



Roni Moscovitz (right) and Kiki Horsburgh enjoyed their day at Friendship Day/Walk 2015. (Photo by Liat Feller)

New Canaan and Darien – to host activity booths throughout the afternoon.

To learn more about the event, to donate, or to register, visit www.FriendshipDayCT.com or call 203-329-0015, ext. 131.

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



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► Auditions for JCC Center Women Production

On Friday, September 9, from 9:30 am-12:30 pm, The Center Women of the Jewish Community Center of Stamford will hold auditions for its next musical production. All women are welcome to audition, and membership in The Center Women and the JCC are not required. For information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

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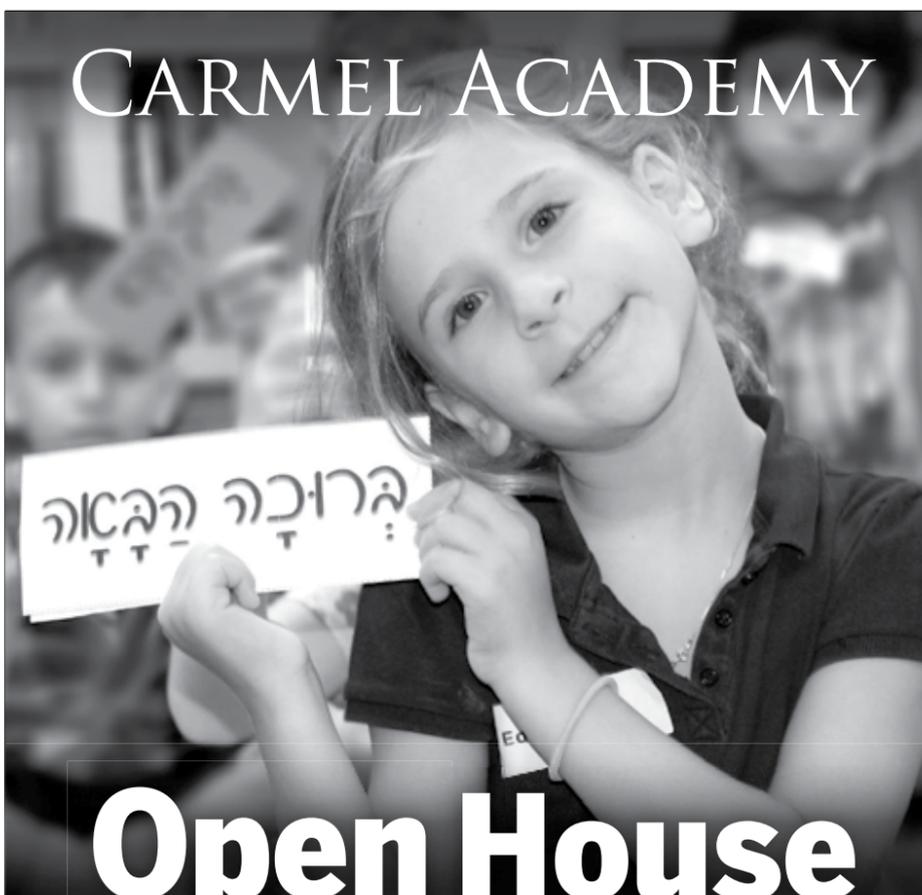


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Children in Need Treated to Shopping Spree

BY CHARLESANNA ECKER

The Back to School Shop's second annual event was called a resounding success by participants and volunteers alike. Nearly 200 elementary school children in need from Stamford were able to shop for their own brand new clothes, sneakers, winter coats, backpacks, school supplies and books, at no charge.

"It's hard to feel excited about going back to school when you don't have clothes that fit, a warm coat or the required school supplies. We want to give these children a sense of confidence and enthusiasm for the new school year, by letting them choose their own new items just like their more fortunate classmates," explained Meryl Japha, co-founder of the Back to School Shop. Jane Levene, who co-founded the organization with Japha, exclaimed, "Meryl and I are very grateful to the donors, volunteers and community organizations that contributed to our success – especially UJF and the Stamford Public Schools."

Ellen Weber, UJF president, was a volunteer at the event and a guest at the ribbon cutting ceremony. She told the gathering of supporters "we are so

proud that Back to School Shop has found a home at Federation. Thank you to Back to School Shop for making such a difference in these children's lives, and thank you also for providing such a meaningful experience for the volunteers."

Rabbi Jay TelRav of Temple Sinai, a second time volunteer at the event, said he was very excited to be reunited with a friend from last year. "I saw a student point at me from across the atrium and heard him say 'that's the guy I had last year, can I shop with him again?' which couldn't have meant



A shopper admired her new coat, while her "personal shopper" looked on. (Photo by Beth Shepherd Peters)

more to me. This has been one of the highlights of my year and I can't wait to do it again next year."



Rabbi Jay TelRav shopped with his friend from last year's event. (Names of children withheld on request.) (Photo by Beth Shepherd Peters)



A ribbon cutting opened the 2016 Back to School Shop. L-r, first row: Meryl Japha, co-founder, Back to School Shop; Earl Kim (kneeling), superintendent, Stamford Public Schools; and Jane Levene, co-founder, Back to School Shop. Second row: Ellen Weber, president, United Jewish Federation; William Tong, state representative; and Dr. Tamu Lucero, assistant superintendent of schools. Third Row: Geoff Alswanger, president, Board of Education; Ellen Bromley, mayor's office; Randall Skigen, deputy mayor; and Caroline Simmons, state representative. (Photo by Beth Shepherd Peters)



Jewish Family Service volunteers spoke to parents in the Japha Family Resource Center. (Photo by Beth Shepherd Peters)



A family headed home after a successful shopping trip. (Photo by Elaine Osowski)



A shopper and volunteer enjoyed a book. (Photo by Elaine Osowski)



A shopper showed off his new gloves. (Photo by Beth Shepherd Peters)



Many thanks to
 United Jewish Federation,
 Stamford Public School System,
 and over 150 volunteers and donors
 who made the 2nd annual
Back to School Shop
 another HUGE success!

Stay tuned for next year...

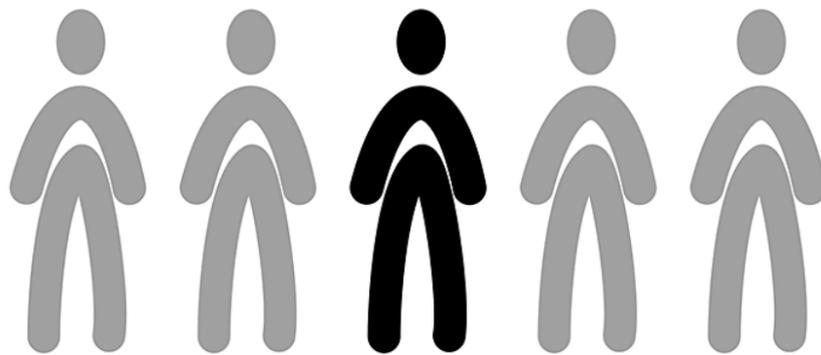
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Monthly Giving Sweepstakes Results Are In!

Introducing UJF's Star of David Alliance

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien held a "Spring Sweepstakes" to launch a new monthly giving initiative. The new Giving Campaign offers the option of simplifying a donor's gift by breaking it down into monthly increments instead of one larger annual payment. The 12-month commitment entitles donors to become members of the "Star of David Alliance." Donors who gave a monthly gift between May 18 and June 16 were eligible to enter to win an Apple Watch. The sweepstakes winner, Shira Zucker, was announced during a live drawing on Facebook.



L-r: Shira Zucker, winner of the Apple Watch Spring Sweepstakes, received her prize from Star of David Initiative Chair Taly Farber.

UJF's monthly Giving Campaign

► Have a Nosh and Get to Know the JCC

The Jewish Community Center will be open to the public for information, tours, food and fun at its Friends and Family Membership Open House on Sunday, September 11, from 10:30 am-2 pm.

"It's the perfect opportunity to get to know The J," said Ilene Madwed, JCC managing director of membership services. "The community is invited to tour our extensive facilities and get the latest information on new offerings for the fall semester."

Those who take a tour will receive a complimentary three-day guest pass to use The J's fitness center, swimming pool and group fitness classes. There will be incentives for new members who join at the open house, including a friends and family discount. Current JCC members who refer new members will benefit from a rewards program. There is no charge for the event. For information, contact Madwed at 203-487-0945 or imadwed@stamfordjcc.org.

► JCC Offers Rosh Hashanah Luncheon for Senior Adults

On Thursday, September 29, from 11:30 am-1 pm, the Jewish Community Center will host its annual Rosh Hashanah luncheon, provided by the Brown, Krinsky and Stern families in memory of Sandra Stern and Irene Krinsky.

The luncheon is free to all seniors. Guests will enjoy a kosher holiday meal and hear the blowing of the *shofar*.

RSVPs are required no later than Thursday, September 22. To make a reservation, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

chair and YLD board member, Taly Farber, was UJF's first member in the Star of David Alliance. She switched to monthly giving this past spring. When asked why she and her family switched to giving a monthly gift instead of an annual donation, she said, "Eighteen dollars a month is an easy way for us to give charity, and doesn't feel overwhelming when you are on a budget and have other financial obligations. Giving a gift to UJF in this way allows us to help Jewish causes and Jews in need."

James Cohen, UJF CEO, adds, "UJF continually searches for new ways in

which donors can give a gift. Monthly giving has been launched successfully at several other Federations in the USA. We want to make sure that our Federation offers the community the most up-to-date methods to donate and participate."

Those who would like more information about the Star of David Initiative, or who want to become a monthly giver, are asked to contact UJF staff members Rebekah Raz at 203-321-2665 or rebekah@ujf.org, or Sharon Franklin at 203-321-2674 or sharon@ujf.org, or visit UJF's website at www.ujf.org.

JFS Fresh Produce Day Seeks Volunteers

Three times a month, Jewish Family Service Kosher Food Pantry clients "shop" for fresh food to enrich their diets at Fresh Produce Day. The expanded program, under the auspices of the JFS Kosher Food Pantry, offers fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, eggs and dairy products to those in need. Research has shown that healthier food is more expensive, and households with limited resources often try to stretch their food budgets by purchasing cheap, energy-dense foods that are filling, but in turn can lead to health issues such as obesity and diabetes.

To volunteer to assist at Fresh Produce Day at either the Stamford or Westport locations, contact Rebekah Kanefsky, of JFS Case Management, at 203-921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org. If you are food insecure or require



Lee and Jake Brenner, students at Bi-Cultural Day School, volunteered their time to organize fresh food at the Jewish Family Service Fresh Produce Day.

assistance, contact Kanefsky or Lisa Crowley, case worker, at 203-921-4161 or lcrowley@ctjfs.org.

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

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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:

Abigail and Zev Averbach on the birth of their son, August Winston Chester Averbach; grandparents are **Helen and Ed Kveskin**.

Tamar and Chalom Bendayan on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Rica and Ari Lieberman**; great-grandmother is **Yospa Lieberman**.

Melissa and Matthew Cohen on the birth of a son, Zachary Elliott Cohen; grandparents are **Marsha Colten and Robert Cohen**.

Rebecca and Seth Freeman on the birth of a son, John Freeman; grandparents are **Debra and John Tomsky**.

Virginia and Ronen Haron on the birth of a daughter, Naomi Haron; grandfather is **Kamal Haron**.

Judy Heft on the birth of a grandson, Oakley James Mizrahi.

Naama and Zach Kfare on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Sherry and Bennet Kfare**.

Maytal and Jonathan Lerner on the birth of a daughter.

Hani and Daniel Lowenstein on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Hadasah and Senator Joseph Lieberman**.

Rachel and Craig Oshrin on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Eleanor and Thomas Boger and Robert Oshrin**.

Sharon and Jason Rosenthal on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Sherri and Allen Rosenthal**.

Abby Alfred and Ethan Schechter on the birth of a son, Robert Jerome Alfred-Schechter; grandmother is **Fran Schechter**.

Laurie and Adam Selkowitz on the birth of a daughter, Lucy Rae Selkowitz; grandparents are **Betsey and Arty Selkowitz**.

Angela and Josh Shamsi on the birth of a daughter.

Erika and Andrew Tobin on the birth of a daughter, Charlie June; grandparents are **Lori and Bruce Tobin**.

MAZEL TOV TO:

Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg on the marriage of Pam's daughter, **Ilana Zur**, to **Roi Shabtay**.

Stacey Essinfeld on receiving Temple Beth El's Sisterhood Rose Rosner Award.

Liz and Bill Gilbert on the marriage of their son, **Benjamin Gilbert**, to **Kendall Gladstone**.

Nan and Paul Gordon on the marriage of their daughter, **Kim Gordon**, to **Andrew Pia**.

Shara and Rabbi David Israel on the engagement of their daughter, **Adina Israel**, to **Elisha Fried**.

Hazzan Sidney Gershwin Rabinowitz, hazzan emeritus of Temple Beth El, on his second bar mitzvah.

Veronica and Erwin Reich on the engagement of their daughter, **Arielle Reich**, to **Michael Mandell**, son of **Marcey and Jeffrey Mandell**.



Nancy and Brad Spaulding on the marriage of their daughter, **Rachel Spaulding**, to **Keino Carty**.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Danielle Alexis, daughter of **Alyssa and Robert Spitz**; grandparents are **Carol and Michael Rosmarin** and **Barbara and Stephen Spitz**; great-grandmother is **Sylvia Goldman**

Sydney Greenburg, daughter of **Andrea and Richard Greenburg**

Julianne Katz, daughter of **Janine Bahar and Gidon Katz**

Joel Rosenfeld, son of **Jennifer and Edward Rosenfeld**

Tamar Rosenfeld, daughter of **Jennifer and Edward Rosenfeld**

Mira Rosovsky, daughter of **Nofie and Mark Rosovsky**

Eleanor Lapin, daughter of **Paul and Jamie Borris Lapin**

Madeleine Lapine, daughter of **Holly and Noah Lapine**; grandparents are **Jennifer and Mark Lapine**

Adam Joseph Sausville, son of **Lisa and David Sausville**; grandmother is **Anne Peskin**

CONDOLENCES TO:

Lance Beder, Barry Beder, Michelle Beder and Daryl Beder on the loss of their mother, Maureen Beder.

David Bessaleli on the loss of his sister, Heshmat Bessaleli.

Amy Bloomenthal on the loss of her father, Leon Mitchell.

Rae Cohen, Jeff Cohen, Michael Cohen, Audrey Piccirillo and Bernice Shulman on the loss of her husband, their father and her brother, Charles Cohen.

Andrew, Larry and Merrill Davidoff and Jeff Lewis on the loss of their mother and his aunt, Rebecca Davidoff.

Liz Diamond on the loss of her father, Howard Bauman.

Rabbi Mark Dratch on the loss of his father, Sidney Dratch.

Melvin Goldstein, David Goldstein and Howard Goldstein on the loss of his wife and their mother, Caryl Goldstein.

Harvey Goodman on the loss of his brother, Marv Goodman.

Elissa Garber Hyman on the loss of her father, William Garber.

David Kaplin on the loss of his mother, Elaine Kaplin.

Len Mark on the loss of his aunt, Judy Thurm.

Elise Passy on the loss of her father, Joe Segel.

Marc Peyser on the loss of his father, Larry Peyser.

Family of Enid Randall.

Susan Berger Sabreen and Marty Berger on the loss of their father, Isidore "Irving" Berger.

Gary Schulman on the loss of his father, George Schulman.

Alvin Siegartel on the loss of his mother, Fay Siegartel.

Jacqueline Silverberg on the loss of her husband, Jeroll Silverberg,

Sarah Daitzman Simmer on the loss of her grandmother, Eleanor Daitzman.

Shelley Taylor on the loss of her mother, Eleanor Taylor.

JEEP* TRACKS: MUSINGS ON EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT Models of Leadership

BY CANTOR MARCIA LANE

Within the Jewish tradition we have several examples of leadership. Some work well; some, not so much. Human beings are imperfect, after all, and even the greatest leader of the Torah, Moshe, has fits of impatience, lapses in judgment, and times when all he wants is to quit and let the whole enterprise go to hell! The ideal characteristics of a leader depend on the time and situation. Moshe is the right leader for his time, but Joshua is a better leader for the needs of his generation. Patience, vision, persistence, flexibility – all are great qualities for leaders, but the mix varies depending on the personality of the individual. Certainly, in the current political climate, in an election year, we look for leadership in the words and actions of our politicians, the men and women who would be our leaders.

There is an ongoing discussion about whether leaders are born or made. Can one learn to be a leader, or is leadership an inherent trait, like a genetic predisposition for height or blue eyes? UJF firmly believes that, while there certainly are "natural born leaders," the essential skills for Jewish non-profit leadership can be taught and our community needs those individuals who want to learn.

Starting in September, UJF will be



eagerly searching out the next leaders of the Stamford-area Jewish community as we embark on the 2017 Behrend Leadership Institute. (See article on page 1 of this paper.) Funded by the generosity of Stephne and Kerrin Behrend, UJF invites all the local Jewish not-for-profit organizations to nominate candidates for the Institute. Then, from January through November of 2017, those individuals will attend workshops and talks from leaders in the field of communal leadership, managing committees, understanding principles of adaptive leadership, fund-raising and managing budgets, working with volunteers and professional staff, and – most importantly – the ethical values that guide Jewish life and communal obligations. The Behrend Fellows will engage in the work of different organizations and learn about the needs and the missions of these vital institutions.

In coming editions of this paper, you'll see more information about the process of applying and about the core content of this new Behrend Institute. You'll see articles from the scholars as they reflect on their learning. And in December 2017, at the UJF Annual Meeting, we will celebrate their hard work and commitment, and proudly graduate another cadre of leaders. And the Jewish community will certainly be richer.

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

Cantor Marcia Lane is the UJF director of education and engagement.

NEW AROUND TOWN

Denise Rafailov – Director of Admissions, Bi-Cultural Day School

Bi-Cultural Day School welcomes Denise Rafailov as the incoming director of admissions, responsible for managing and directing the recruiting and admissions program for the school.

Rafailov holds a master's in education from the University of Bridgeport, and a bachelor of arts in English literature and Spanish from the University of Manchester in England, as well as a diploma in Israel and Jewish studies from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

As an educator, Rafailov has direct classroom experience teaching in area schools, including Bi-Cultural, the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering, and Temple Sholom of Greenwich. Prior to obtaining her master's in education degree, Rafailov worked in the corporate sector managing corporate communications, and implementing large-scale public relations campaigns and events in the music industry for Warner Music Group and eMusic in New York.

A singer and musician, Rafailov, who is fluent in Spanish, enjoys creative writing and volunteering in the community. She has volunteered with JumpStart, the JCC's early education program for children with special needs, and has chaired the annual Sara Walker fund-raising auction in 2015 and 2016, receiving the JCC Volunteer of the Year Award in 2015. Rafailov lives in Stamford with her husband and three children.



Denise Rafailov

Rabbi Oran Zweiter – Assistant Rabbi, Congregation Agudath Sholom



Rabbi Oran Zweiter

Riverdale, NY, native Rabbi Oran Zweiter has been hired as the assistant rabbi at Congregation Agudath Sholom. He is a graduate of Yeshiva University, where he received his rabbinic ordination and master's in Talmud from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. He is currently fulfilling prerequisites toward a Ph.D. in American Jewish history. Rabbi Zweiter taught Judaic studies to middle school students at the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey, served at the Riverdale Jewish Center in New York as an intern and rabbinic associate, and has spent summers participating in various teaching programs across North America. He also completed a healthcare chaplaincy internship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan. Rabbi Zweiter recently married Chani Kovacs, of Baltimore, MD, and they said they are thrilled to become part of the Stamford community.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rabbi Zweiter and his wife, Chani, to the Agudath Sholom family. Rabbi Zweiter's *menschlichkeit*, scholarship and charisma will surely be a blessing to our membership and the Stamford Jewish community," said Rabbi Daniel Cohen, CAS senior rabbi.

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



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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

Chapter Two Visits Ellis Island

On July 12, United Jewish Federation’s Chapter Two women’s group visited the Ellis Island National Immigration Museum in New York. UJF arranged for a private docent, Karina Calabro, to lead the group on a tour of the museum, including the outdoor American Immigration Wall of Honor. Many women on the trip found names of their ancestors listed on the wall.

The museum tells the stories of the 12 million immigrants who entered America through the “golden door” of Ellis Island. Today, the descendants of those immigrants account for almost half of the American people. Besides viewing the regular exhibits, which included the dormitories, baggage area and the medical examination rooms, the group was able to view a temporary exhibit called “Via Antwerp: The Passengers of the Red Star Line, A European American Story” organized by the Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp, Belgium. The Red Star Line shipping company (1873-1934) transported nearly two million emigrants from Antwerp, Belgium, to the U.S. and Canada. An estimated 90 percent of these immigrants arrived in New York. Using the history of the Red Star Line and Antwerp as an emigration



The women of Chapter Two visited Ellis Island Museum in New York.

port as focal points, the exhibition explores the first leg of the journey of all those European emigrants who came to the United States at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th.

Those interested in learning more about Chapter Two, or who want to find out about an upcoming event, should contact Rebekah Raz at Rebekah@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373, ext. 102.



The American Immigration Wall of Honor at Ellis Island.



L-r: Chapter Two Chairs Sue Frieden and Sari Jaffe, with UJF CEO James Cohen and Carol Brewer.

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A New Year for Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps Opportunity for Teens to Gain Leadership Skills

September marks the beginning of a new year of teen philanthropy at United Jewish Federation. The Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps will enter its fifth year of learning about and practicing philanthropy. The KTTC, which is funded by a generous grant from the Louis J. Kuriansky Family Foundation, introduces teens to philanthropy, and fosters leadership skills and Jewish values comparable to those of boards of adult philanthropic and community service organizations. Beginning immediately, UJF is accepting applications from teens wishing to participate in the next KTTC cohort.

Although the initial program was intended only
See "Kuriansky" on page 14

At right: UJF Chief Executive Officer Jim Cohen (standing, left) and Director of Education and Engagement Cantor Marcia Lane (standing, far right) with the members of the Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps. Standing: Dayne Katz, Eli Pinker, Gedalia Koehler, Judy Fogel, Talia Shapiro and Naomi Fogel. Seated: Gabriella Lieberman, Elizabeth Shavrick and Tamar Cohen.



UJF and the Mark Family Reward Teen Leadership

In June, United Jewish Federation announced the winner of the Helen S. and Isadore Mark 2016 Teen Leadership Award. This award, presented by Len and Susan Mark in memory of Len's parents, is given to a high school sophomore or junior who has demonstrated multi-year leadership within the local or worldwide Jewish and/or general community. Judging is based on the recommendation of a teacher or adult group leader, and also on an essay in which the applicant describes how they have taken leadership roles in his or her community. Stamford synagogues, Jewish schools, youth groups and other Jewish organizations were invited to nominate one or more candidates for the award. The award of \$1,000 is to be used to pay an educational expense.

This year's winner was Melanie Roloff, who is enter-



Len and Susan Mark presented the Helen S. and Isadore Mark 2016 Teen Leadership Award to Melanie Roloff.

ing her junior year at Stamford High School. Roloff was nominated by Lisa Gittelman-Udi, Education and

youth director at Temple Beth El, for her involvement as a speaker in the Anti-Defamation League campaigns against bullying, and for her leadership as a *madrichah* (counselor) in the Temple Beth El religious school. Roloff also works as a group leader for KidsPlace, the after-school program at the JCC, and at Camp Olami.

Although the committee members said there were four excellent nominations, they felt that Roloff has made outstanding contributions by raising awareness about the destructive effects of bullying and what kids can do about it. Roloff tells them to remember that "things will get better! You won't always be bullied!"

MELANIE ROLOFF'S ESSAY:

My name is Melanie Roloff and I am a Jewish teenager living in Stamford, CT. I am a sophomore in the Stamford Public School and have faced antisemitism since fourth grade.

In fourth grade, I was bullied for being Jewish. I was hit, cursed and told I belonged in the ovens during the Holocaust. My teacher paid no attention to what was going on and told me to develop a thick skin when my mom approached her; it was so severe that I landed in the hospital. My mom took action and I was switched to a different school, became a teen-leader with ADL and more involved in my temple... this saved my life.

ADL taught me how to strengthen and gave me the tools to cope. Being bullied will never go away, but learning to cope with it makes a huge difference. In 2012, I was honored with 14 other Jewish teens in being a part of "Movers and Shakers." Today, with the direction and support of ADL, I go to temples around Connecticut and tell my story. Together with other teen trainers and facilitators, we teach teens that being bullied is not OK and that there are people that listen and can help. I teach what I was taught!

I went to Temple Beth El Hebrew School since I was in kindergarten and graduated from there a couple of years ago. The rabbi and the teachers at TBE gave me the courage to come back every Sunday after I graduated and be a *madrichah* in the school. Temple Beth El gave me the strength to know that even though I had graduated, their door is always open for advice, a smile and I know that I'll never be alone.

I am a competitive swimmer and in 2014, I participated in the Maccabi Games. In between races, my team and I took time out of our schedule to cheer on the swimmers with special needs. We cheered them all the way to the finish line and then took photos with them. Seeing the athletes with special needs smile, we knew we made a difference.

Every Sunday afternoon, my friend and I visit a little boy with special needs and his sister. Our parents drive us to Greenwich and for an hour we play with them, color with them and read to them, sometimes together and sometimes separately. When he and his sister open the front door and let us in, their smile is priceless. Not only do I look forward to our Sunday visits with the family, but the little boy and his sister have made a difference in my life. I am a part of the Friendship Circle.

I am a counselor at O-la-mi during the summer. I love being with the children all day and my reward is the smiles on their faces and the pictures they draw for me.

Being bullied was horrifying and I live with the fear every day that it will happen again; ADL and my community saved me. There are people who told me to "get over it" and there are people who stuck by me through "thick and thin." I will forever tell my story about being bullied and how ADL and my community came together for me. I have hope that teens that are in trouble will know that there are people in the world who can be trusted and are only a phone call away.

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Sarah Breiner, Event Chair

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Attendees of the Chai Society are members of the
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TEEN TALK

The 2016 Goldman Memorial Essay Contest

The winners of the 12th Annual Rabbi Alex J. Goldman Memorial Essay Contest were announced at the June UJF board meeting. In a change from previous years, this year the contest gave entrants several quotes and asked them to choose one that exemplified their Jewish experiences and attitudes. The winners were: Judy Fogel, first place; Shaina Lubliner, second place; and Naomi Fogel, third place.

"The contest sparked a record nine contributors and made the process of judging them a wonderful challenge," said Dr. Anne Peskin, chair of the Goldman Essay committee, who, along with fellow judges Elissa Kaplan, Herb Kahan and Robin Fischel, utilized a rubric to judge the form and content of the essays.

Past presidents of Temple Beth El established the Scholarship Fund as a memorial tribute to Rabbi Alex



Naomi Fogel, Judy Fogel and Melanie Roloff

J. Goldman z"l, who was senior rabbi at Temple Beth El for nearly 30 years. He was the author of several

books, including "I Am a Holocaust Torah: The Story of the Saving of 1,564 Torahs Stolen by the Nazis," "A Handbook for the Jewish Family: Understanding and Enjoying the Sabbath and Holidays" and a novel, "The Rabbi is a Lady." The award was established in his memory to reward excellence in writing and to recognize the involvement of Stamford area teens in the Jewish community and in the wider world. The contest is designed to help strengthen the Jewish identity of teens by providing an opportunity to enhance their writing skills while reflecting on their Jewish experiences. It is open to all 10th-12th-graders who reside in the Greater Stamford area, regardless of where they attend school.

The first place winning essay is presented below, and over the next few months, the remaining winning essays will be printed in *The New Jewish Voice*.

Taking a Leap of Action Rather Than Faith

BY JUDY FOGEL

What exactly is faith? It is defined as "complete trust or confidence in someone or something." If it is in a religious context, it is the "complete trust or confidence in God." How does one observe faith? Unfortunately, there is not a definition in the dictionary to answer that question. Often, the concept of faith looms over people's heads. I think faith in Judaism is difficult. I question what extent it needs to be observed to. This is why I appreciate an idea presented by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Heschel once taught that "a Jew is asked to take a leap of action, rather than a leap of faith." Action is defined as "the process of doing something, typically to achieve a goal." Almost everybody in this world has goals, making action a much easier concept. One goal of mine is to be able to do my part in helping fix the world that we live in. Sometimes I push myself to do things that don't come so easily to me, but that is my personal leap of action. I relate a lot better to acting upon problems,

than I do to trying to understand faith.

This past year at school, I decided to join the Self-Help club. Self-Help is an organization that helps the elderly, specifically Holocaust survivors, live an independent life at home enriched with Jewish programming. I participated in weekly trips to the Riverdale Y where we would spend time with Holocaust survivors and learn their stories. While we focused on their lives before the war and their favorite memories of Jewish holidays, life during and after the war was also discussed. I got to know a couple of different survivors by the time the fall session had ended. Although I am not great at interacting with older people, when the opportunity to participate in this club arose, I felt like I had to take advantage of it. I wanted to make the senior citizens feel like their stories were important, and ensure them that they would never be forgotten. It was not an easy task to take on, but after the five week session, I felt accomplished. This was me taking my leap of action.

Another leap of action that I took upon myself was Midnight Run. Midnight Run is an event where participants distribute supplies to the homeless of New York City. A month before the event, we had collection boxes around school for any student who wanted to bring in lightly used clothing, shoes and toiletries. When the Saturday night finally came, we arrived at school two hours before taking the bus into the city. Each person was assigned a different job. Some people had to sort clothing into categories. Others had to tie pairs of shoes together, organize toiletries and package peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. We boarded the bus with bags full of clothing, shoes, sandwiches, cookies and coffee. As we stopped at each location, some kids would stay on the bus and some would get off. Those who got off set up a table where the homeless could take their food and coffee, and those who stayed on the bus handed the clothing through the window to people lined up. I had the

See "Faith" on page 18




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Rosh Hashanah is almost here. For us, at United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, this always represents a time of change and renewal. This year, we want to help renew the hopes and dreams of people who are struggling to make ends meet in our local and global community.

We hope that you will join us.

One gift, your gift, changes lives in the Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien communities, in Israel and 70 countries around the globe, as we aspire to leave no community member behind.

Whether we are feeding the hungry, caring for the elderly, educating our youth, ensuring a Jewish future, or supporting Israel, we stand together.

And, together, we can change the world.

Your contribution matters. Please consider making a gift to the 2016 Better Together Campaign, for our community's increasing needs. *There are people counting on you.*

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United Jewish Federation
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BETTER TOGETHER





Plans for Judaic Studies' "Double Chai" Year

BY REBECCA ISENSTEIN

Celebrating its 36th ("double chai") anniversary this year, the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford is getting ready for the fall semester, beginning with its biannual Lunch and Learn Series.

The series will commence on Thursday, September 22, at noon with, "Was Equality for Jews Central to the French Revolution? A Contrarian Analysis" by Dr. David Sorkin, professor of Modern Jewish history at Yale University. He is a past recipient of the Present Tense/Joel H. Cavior Literary Award for History. Sorkin's area of interest is the intersection of Jewish and European history since the 16th century. He is currently writing a history of Jewish emancipation in Europe.

On Thursday, September 29, Dr. Eric Goldman will return to the Stamford campus to present, "Lens on Israel: A Society Through its Cinema." Goldman is adjunct professor of cinema at Yeshiva University and the



Professor David Sorkin

recent co-host of the Turner Classic Movies series, "The Jewish Experience on Film."

Dr. Paul Franks, professor of philosophy and religious studies and Judaic studies at Yale University, will present, "Maimonides' Rationalist Revolution" on Wednesday, October 19.

Closing the series on Wednesday, November 16, Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy,

Center director and professor of comparative literary and cultural studies at UConn, will present "The World of Yesterday in the Works of Nobel-Prize Winner, S.Y. Agnon." Lectures in the series are sponsored by local community members, including Nina and Norman Lotstein.

In addition to its Lunch and Learn Series, the Center has also begun planning for its annual Louis J. Kuriansky conference, "Our World Today: Coping with Terrorism, Humanitarian Crisis, and State Collapse," with keynote speaker Ambassador Dr. Daniel Kurtzer, to take place on Wednesday, October 26, at 7 pm.

To register for the 2016 Fall Lunch and Learn Series or the annual conference, or for more information about these or other programs of the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies, contact the Center at stamfordjudaic-studies@uconn.edu or 203-251-9525.

studies@uconn.edu or 203-251-9525.

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies is a recipient agency of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, and is also supported by donations from the community.

Young Israel Presents Family Torah Learning Program

BY MICHAEL FELDSTEIN

Rabbi David Fohrman, the founder and CEO of Aleph Beta Academy, will be presenting two classes at Young Israel of Stamford on Sunday morning, September 11, as part of a family Torah learning program.

The morning will begin with morning services at 8:15 am at Young Israel. Rabbi Fohrman's first class will be scheduled at 9 am and is titled "The Five Most Important Minutes of the Yom Kippur Service."

Brunch will be served at 10 am. At 10:30 am, Rabbi Fohrman will present his second class, "Why Was Abraham Chosen, and Why Doesn't the Torah Tell Us?" This second class will be designed for both adults and youngsters over 12 years old.

In order to allow families with young



Rabbi David Fohrman

children to participate in the program, there will be concurrent youth programming for younger children throughout the morning.

The program is free and open to the entire community.

Rabbi Fohrman is the author of "The Beast that Crouches at the Door," a finalist for the 2007 National Jewish Book Award,

and "The Queen You Thought You Knew." He has taught at Johns Hopkins University, and was a lead writer and editor for ArtScroll's Talmud translation project. Aleph Beta Academy creates videos to help people experience Torah in a way that is relevant and meaningful to them, and to help the user develop a deeper relationship with the texts. For more of Rabbi Fohrman's work, visit www.alephbeta.org.

Local Chevra Kadisha Incorporates

Stamford's Jewish burial society, which ensures that all Jews who pass away are given a proper Jewish burial, has incorporated as an independent non-profit and tax-exempt organization called the Stamford Chevra Kadisha Inc., and has established itself as an approved 501(c)(3).

"We made the change for a couple of reasons," said Michael Feldstein, vice president of the Stamford Chevra Kadisha. "First, we wanted to make sure that anyone who made a donation to the Chevra would be able to fully claim the amount as a tax deduction. Second, the new independent non-profit status better represents what the Chevra is about, which is an organization that serves the entire local Jewish community and not just one synagogue."

In addition to the four existing board members – Yospa Lieberman, Michael Feldstein, Phyllis Shapiro and Maury Rosenbaum – two additional members have been appointed to the board: Wendy Miles and Rabbi Naftali Wolfe.

The Stamford Chevra Kadisha has also instituted a new policy whereby

Chevra members who perform a *tahara* (the ritual cleansing of the body of a deceased individual) can choose to get paid for their services or donate an amount to a designated charity of their choice. "The Chevra board felt that by allowing members these additional payment options, we might be able to increase the number of individuals who might be willing to perform *taharas*," said Feldstein.

In addition to making sure that those who have died receive a proper Jewish burial, the Stamford Chevra Kadisha has assisted those who cannot afford a Jewish burial. "Just this past month, a Russian woman in our community who had no family members and no assets died," said Feldstein. "We made sure that all burial costs were paid for and that she was afforded the same treatment after her death that any other member of our community would receive."

Those who would like to learn more about the Stamford Chevra Kadisha, or volunteer for the organization, should contact Feldstein at michaelfeldstein@gmail.com.



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Program from Harold Grinspoon Foundation comes to Greater Stamford area

Building on the success of PJ Library, which gives the gift of Jewish children's books each month to more than 140,000 children, ages six months to eight years old, in North America, *PJ Our Way* allows program participants to select one of four books every month, giving them more choice on their journey toward being life-long readers while introducing them to Jewish ideas.

Parents can register on the PJ Our Way website (beginning in September), and each child can go on line to view a list of the books available, along with synopses, kid-video reviews and suggestions. The child chooses his or her own book, and the book arrives in the mail. Children who are enrolled in PJ Our Way can contribute their own written or video commentaries, engage in on-line book discussions, and become part of the community of PJ Our Way readers. There is no cost to parents. To sign up, go to: www.pjourway.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Marcie Lane at 203-653-2668 or marcie@ujf.org.

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Taking a Stand in History

The 2017 National History Day Contest

BY JOAN KRANZ

Attention, all students in grades six-12 in public schools, private schools, Jewish day schools, and Jewish congregational schools: The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, in conjunction with Connecticut History Day, announces that it will again sponsor two monetary awards for the 2017 National History Day Contest. Entries must fit the theme of the national contest, which is "Taking a Stand." In addition, to receive a JHSFC award, students must incorporate Jewish history or heritage and/or a Jewish personality into the 2017 National History Day theme. Connecticut History Day is a program for students in grades six-12 that encourages exploration of local, state, national and world history. More information is available at www.historydayct.org.

In addition to the Connecticut State Prize, which is judged separately and awarded at the state level, the Jewish Historical Society will award its own prizes to Fairfield County students whose entries meet the qualifications described above.



Rebecca Ronai

JHSFC board members with judging experience will evaluate these entries and contact students individually.

More than 600,000 students from around the world competed in last year's national contest. Rebecca Ronai's documentary, "Miracle of the Holocaust: Exploration of Survival," was among the less than one percent of the entries awarded the opportunity to compete in the national finals held at the University of Maryland at College Park. Ronai, a seventh-grader at Weston Middle School, was a recipient of the 2016 JHSFC Connecticut State Prize. She was honored at a Jewish Historical Society program on May 22 at the Stamford JCC.

For more information, contact the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County at 203-321-1373, ext. 150; e-mail info@jhsfc-ct.org; or visit JHSFC's website, <http://jhsfc-ct.org/programs.html>.

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

Fred Weisman Tikkun Olam Award

On June 21, Melanie Massell, Roni Lang and Caroline Temlock Teichman were awarded the Temple Beth El Fred Weisman Tikkun Olam Award for acts of caring and loving kindness embodying the spirit of *tikkun olam*, presented by Joan Weisman in memory of her husband, Fred.

In 2011, the three TBE awardees, led by Massell, created Reyut, a structure to promote a caring community to support TBE members and friends in need. A group of nearly 40 volunteers stepped forward to perform the *mitzvot* of *reyut* (friendship). A training/support program, led by Lang, was organized to put everyone on the same footing and to provide support for Reyut volunteers.

Reyut volunteers have provided friendly visits in homes and senior facilities; transportation to the supermarket, hair appointments and temple functions; floral arrangements grown in TBE's Mitzvah Garden; Shabbat Pick Me Up; reading to the visually impaired; singing to the homebound; and hospital Shabbat bags.

An ongoing project is creating and distributing Shabbat bags filled with grape juice, challah, prayers, greetings, etc., with Shabbat greetings to Jewish patients in Stamford Hospital on Fridays in conjunction with other area synagogues.

Temlock Teichman reflected on a particularly moving experience for her: "Every Shabbat bag delivery at Stamford Hospital is uniquely amazing, but every once in a while the experience is truly remarkable. Recently Gail G. Trell and I had such an experience.

"When meeting a patient, one never knows their physical or mental stability.

One has no choice but to meet the patient at their current state of awareness. And so we met Ed (not his real name), very thin, with bruised looking skin. He was lying in his bed, attached to a pain killer medication dispenser. Just before we entered his room, Ed had been talking to a nurse seemingly about his possible discharge.

"As is our custom, we entered the room with our brightly colored Reyut bag in hand, wishing Ed a Shabbat shalom from the Jewish community. Ed's eyes welled up with emotion. He said he loved being visited by the Jewish community, and said he had memorized a prayer from the prayer book inside the bag, which he had received on a previous Shabbat.

"Ed told us that he had no Jewish friends to visit him, and was so happy to welcome the Sabbath with us. We sang two Shabbat songs, and he heartily and tearfully joined in. Afterward, he spontaneously recited the prayer for lighting the Shabbat candles (although we had no candles), and he clearly and joyously sang out the *Shema*.

"He told us that he had been a Holocaust survivor, had fought in the Israeli wars for independence and had children who lived out of town. He expressed eagerness for a Jewish community, and requested the name and phone number of a rabbi. We complied. As we left, Ed expressed profound thanks for our moments of Jewish connection."

For further information about Reyut, or to request a Reyut volunteer, call Massell at 203-324-7190 or e-mail reyut@tbe.org.

New from PJ Library

Books for Older Kids, "PJ and Pizza" and more!

Since its inception in 2005, kids across the country have been receiving new, Jewish-themed books delivered right to their homes. Children as young as 6 months and as old as 8 years can receive a monthly book selection, usually geared to the holiday or the season, through the PJ Library program.

This year the Grinspoon Foundation, originator of PJ Library, announced a new program that will affect the many thousands of children who "age-out" of PJ Library when they turn 8. PJ Our Way offers an opportunity for those children, ages 9-11, to choose their own books on a monthly basis. Parents can register on the PJ Our Way website (beginning in September), and each child can go on line to view a list of the books available, along with synopses, kid-video reviews and suggestions. The child chooses his or her own book, and the book arrives in the mail. Children who are enrolled in PJ Our Way can contribute their own written or video commentaries, engage in on-line book discussions and become part of the community of PJ Our Way readers. There is no cost to parents. To sign up, visit www.pjourway.org.

Locally, the Stamford PJ Library is also launching a new program. On Tuesday, September 27, from 5:30-7 pm, PJ Library families are invited to gather together at the JCC for "PJ and Pizza" – a light dinner, a crafts project, a story and some schmooze-time. Pizza, salad, drinks and dessert are \$25 for a family (or \$10 per adult, \$5 per child), and

every child will leave with a craft-gift. "A story and a sing-along will make this a great evening to socialize with other PJ families," said Cantor Marcia Lane, PJ Library program director and UJF's director of education and engagement. Visit www.ujf.org/pjandpizza to sign up.

In addition to the books, storytellers Cantor Lane and (sometimes clown) Gail G. Trell present monthly programs in the Harry Rosenbaum JHS Judaica Library at the Jewish Community Center. PJ Library can also be found in synagogues and schools in this area, which offer free events for families.

Upcoming free PJ Library events include a "Family Fun Day" at Bi-Cultural Day School on Sunday, August 28, and a "family play date" with UJF's Young Leadership Division on Sunday, September 18. Contact Denise Rafailov at Bi-Cultural for details on the Family Fun Day at 203-329-2186 and contact UJF Director of Outreach Sharon Franklin at Sharon@ujf.org for more information on the Young Leadership event.

Through the generosity of Linda Spilka and Ed Spilka, United Jewish Federation is able to offer PJ Library free of charge to all Stamford, New Canaan and Darien children who have one or more Jewish parents. The only obligation is for parents to read the books to their children.

To sign your child up for PJ Library, and for information about all PJ Library offerings, contact Cantor Lane at 203-653-2668 or Marcia@ujf.org.

Holiday Cooking with Jewish Women Connected

On Thursday, September 29, all women in the community are invited to join Jewish Women Connected of Chabad of Stamford for "Rosh Hashanah Ready." The event, modeled after "Dinner's Done," offers a way for hosts and guests alike to prepare some homemade dishes. "Rosh Hashanah Ready not only makes cooking fun, provides recipes and new ideas, but is very practical, too," said Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford.

Rosh Hashanah is that time of the year when many women are focused on what to cook for the High Holiday meals. Says Shemtov, "Why stand alone in your kitchen when you can cook, and

mess our kitchen and hang out with your friends? It's a win-win!"

Rosh Hashanah has many traditional foods connected to it. Each year JWC comes up with new ways to create the traditional dishes. Recipes include sweetness, pomegranates, carrots, honey and many holiday favorites with a twist. "Join JWC for an evening of fun, laughter and, of course, cooking," said Taly Farber, program coordinator of Chabad of Stamford.

Each participant will take home two medium challahs, one dessert and one side dish to share with family and friends in honor of the holiday. For more information, contact programs@stamfordchabad.org.



L-r: Joan Weisman presented the Fred Weisman Tikkun Olam Award to Melanie Massell, Caroline Temlock Teichman and Roni Lang. (Photo by Dan Young)



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Reading Partners Lucky Number 13!

BY MARLYN AGATSTEIN

Reading Partners has announced the expansion of its volunteer reading program to include Stamford's 13th and newest elementary school, The New School at Strawberry Hill. The school is designated an IB (International Baccalaureate) Magnet Extension of the Rogers International School on Blachley Road. At present, there are now 4,000 IB schools worldwide that are authorized by the Swiss parent organization. The mission of these schools is to develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills needed to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world.

Reading Partners contacted Principal Frank Rodriguez to suggest setting up a volunteer team and his positive response was immediate. Thus, starting



Members of The New School at Strawberry Hill team (l-r): Mausume Patra, Ann Rosenbaum and Sallie Kuh.

this fall, a new team is in the process of assembly, made up of The New School at Strawberry Hill parents, seasoned volunteers who wish to transfer, and new volunteers. This first year, the school is opening kindergarten and first grades with a total of 240 students, and will add a new grade each year up until eighth grade. Approximately 75 percent of the students are from Stamford.

The volunteer reading program is entering its 18th year of service to the Stamford public schools and program participants read in each of the 13 schools. The mission is to encourage children in grades kindergarten-third to become more competent readers and to appreciate the value reading can have in their young lives. Readers commit to reading at least once a week for one hour with two students for a half hour each. One of the hallmarks of the program is the close relationship the partners often develop as they spend the year together.

In welcoming program volunteers to The New School at Strawberry Hill, Rodriguez stated, "Reading Partners provides an added resource for students to freely and informally read with a guest. It provides an added experience, and perspective on the value of reading. It's a win-win, because it gives students the opportunity to talk about books and develop a mentor relationship, concurrently."

Reading Partner teams are forming now for the fall. The main criteria for volunteer participation is a willingness and desire to work with children. The program offers training, support teams, literacy workshops, volunteer appreciation events and end of year parties for the students. To become a Reading Partner, contact Marlyn Agatstein, director of Reading Partners, at 203-321-1373, ext. 115, or e-mail Readingpartners@ujf.org.

Dodgeball Tournament for Charity

On July 20, the Young Leadership Division of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and the Jewish Twenties and Thirties Group of Jewish Family Service held the third annual Dodgeball Tournament and Charity Barbecue. The event, chaired by Lael Shapiro and Dr. Remi Rosenberg, was held at the Stamford JCC. Congratulations were given to team Carmel for winning the tournament.

A portion of each entrance fee went to 3SQUARE,

a program coordinated by UJF's Women's Philanthropy Group. The 3SQUARE program provides food to elementary school-aged children identified as "in need" with bags of food each Friday to sustain them through the weekend. Many of these children are hungry and don't have regular access to nutritious food.

For more information about the Young Leadership Division or 3SQUARE, contact Rebekah Raz at 203-321-2665.



At right: YLD and JTT at play.



Carmel winning team: Philip Steinmetz, Seth Young, Emil Nusbaum, Eli Freedberg, Josh Levine and Jeff and Lisa Manheim.



L-r: UJF CEO James Cohen, JFS CEO Matt Greenberg, JTT Program Coordinator Jami Fener and Co-chairs Remi Rosenberg and Lael Shapiro.

Open House at Jewish High School of CT

The Jewish High School of Connecticut invites the community to its Open House on Sunday, October 30, from 1:30-4 pm, at 1937 West Main St., Stamford. Those attending will learn about JHSC, tour the facility and meet students, faculty and administrators. To RSVP or for additional information, e-mail srich@jhsc.org or call 203-357-0850.

Kuriansky. . . . Continued from page 8

for high school sophomores, this year three of the previous year's participants remained in the program and offered leadership. In the 2016-2017 academic year, KTTC will be led by a leadership council that will help to plan the scope and the activities of the season. More hands-on experiences will be planned, as well as a variety of different fund-raising activities. The goal is for teens to experience the full range of roles and responsibilities of a board, and to view the needs of the Jewish community and the wider Stamford community.

In the past school year, a group of 10th and 11th grade students met on a monthly basis. The group of nine teens engaged in discussions and exercises to establish the values, goals and mission of KTTC. They researched local Jewish and secular charitable organizations, and took part in fund-raising to enable them to donate to charities of their choice.

This June, members of the group presented checks to Inspirica and to the Back to School Shop. Inspirica is a local Stamford homeless shelter that provides support services to homeless men, women and children, and that strives to move them from transitional housing to stable, permanent housing. Back to School Shop was started last year to provide economically disadvantaged children with new clothes and school supplies in order to help build confidence and enthusiasm for a successful school experience.

At a recent summit of Jewish teen philanthropy group leaders, hosted by the Jewish Teen Funders Network, UJF Director of Education and Engagement Cantor Marcia Lane met her colleagues from all over the world. She heard stories of teens all around the U.S., Australia, Israel, Britain, Canada and Europe, and said, "It's amazing to hear how eager our teens are to make a better world and to work really hard in order to do it!" Cantor Lane participated in workshops on how to structure a more engaging program, how to introduce teens to the FUNdamentals of fund-raising (the "Art of the Sell" and the "Art of the Ask!"), putting the "Jewish" in Jewish philanthropy, and much more.

Applicants for the Kuriansky Teen *Tzedakah* Corps must be entering 10th-12th grades, and must make a commitment to attend all meetings and events. For information, contact Cantor Lane at Marcia@ujf.org.

United Jewish Federation's
Young Leadership Division presents:



Sunday, September 18th

A Free Event

Mingle with other families in the community while your kids enjoy a PJ Library story & craft, facepainting, an indoor kidzone and playground. For families new to the area in the last 18 months, PJ Library families and families interested in learning more about the Young Leadership Division of UJF.

Temple Sinai Kidzone, 458 Lakeside Drive ~ 10:00am to 12:00pm

Refreshments will be served. Kosher dietary laws observed.

To RSVP contact Sharon Franklin @ 203-321-2674 or email sharon@ujf.org

Carmel Students Create Art for New Nature Trail

A group of Carmel Academy students have left an artistic mark on one of Fairfield County's newest outdoor amenities. The school's students created nature inspired mosaic stepping-stones for a sensory garden that is part of a new Nature Play Trail at Audubon Greenwich.

Audubon Greenwich, which has done a variety of educational programs with Carmel Academy over the years, asked if the school would create the stepping-stones in time for the trail's grand opening in late June. "I couldn't turn down this opportunity to have our students create these permanent pieces," said Carmel Academy's art teacher Lori Amer.

Amer said she worked with the Audubon's center director, Michal Frankel, to research and come up with a stepping-stone design concept for the trail's Sensory Garden – one of six activity stations along the Nature Play Trail.

Several tile stores in the area donated materials to use to make the mosaic art, Amer said. Carmel Academy's sixth grade students helped to carefully crack the tiles and then, with a group of lower school students, used the small pieces of tile to create representations of garden animals, nature scenes and flora.

"Images of a robin, dragonfly and mushroom, ladybug, butterfly, bluebird, snail, owl, sun, leaves, tree, rainbow and various flowers were transported to the Audubon Society," Amer said, adding that the



Carmel Academy students Eliora and Gabriella Frankel Mordecai showcased the mosaic stepping-stones created by Carmel Academy students for a sensory garden that is part of a new Nature Play Trail at Audubon Greenwich.

mosaic stones were then cemented into the ground.

The stepping-stones are truly a special addition to the sensory garden, said Frankel, whose two daughters are students at Carmel Academy. "Though the plants are small now, they will grow into much larger plants and provide children with a wide variety of colors, textures and smells through which to experience nature with all of their senses," Frankel said. "It was

amazing to see how much the stepping-stones added to the experience. What was initially just a little circle of plants in our Sensory Garden was transformed by these beautiful, whimsical stepping-stones that invite our youngest visitors to hop and jump and explore nature in a truly multi-sensory way.

"We are so grateful to Morah Lori and her talented art students for contributing to this wonderful new resource for the community," Frankel said.

Families throughout Fairfield County are welcome to visit the Nature Play Trail, which is geared to children of all ages. The trail is open dawn to dusk, seven days a week, and is fully wheelchair and stroller accessible.

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

Jewish High School Offers Early College Experience

The Jewish High School of Connecticut announced that it is now certified as an Early College Experience program site for the University of Connecticut. Class instructors at the high school are now simultaneously teaching both JHSC high school classes as well as UConn college classes, which will give students college credit on a UConn transcript while still in high school.

The credits are a fraction of the cost they would be in college and allow students to start their college classwork while still completing high school.

"It is the best of both worlds for our students" said Rabbi Elisha Paul, JHSC head of school. "This is real value added that saves parents thousands of dollars in college costs."

The program aims to strengthen the connection between JHSC and UConn. The connection began with a number of recent JHSC graduates attending UConn, including those in the UConn Honors program.

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

Lunch and Learn



On June 29, Jewish Women Connected of Chabad of Stamford held its summer session of Lunch and Learn at Six Thirteen. Everyone had lunch and a Torah lesson with Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford. From left: Mona Kubli; Marcia Mellett, Shelley Senker, Shemtov, Roz Sherman, Gail Budin, Allison Greenbaum, Rita Chimes, Dallice Lazarus, Kailyn Lazarus, Sandy Speter with her grandson, Yitzy Glazer, Rita Yellen, Jessica Morgenthal and Marilyn Schwartz.

Birthright Continued from page 1

"In Israel, they don't teach about Jewish Americans," said Haifa University history professor Gur Alroey, who runs the program. "American universities are full of Israel studies departments. It's important that Israelis will understand that they live in Israel, but they're not alone."

In the program, students attend class all day once a week, allowing them to work on the side. Classes cover everything from American Jewish immigration and American Zionist movements to American Jewish culture and contemporary issues. Along with history books like Arthur Hertzberg's "The Jews in America" and Jonathan Sarna's "American Judaism," students read excerpts from "Portnoy's Complaint" by Philip Roth and watch some Three Stooges films from the late 1930s. They also look at how Hebrew translation to English changed as American Jews grew more assertively Zionist.

Omri Asscher, who teaches a course on American Jewish culture and identity, said students already appreciated cultural touchstones like "Seinfeld," or superheroes like Batman and Superman, before knowing or caring that they were created by American Jews. But Asscher said a cultural disconnect remained. His students, for example, had trouble appreciating the role decorative objects – *tchotchkes* like a cup with Hebrew writing or even a Jewish National Fund charity box – played in solidifying communal Jewish identity. "We talked about how being a Jew in America is a question of choice," Asscher said. "You can choose to be, and you can choose not to be. And if you choose to be, you need to be active in that regard. That's not a given in Israel."

The program attracts some 100 applicants each year, but the 25 students don't necessarily reflect the average Israeli. Many have had experiences with non-Orthodox movements, which have a scant presence in Israel. A few are studying to be Reform rabbis. Others have lived abroad for long periods of time. The trip is billed as a "reverse Birthright" and aims to get Israelis to like American Jews in the same way Birthright aims to create pro-Israel Americans. But while Birthright has brought more than half a million young Jews to Israel, the master's program



A cohort of Israeli master's degree students researching American Jewry took a group photo on the program's annual trip to New York last year. (Photo courtesy of the Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies)

is orders of magnitude smaller. Sarna, who teaches American Jewish history at Brandeis University, said the program aims for depth of impact rather than breadth.

"The Birthright people don't have much preparation beforehand; these people are getting an M.A.," Sarna said. "I don't see these folks like Birthright participants in [terms of] numbers. I see these folks as future leaders."

On the trip, which takes place entirely in New York, the students hear from leaders of all four major denominations and meet with a range of Jewish organizations. They explore the history of Jewish immigration to America, visiting Ellis Island as well as the Tenement Museum on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Along with "Fiddler on the Roof," they attend a Yiddish theater performance and see a documentary on American Jews in film. The trip also includes a lecture by journalist Peter Beinart, a self-described liberal Zionist.

A few students said they were surprised by how much American Jewish movements have in common, even as they emphasize their differences. Almost everyone they meet, said student Yehuda Lahav, speaks positively about the LGBT community. "I don't know if they realize that the direction all the streams are

going is the same," he said. "Some have been there for a while, some will get there in the future. None of them see a contradiction between Jewish life and American life."

The students are largely bullish about the American Jewish community and the values it represents. Some praised American Jewry's pluralism and downplayed the challenges and divisions that afflict its subgroups. Israelis, a few suggested, have much to learn from Judaism's success in America's free market of religion.

"American Judaism, despite the challenges and problems it's facing, can embody a different and in many ways positive model of Judaism that is very important for us in Israel to know," student Assaf Gamzou said. "Israelis a lot of the time have a very monolithic sense of themselves and our place. Sometimes we think Israel is the center of Jewish experience, but it is not necessarily so."

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

Bi-Cultural Faculty Take Summer to Recharge and Reinvent

BY DORA SALM

While many teachers slowed down over the summer break, Bi-Cultural Day School's faculty accelerated gears, attending seminars, workshops and summer courses to expand their skill sets to ensure that they are well-equipped for the new school year with the most innovative tools in their teaching tool belts.

"Our teachers are dedicated to continually enhancing the classroom experience and bringing out the best in every child. It's important that we provide our faculty with the most progressive professional development opportunities to stay current for the 21st century classroom," said Rachel Haron, associate principal, general studies.

One of the summer initiatives has been the Judaic studies department's collaboration with Ayeka (Hebrew



Bi-Cultural early childhood teacher Sharyn Baer explored a light display at an educator outreach workshop at The Children's Museum in West Hartford. (Photo by Barbara Friedlander)

for "where are you"), an Israeli-based education center, supplementing the Jewish studies curriculum with more ways for students to explore personal meaning and relevance. Bi-Cultural is one of a few schools in the country granted this program and the only middle school to partner with Ayeka, which has been supported by outside funding. Associate Principal of Judaic Studies Michal Smart gathered Bi-Cultural's Jewish studies and general studies faculty on this new project, training educators to provide opportunities through lessons and discussions that will help students gain Jewish knowledge.

"We spent the summer working directly with Ayeka educators, holding team meetings, lessons and curriculum planning, and sharing this contemporary approach with the entire Judaic studies team. We will eventually be integrating it on a schoolwide basis," said Smart.

Building upon their experiences with Ayeka, Smart and several teachers teamed with the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, an educational organization based in Jerusalem, which seeks to help educators create meaningful ways for students to discover classic texts and traditions of Judaism, and explore relevance to today's most pressing issues. This year, Pardes is leading an initiative, funded by the Avichai Foundation, to make *tefilla* (prayer) more accessible to students. Pardes selected Bi-Cultural as one of three New York-metropolitan area schools to partner in this two-year project, featuring *tefilla*-specific sem-

inars and workshops, and eventually rolling out an enhanced schoolwide *tefilla* program.

Continuous learning occurred in other academic areas, as well, including art, drama and creative writing. Middle school English teacher Gretchen Mathews attended the Connecticut Writing Project Fellow program at Fairfield University's Summer Institute. Helena Raffel taught courses in Bibliodrama, bringing biblical characters to life through dramatizations at Brandeis University's Summer Institute. Art teacher Pat Wetzler will be offering additional ceramic projects following the completion of a sculpture and clay workshop.

Literacy specialization was also a focus this summer, as reading specialist Barbara Sterling attended multi-sensory reading instruction at the Windward Training Institute and lower school teacher Beth Fritz mastered new teaching methods through the annual International Literacy Association Conference.

Teachers also concentrated on science and technology; Fritz and middle school teacher Adrienne Robinson took a course at Harvard University's Design Theory and Innovation Program, devoted to innovation in Maker-space Engineering Labs. "It was a great summer for learning," said Robinson. "With the knowledge we gained, we were able to return to school excited and energized."

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

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

September/October 2016

SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

SPECIAL EVENTS

How to be a Successful Blended Family

Thursday, September 22 at the Stamford J from 7:00-9:00 pm. For two families who are coming together with children. Bob Abrams, Jewish Educator and member of a blended family, will be joined by Eve Moskowitz, LCSW, Director of Clinical Service, JFS and Dr. Lee Combrinck-Graham, JFS Psychiatric Consultant to address the issues that arise in racial or interracial, reconstituted marriages or religious intermarriages between families. For more information, please contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 or email 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 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.

DIVORCE & BEREAVEMENT

Parent Education Program (PEP)

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

JFS Focus on K.I.D.S.

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

JFS New Beginnings

Mondays from 7-8pm. Support group for separated or divorced at Westport JFS office, 431 Post Road East, Suite 11. To register, contact Nadja Streiter at nstreiter@ctjfs.org.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

JFS Computer Training Courses

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

JFS 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

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Adult Circle Program

Serving adults with a full range of physical, mental and cognitive needs through one-on-one friendships and social opportunities with other adults in our community. Opportunities this year will include, social events, swim nights, bowling and community integration employment. For more information please contact Sarah Lipsker at Sarah@friendshipct.com.

SUPPORT

JFS Brain Fitness Pilot Program

Working with clients to improve brain function while aging in the client's home. Contact Jami Shapiro Fenerat 203-921-4161 or jfener@ctjfs.org.

JFS Kosher Food Pantry and Winter Coat Collection

Non-perishable staples for those in need. Donations welcomed. Over the summer, JFS will be collecting clean, new and gently used adult and children's coats. Please contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or email rkanefsky@ctjfs.org to arrange drop-off. For more information, contact JFS at 203-921-4161.

JFS Life Transitions

Wednesdays at 3:00 pm. Support group for the unemployed at the Stamford JFS office. For schedule, contact Nadja Streiter at nstreiter@ctjfs.org at 203-921-4161.

Let's Talk

Thursdays at 11am. Free at the Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Avenue. Seniors talk about common interests and concerns. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

CARING FOR SENIORS

JFS Home Companion

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

JFS Residential Cleaning

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

SNAP Enrollment Workshops - STAMFORD

For adults and seniors. JFS will be providing information and eligibility assistance for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-formerly food stamps). The second Wednesday of every month at 2:30 pm in the Stamford office (733 Summer Street, 65th Floor. SNAP Enrollment Workshops will be presented monthly. For additional information or to register, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky, JFS Case Manager at 203-921-4161 or email rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

SNAP Enrollment Workshops - WESTPORT

For adults and seniors. JFS will be providing information and eligibility assistance for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-formerly food stamps). The second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 am in the Westport office (431 Post Road East. SNAP Enrollment Workshops will be presented monthly. For additional information or to register, please contact Rebekah Kanefsky, JFS Case Manager at 203-921-4161 or email rkanefsky@ctjfs.org.

Touch-A-Truck



At left: On July 6, the Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center held a "Touch-A-Truck" event as part of its summer camp activities. The kids were able to see and touch fire trucks from the Turn of River Fire Department and to meet canine pals from the K-9 unit. From left: Morah Lauren Schechter, Ari Krinsky, Asher DeLois, Gabriel Zizmor, Eli Weisser, Lavender Landau, Laurel Landau, Noah Goldstein with Morah Hilary Goldstein, Nachum Hordiner with Morah Margarita Kunin and Max Kaimowitz with Morah Sonia Avny.

Bi-Cultural Wins Third Place in Israel Day Parade

Dark, drizzly skies could not dampen Bi-Cultural Day School's spirit on June 5, as more than 200 students, faculty and parents marched in unison up New York's Fifth Avenue in the annual Celebrate Israel Day Parade. Bi-Cultural's parade committee of parents, Anat Chavkin, Rachel Dayan, Meg Haron and Danielle Thau, prepared for months beforehand,

coordinating logistics, choreography, music and many other creative elements for the event. As a result, Bi-Cultural won third place over almost 120 organizations for overall pageantry and design, unique to this year's theme, "Sight, Sound and Spirit," making Bi-Cultural the only school placing in the top three spots every other year for the past six years.



More than 200 marchers from Bi-Cultural danced and sang their support on June 5 in the Celebrate Israel Day Parade in New York. In front: Yehudit Hochman and Shira Haron waved flags as Ezra Chamberlain marched along with them. (Photo by Michelle Gordon)

Summer Camp at Gan



Students at Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center enjoyed summer camp activities, including splatter-painting. L-r: Ary Mehl, Vivian Kaplan, Natan Warmflash and Ari Tobin created splatter-paint artwork.





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For more information and purchase tickets please contact, ali.picheny@fidf.org or (646) 274-9645

VOICES AND VIEWS

WHY I CARE...

“Shimon [the son of Rabban Gamliel] says: It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes all the difference in the world.” – Pirke Avot 1:17

Focus on: Robin Fischel

BY JANE LEVENE

Robin Fischel grew up in Stamford, moved away for college and graduate school, and found her way back thanks to a job opportunity in Westchester. She has been back in the community since 2010. In 2011, she met her husband, Jason Fischel, who also grew up in Stamford. They married in 2014 and continue to live in Stamford with their dog, Manny. Robin, who is also the daughter of Ellen Weber, president of UJF, is dedicated to both the local and global Jewish communities and gives generously of her time to create a loving and supporting community for her family and the world around her. Here is why she cares.



Robin Fischel

husband, Jason. I regularly attend Women’s Philanthropy events, annual meetings, including the Winter Gala, and a variety of other UJF events throughout the year.

Q: Have you been involved with other Jewish organizations?

Robin: I am also very involved with Jewish Family Services – as part of the Board of Directors, the JFS Evening Committee, the Brain Fitness Committee, and the Jewish Twenties and Thirties. I work with Friendship Circle and Hadassah, as well.

Q: Why is it important for you to give back in this way?

Robin: I grew up in this Stamford community, and this Jewish community, and I feel a great obligation to give back. If I am able to help either with my time or monetarily (or both), what should hold me back to make this community a better place to live in for myself and those around me?

Q: Describe your involvement with Young Leadership Division. Why should other young singles, couples or families in the community get involved with YLD, as well as support UJF?

Robin: I currently have the opportunity to sit on the YLD board and I regularly attend meetings and the array of YLD events. I find it immensely important to become involved in the Jewish community in order to build an early foundation of volunteerism and giving for my family. The younger one becomes engaged in our community, the longer they have to be actively involved and to create a larger impact. No matter whether one is single, dating, married or with a family, there is a place for you in UJF. I feel it is incredibly important to support UJF, as support for UJF is support for the greater Jewish community, including our other local Jewish organizations and global Jewry.

About Young Leadership: The Young Leadership Division is a group of people – ages 25-45 – who are committed to building a stronger Jewish community in Greater Stamford, Israel and throughout the world through community involvement, education and fund-raising. YLD offers many ways to get involved and get connected, including social events, educational programs and leadership positions. Contact Rebekah Raz at Rebekah@ujf.org or Sharon Franklin at Sharon@ujf.org.

Faith..... Continued from page 9

privilege of participating in both jobs, and my favorite part was watching how the people reacted. Some told us their life stories and profusely thanked us, while others just smiled the best smiles I have ever seen. When I signed up, I did not realize how much of an impact it would make on me. It was one of the most fulfilling experiences I have ever had, and I truly felt as if I was helping with *tikkun olam*, the Jewish value of making the world a better place.

A leap of action, although initially intimidating, is a reachable and understandable idea for me. I have been lucky enough to have had such amazing experiences acting in the Jewish community or in the larger community through

From Parent to President Bi-Cultural Welcomes David Pitkoff as Board President

BY DORA SALM

Bi-Cultural Day School recently elected David Pitkoff as the incoming president of the Board of Trustees, succeeding Robert Zitter, who served in this role for six years. Pitkoff, a partner in a CPA and financial-services firm, is a longtime community volunteer, having served on Bi-Cultural’s Board of Trustees and Executive Committee



David Pitkoff (Photo by Dora Salm)

for the past 12 years, serving on various administrative search committees and chairing the Finance Committee. A parent and supporter of the dayschool experience, Pitkoff said he is eager to help guide the school to continued success and academic achievement.

“We knew that Bi-Cultural was the best place for our own children so many years ago when we first toured the school. We looked at many schools, but couldn’t get over the joy on the faces of the children at Bi-Cultural,” said Pitkoff. He and his wife Cindy, a Bi-Cultural early education teacher, have three children who have graduat-

ed from both Bi-Cultural and SAR High School: Joshua, 23, a Princeton University graduate, Danielle, 21, a junior at Johns Hopkins University and Andrew, 18, who, following a gap year in Israel, is presently a freshman at the University of Maryland.

Pitkoff explained that he felt compelled to become more involved with Bi-Cultural after his oldest had been

enrolled for a short time. “Judaism teaches a concept of *hakarat hatov* – to appreciate and express gratitude for everything we have been blessed with. It became apparent early on that the school was making such a positive impact on the kids’ lives and they were learning so much on a daily basis. When offered the opportunity to become involved, I wanted to help serve the school that meant so much to our family. When our youngest graduated, we were able to celebrate one of the wonderful Bi-Cultural traditions: parents are presented with a plant as the

See “President” on page 19

MAZEL TOV TO AREA PROFESSIONALS

Nehama Aschkenasy Featured in New Book on Israel

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, director of the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford and professor of comparative literary and cultural studies at UConn, was among the scholars featured in a new book on Israel. New York University Press recently published the new book “Contemporary Israel: New Insights and Scholarship” in the series “Jewish Studies in the Twenty-First Century,” edited by Professor Frederick E. Greenspan and offering, to quote the Press, “cutting edge knowledge from senior scholars.” Aschkenasy’s chapter is titled “Israeli Fiction: National Identity and Private Lives.”

NYU Press explains: “Over the past generation, a substantial body of scholarship has explored numerous aspects of the country, including its approaches to citizenship and immigration, the arts, the women’s movement, religious fundamentalism, and language... This book does not seek to resolve either the country’s internal debates or its struggle with the Arab world, but to present a sample of contemporary scholars’ discoveries and discussions about modern Israel in an accessible way.”

Among the other senior scholars who contributed to the book are Calvin Goldscheider of Brown University and Ilan Troen of Brandeis University. Professor Michael Feige of Ben Gurion University, whose chapter discusses Israeli fundamentalism, was killed last June in a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

Aschkenasy also recently presented a lecture titled “Thoroughly European, Perennially a Stranger: The Hebrew Writer David Vogel” for the International Convention on Europe sponsored by the Modern Language Association held in Dusseldorf, Germany. To learn more about Aschkenasy or the Center, visit the Center’s website at cjmes.stamford.uconn.edu or contact the Center at stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu or 203-251-9525.

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies is a recipient agency of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, and is also supported by donations from the community.

Blended..... Continued from page 1

religious and sexually diverse re-mariages and Eve Moskowitz, M.S.W., psychotherapist and JFS director of clinical services.

Whether blended families are co-parenting, step-parenting or

parenting alone, they might benefit from assistance and advice in getting through the “bumps” along the way. Blended families can present a challenging environment.

The open forum is free to the community. Attendees will be given tools and resources that can help create better communication skills, better understanding of expectations and better outcomes – with the mutual goals of healthy child rearing. There will be an opportunity for participants to share in their experiences, struggles and triumphs as members of blended families.

Light refreshments will be served. In order to reserve a spot, contact Eve Moskowitz at 203-921-4161 or emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.

For more information about programs and resources for families, visit www.ctjfs.org.

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

Lynn Saltz, is the Jewish Family Service communications and marketing coordinator.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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Carmel Academy Celebrates Commencement

Carmel Academy graduated its Class of 2016 on June 15, celebrating the school's 11th commencement exercises. The graduation theme was "Our Journey" and the graduates reflected upon what they learned at Carmel, both inside the classroom and out, and how the school has shaped and prepared them for their future. Through personal writings and songs, in both Hebrew and English, the graduates shared their memories, as well as their aspirations for the future based on the foundation they received at Carmel Academy.



Carmel Academy 2016 graduate Micayla Roth addressed the audience at the school's commencement exercises on June 15.



At right: Carmel Academy 2016 graduates Ben Benson, Sydney Eben, Daniella Messer and Ryan Sands.

Carmel Golf Classic a Hole in One

The Carmel Academy's Annual Golf Classic was held on June 6. The fundraiser took place at the Glen Arbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills and included an Elite 18 Hole Shamble on the Gary Player signature course. The day of golf was followed by a cocktail reception, awards dinner and raffle. "Premier amenities, live scoring and high-quality take-away gifts make this annual event one of the pre-eminent golf outings in the area," said Seth Young, Carmel Academy's associate head of school. All proceeds benefitted Carmel Academy, a school for children of all Jewish affiliations that serves students from transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. L-r: Fred Buffone, Jon Malkin, Jeff Title and Rusty Tierney enjoyed a day of golf at Carmel Academy's Annual Golf Classic. (Photo by Aviva Maller Photography)



L-r: Fred Buffone, Jon Malkin, Jeff Title and Rusty Tierney enjoyed a day of golf at Carmel Academy's Annual Golf Classic. (Photo by Aviva Maller Photography)

► Sneak Preview of Jewish Arts and Film Festival

On Thursday, September 15, at 7 pm, at the State Cinema, the Jewish Arts and Film Festival of Fairfield County will present a festival sneak preview with the screening of the film, "Mekonen: The Journey of an African Jew." A sequel to the film, "Beneath the Helmet," "Mekonen" follows the personal journey of a young African-Israeli Jew, once a shepherd in Africa and now a commander in the Israeli Defense Forces.

A question-and-answer period will follow the film with IDF First Lt. Eden Adler and New York Regional Director of Jerusalem University Lior Krinsky.

The screening is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Stamford and Congregation Agudath Sholom. The State Cinema is located at 990 Hope St., Stamford.

The Jewish Arts and Film Festival will take place from Saturday, October 29, to Sunday, November 6.

For information visit www.jewishartsandfilm.org or contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

President.Continued from page 18

melody is played from the 'Mezinka,' the traditional dance honoring parents when their last child weds. It was such a celebratory lifecycle event for us, surrounded by our loving family and community."

Having also served as president of the Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation and director of many Israel-related charities, Pitkoff has a wealth of experience with community service and said he is eager to continue to propel the school forward with a focus on strategic issues and outreach. "I am so fortunate to collaborate with our principal and head of school, Jackie Herman. She and her team of administrators and faculty continually inspire our school to strive for excellence, as we remain

a school bustling with engaging events and activities for children and families. The greatest challenge facing all Jewish day schools is the need to provide affordable and accessible education, a goal Bi-Cultural is committed to. We believe that every Jewish child deserves the best possible secular and Judaic education. I also believe we have a responsibility to identify and promote the next generation of leadership that will ensure Bi-Cultural's continued growth for another 60 years. Finally, we must always create innovative ways to inspire and nurture a love of learning, a love of Torah and of Israel," said Pitkoff.

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

Contact Information for our Local Partners

- BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS):**
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903 • 203.329.2186 • www.bcds.org
- BBYO - Leviticus AZA (Boys) and Tikvah BBG (Girls):**
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- CARMEL ACADEMY:**
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- CENTER FOR JUDAIC & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES AT UCONN-STAMFORD (CJMES):**
University of Connecticut, Stamford Campus, One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901 • 203.251.9525 or stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu • www.cjmes.stamford.uconn.edu
- CHABAD OF STAMFORD:**
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- CONGREGATION AGUDATH SHOLOM:**
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- JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES:**
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