

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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

JCC Prepares to Celebrate its 100th Birthday

Centennial Events, Maccabi Games and ArtsFest

In the nearly 100 years since its dedication in 1916, the Jewish Community Center of Stamford has sought to serve as a second home for tens of thousands of families and individuals in the Stamford Jewish community. As the JCC prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary, scores of volunteers are at work planning the events and programs that will mark its centennial year.

"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 Com-

munity," said JCC CEO Eric Koehler. "We are fortunate to begin 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."

In 2006, Stamford hosted its first JCC Maccabi Games, an annual Olympic-style athletic competition that brings together Jewish teens from North America and around the world. JCC Maccabi ArtsFest grew out of the success of the JCC Maccabi Games, and offers an opportunity for creative teens to work on their crafts, engage with the community

See "Birthday" on page 27

In France, Fear and Defiance Mix

Months after Kosher Market Attack

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ

PARIS (JTA) – On her way home from food shopping, Mirelle Bensason pauses to rearrange wilted wreaths and posters hanging on the perimeter fence that police set up around the kosher supermarket where an Islamist gunned down four Jewish shoppers seven months ago. Bensason, who does not keep strictly kosher, is not a Hyper Cacher regular, but sees the continued flow of customers into the shop as proof of the Jewish community's resilience.

Hyper Cacher reopened in March, about two months after Amedy Coulibaly entered the chain's Port

de Vincennes location and took its patrons hostage. Since it reopened, the store is guarded during its hours of operation by police officers toting machine guns.

"I take care of the commemorations on this fence to remember the victims and my pain, our pain," said Bensason, a blue-eyed grandmother of four who was born in Morocco and now lives on the eastern edge of Paris, not far from Hyper Cacher. "But we're not afraid to come shopping here. We refuse to be cowed by our enemies. Life has not changed much, except

See "France" on page 24

A Lifetime of Service

UJF to Present First-Ever Benson Zinbarg Award

The board and staff of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien recently announced the establishment of the Benson Zinbarg Lifetime Service Award. The award, made possible through the generosity of the Zinbarg family, is named for former UJF president and community leader Benson Zinbarg z'l, who worked tirelessly for Jews both here in Connecticut and around the world. James Cohen, UJF's CEO, noted, "It is wonderful that we are now able to honor individuals who have given so much to the community over the years and particularly fitting that this award is named after a pillar like Benson Zinbarg."



Lorraine and David Kweskin

The committee, convened to choose the first recipients of this award, unanimously selected Lorraine and David Kweskin to receive the

See "Lifetime" on page 2

Bi-Cultural Wins Major North American Innovation Prize

BY DORA SALM

Bi-Cultural Day School has won the 2015 Jewish Education Innovation Challenge, a major competition among North American Jewish day schools. According to the competition sponsor, the Mayberg Family Foundation, 62 schools submitted programs for consideration in this year-long process. Bi-Cultural was one of two schools selected for the award, which includes a grant of \$50,000 each.

The competition "is designed to disrupt complacency and encourage innovation in Jewish day school education," the Mayberg Family Foundation stated. The foundation will now



Michal Smart and Rabbi Yehuda Jeiger

engage with Bi-Cultural in evaluating the program's progress and sharing it

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Back to School Shop Opens its Doors

The Back to School Shop, a new, all-volunteer community event under the auspices of UJF, was launched on August 9 at Davenport Ridge Elementary School in Stamford. One hundred and twenty-five children from Stamford public elementary schools were able to "shop" free of charge for brand new back-to-school outfits and school supplies in a department store-like setting, created just for them. More than 150 trained volunteers helped to make the event a resounding success. (More information will appear in next month's The New Jewish Voice.)

The ribbon cutting celebration included (l-r): Dr. Tamu Lucero, assistant superintendent, Stamford public schools; Randall Skigen, president, Board of Reps./deputy mayor; Meryl Japha and Jane Levene, co-founders, Back to School Shop; Mayor David Martin; Dr. Winifred Hamilton, superintendent, Stamford public schools; James Cohen, CEO, United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien; and William Tong and Caroline Simmons, state representatives.



Reflections on the Past Year

What is your immediate, visceral reaction when you think about the High Holidays?

Is it that another summer is over? Is it anticipation of brisket and taiglach? Is it a feeling of sadness that you will not be celebrating with lost loved ones, or the joy of a new baby who will experience Rosh Hashanah for the first time?

The Jewish New Year is an opportunity for us to reflect on the past and plan for the future.

I look back over the last year with a feeling of pride about the effectiveness of our Federation. Last summer, we were consumed by news of three murdered Israeli students and the bombings in Israel. Federation took a leadership role addressing this tragic situation, conveying timely information



Ellen Weber,
UJF president

and convening the community in a demonstration of support. Thanks to you, UJF exceeded its fundraising expectations for JFNA's Stop the Sirens campaign, which provided assistance to those affected by the bombings.

We continued this role as community convener and provider of Jewish experiences through sponsorship of "Shabbat Across Stamford." We were the first community in the country with members from all Jewish affiliations under one roof for a celebratory evening of prayer, food and education. And, once again, Federation assembled our community on Yom Hashoah to remember the horrors of the Holocaust, honor our survivors and ensure that it "never happens again."

With the promulgation of the proposed nuclear agreement with Iran, we are attempting to determine its possible impact on America and Israel. As Jim Cohen said in his August message, UJF's role is to "lead the debate by helping to educate our community members," informing you as best as possible.

One of Federation's most important roles is to engage in conversations with members of the community. Without reservation, Jim, the UJF board and I are open to hearing from you. You can provide us with fresh ideas and new ways of approaching issues. In fact, Sari Jaffe and Susan Frieden, after attending the International Lion of Judah Conference, pro-

posed a Federation sponsored program for retired women/empty nesters. This became the inspiration for "Chapter Two," the monthly Women's Philanthropy group that is drawing rave reviews.

With the shrinking of the UJF board, we introduced the Advisory Council comprised of lay leaders from our local organizations and the community at-large. The Advisory Council is a forum for information sharing and discussion, and at our meetings thus far, we've held lively conversations about teen engagement. We learned that our community has many forums where teens can meet, but we need to get more of them involved. The Greater Stamford Teen Task Force, an offshoot of the Council, will tackle this challenge.

Among Federation's fundamental roles is to raise funds to support our local partners, and help Jews around the world and in Israel. There are four months remaining in our 2015 Annual Campaign. For those who have pledged already, I thank you so much. For those who have not yet done so, I ask you for your donation as together we work to repair the world.

I wish you and your families a happy and healthy 5776 and express my deep gratitude to you, our donors, volunteers and staff, for your continued commitment and dedication.

Shanah tovah,
Ellen Weber

Lifetime Continued from page 1

honor. Committee Chair Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun noted, "David and Lorraine have collectively and individually given decades of service to UJF and our community. As UJF president and Women's Philanthropy president respectively, they stepped up to the plate when their community needed them and led from the heart. They have always been willing to pitch in and help Federation, both in good times and bad. I am thrilled that they are receiving this honor."

"Lorraine and David's dedication to the community goes well beyond their tireless service to UJF," noted UJF President Ellen Weber. "David also found time to serve as president of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County. I don't know where the JCC Film Festival would be without Lorraine, not to mention the Mah Jongg Tournament. I can't wait to honor them!"

Susan and Len Mark of Stamford will serve as chairs of the Winter Gala, to be held on Saturday night, December 12, at which time the award will be presented. The evening will also include the UJF annual meeting, presentation of the Harvey Peltz Young Leadership Award to Dana Horowitz and Peter Wolly, and the Isadore and Helen S. Mark Teen Leadership Award to Gaby Baum. The evening, which will include dinner and music, will feature a keynote speech from television actor Joshua Malina. Malina, who can currently be seen on ABC's "Scandal," is a life-long Federation supporter, who has received praise for his presentations at similar events. Following a recent event in Palm Springs, Tina Friedman, Development and Women's Philanthropy director of the Jewish Federation of the Desert, said that "Joshua Malina's presentation was fantastic. He really spoke to the power of Federation and not from a script."

Lisa and Jeff Manheim will be chairing the Journal Committee for the event. UJF will provide additional logistical details about the Winter Gala in the coming months.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Brian Kriftcher receives Hoffman Humanitarian Award

At its annual meeting in May, the Jewish Community Center presented Stamford resident Brian Kriftcher with the 2015 Hyacinthe and Harold Hoffman Humanitarian Award.

Each year, the Hoffman Award is given to the individual who best expresses the ideals of service to the community that Harold E. Hoffman and his wife, Hyacinthe, longtime JCC leaders and distinguished humanitarians and philanthropists, exemplified during their lifetimes.

"The Hoffman Award selection committee, made up of past Hoffman Award winners, unanimously selected Brian Kriftcher to receive this year's award," said Eric Koehler, JCC CEO. "Brian not only meets, but far exceeds, all of



Brian Kriftcher
(Photo by Aviva Maller)

the criteria of sustained commitment and dedication to nurturing the overall growth and development of the Jewish Community Center; leadership in the support of the Center through the giving of time, energy and financial assistance; a role model in upholding the mission of the Center and helping to sustain the Center's cultural, social and educational programs; a respected representative to the community at-large; selfless placement of the Center's best interest as a priority on an ongoing basis; and an inspiration to others, by example."

Kriftcher has been a member of the Board of Directors of the JCC since 2003, and served as its president for three years from 2009-2012. During his tenure, the board voted to host two

JCC Maccabi Games (in 2006 and again next summer in 2016), and developed capital campaigns of unprecedented scale in the Stamford community to help rehabilitate and renew the JCC's physical plant and infrastructure.

The Kriftcher family's lead gift helped jumpstart the initial capital campaign, the second phase of which, called The Centennial Campaign, has just begun, and coincides with the JCC's 100th anniversary in 2016. The Centennial Campaign will raise funds needed to complete additional necessary upgrades

See "Kriftcher" on page 20

Deadlines for articles

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

Monday, August 31 October
Thursday, September 24 November
Thursday, October 1 December
Send *New Jewish Voice* article submissions to Sandy Golove at sandy@ujf.org marked "Stamford Voice" in the subject line. Expect an acknowledgment; please re-send if you do not receive one.

REUNION

PHI EPSILON PI fraternity is holding its 50th reunion in Pittsburgh on Oct. 23 & 24, 2015. All graduates between 1959 and 1964 are welcome. For further information, contact Ed Friedlander at 203 322-8808.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

August 21	7:26 pm
August 28	7:16 pm
September 4	7:04 pm
September 11	6:53 pm
September 13	6:49 pm
September 14	after 7:47 pm
September 18	6:41 pm
September 22	6:34 pm
September 25	6:29 pm
September 27	6:25 pm
September 28	after 7:22 pm
October 2	6:17 pm
October 4	6:14 pm
October 5	after 7:11 pm
October 9	6:05 pm
October 16	5:54 pm
October 23	5:44 pm
October 30	5:35 pm

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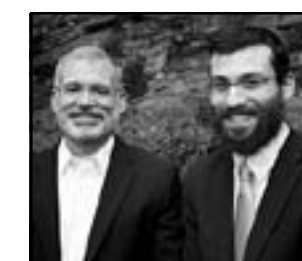
Beyond the Red Tent

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

Anita Diamant, author of the best-selling novel, "The Red Tent," will discuss her latest novel, "The Boston Girl," on Wednesday, September 2, at 7 pm, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's September Featured Program. The event will be held at the Harry Bennett Library, 115 Vine Rd., Stamford, with refreshments following the program, which is free and open to the public. "The Red Tent" and "The Boston Girl" will be available for purchase, and the author will sign books. Attendees can bring their own copies to be signed.

Diamant's novel, "The Boston Girl," has been called perfect for a Jewish Historical Society program because it is written in the form of an oral history, one of the society's undertakings. The story of the main character, 85-year-old Addie Baum, is presented as the transcript of a tape-recorded monologue. Addie was prompted

See "Tent" on page 21



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It’s Not Just Apples Dipped in Honey...

BY RONNIE FEIN

The High Holidays may be a solemn time, but the prophet Nehemiah reminded us that Rosh Hashanah (which begins at sundown on Sunday, September 13) is also a time to rejoice and to eat rich foods and drink sweet beverages.

In our family, we have always taken Nehemiah at his word. The holidays are feast time.

Although I usually cook simple, modern fare during the rest of the year, and experiment with new recipes all the time, my holiday menus include mostly

traditional foods. For example, not having sliced apples dipped in honey on Rosh Hashanah would be unthinkable! And I serve lots of other sweets: dates, raisins, honey cake, plum torte, teiglach.

There’s always a round homemade challah, of course.

For the main course on Rosh Hashanah? Something festive, a dish reserved for this special occasion, and not the stuff of any weekday dinner. Almost everyone I know prepares a brisket, which has its many virtues—it’s large and can be cooked well ahead

of serving time. Alas, it isn’t a favorite at the Fein household.

My grandma and Mom always served turkey because it suited our big family. My choice is roasted chicken, because this is a dish that has everything you could ask for in a holiday entrée. It’s large and important looking, a symbol of plenty. Its aroma and juicy meat make it one of the most endearing and enduring of comfort foods. The meat is so mild it lends itself to all sorts of seasoning.

One of our favorite Rosh Hashanah entrees is Roasted Chicken with Apples and Honey, not simply because it is so moist and perfectly balanced with elements of sweet and savory, but also because it embodies the classic holiday apples-and-honey holiday theme. In the recipe you’ll see I’ve listed *ras el hanout*, a Moroccan spice mixture (you can make your own: there’s a recipe in my first kosher cookbook, “Hip K kosher,” or buy it pre-mixed). I think *ras el hanout* adds a pack of flavor to many foods, but I’ve prepared this dish without it. The recipe is so versatile you can use more chopped herbs (think thyme, tarragon and rosemary) or cook it with no seasonings at all, because the gravy is so tasty.

For my family’s dessert? Honey cake, of course. It wouldn’t be Rosh Hashanah without it.

ROASTED CHICKEN WITH APPLES AND HONEY

- 1 roasting chicken, about 5-6 pounds
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- ½ tsp. *ras el hanout*, optional
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 6 large cloves garlic, peeled and cut in half
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- 3 Tbsp. chopped fresh mint
- 2 tart apples, peeled and cut into large chunks
- ½ cup coconut milk

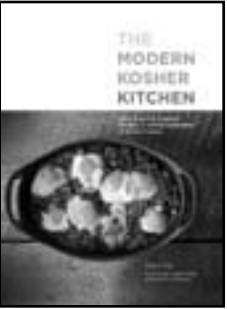
Preheat the oven to 400°F. Dry the chicken with paper towels. Rub the skin with olive oil. Sprinkle with *ras el hanout*, if desired, and salt and pepper to taste.

Place the chicken, breast-side down, on a rack in a roasting pan. Add the garlic to the pan. Mix the stock and honey together and set aside. Reduce the oven heat to 350°F and roast the chicken for 45 minutes, basting occasionally with the stock mixture. Turn the chicken breast-side up. Mix the apple chunks and mint and add them to the pan. Continue to roast until a meat thermometer inserted into thickest part of breast registers 160°F (about one hour). Baste occasionally with the pan fluids for the first 20 minutes. Remove the chicken to a carving board, and let rest for 15 minutes before carving.

Reduce the oven heat to 140°F. Remove the apples with a slotted spoon and keep them warm in the oven. Place the roasting pan on the cooktop, add the coconut milk and bring the liquid to a boil over high heat. Boil for about 3-4 minutes or until the sauce has reduced to the consistency of heavy cream. Keep warm over low heat.

Carve the chicken, and place the pieces on a serving dish surrounded by the apples. Serve the sauce on the side.

Makes 6 servings.
Ronnie Fein is a cookbook author, food writer and cooking teacher in Stamford. She is the author of “Hip K kosher” and “The Modern Kosher Kitchen.” Visit her food blog, Kitchen Vignettes, at www.ronniefein.com; friend her on Facebook at Ronnie Vail Fein; and follow her on Twitter at @RonnieVFein.



The cover of Ronnie Fein’s newest cookbook, “The Modern Kosher Kitchen”

► JCC Offers Rosh Hashanah Luncheon for Seniors

On Thursday, September 10, 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 3. Those wishing to attend should contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

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A Night for Israel

Cantor Rafael Bokow to Perform Israeli Classics

Cantor Rafael Bokow, the cantor at Congregation Agudath Sholom, will be the featured entertainer at a musical tribute to Israel on Sunday, October 11, at 7 pm, at the Cole Auditorium in the Greenwich Library.

Sponsored by Congregation Agudath Sholom, the concert will also feature Ira Berk on piano, Sid Nachman (of the Bagles) on guitar and the “Cantor’s Bim-Bom-Boms.” There will also be an appearance by the Stamford Synagogue Choir.

“I’m extremely excited about this year’s annual concert,” said Cantor Bokow. “I think that it will appeal to adults and children, and truly be a memorable musical experience.”

The concert is being billed as “A Night for Israel,” at which Stamford community members can stand in support of Israel. All of the songs that will be performed will have some connection to Israel, and will feature melodies from Naomi Shemer, Yehoram Gaon and other Israeli songwriters. Throughout the performance, Cantor Bokow plans to trace the history of the state of Israel, from its birth to the struggles it has faced throughout its history.

Tickets are available on the Agudath Sholom website at cas-stamford.org, or by calling the synagogue office at 203-358-2200. General admission seats will cost \$18 each, or preferred seating is \$36 per ticket. Seating is limited, so everyone is urged to reserve a seat early if interested.

► Save the Date for Friendship Day

The Friendship Circle’s annual Friendship Day event, in support of children with special needs and their families, will take place on Sunday, October 18, from 12:30-3:30 pm, at Chabad of Stamford, 770 High Ridge Rd. To donate, participate or volunteer, visit www.FriendshipDayCT.com.



Dylan Zalis focused on his project work at a Tiny Treasures holiday class.

holiday holds for them? By intentionally including them, wherever possible, singing songs, encouraging questions and talking about the significance of it all.”

Anyone who would like to brush up on their holiday song repertoire, recipes and traditions can take this Tiny Treasures High Holiday class. The \$20 fee for the Tiny Treasures High Holiday class includes snack and all take-away projects. For further information, contact Nechama Hordiner morahnechama@chabadstamford.org

Tiny Treasures is a “Mommy and Me” program geared to babies from 3 months old to 4-year-old preschoolers. The year-long program (fall, winter and spring sessions) begins after the holidays, on Wednesday, October 14. Mommies (or daddies) can enroll for a whole session (between 6-10 weeks long) or drop in for a class at their convenience. A first time “trial class” is always free. For more information, visit www.chabadstamford.org.

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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:



Leah and Eliot Bassin on the birth of a son, Bryce Jacob Bassin; grandparents are **Barbara and Douglas Bassin** and **Bobbie and Marc Wallick**.

Becky and Andrew Benenson on the birth of a daughter, Eliza Rose Benenson; grandparents are **Nancy and Lindsay Rosenberg**.

Jennifer Buhler and Thomas Modla on the birth of a son, Oliver Thomas Modla; grandmother is **Gail Karlitz**.

Shannon and Josh Funt on the birth of a son, Ethan Funt; grandparents are **Nancy and Mark Funt**.

Sara and Chris Koczek on the birth of a son, Leo Ethan Koczek; grandparents are **Amy and Mark Schneider**.

Bailey and Al Majer on the birth of a daughter, Miriam Temma Majer; grandfather is **Izzy Lustig**.

Rachel and Samuel Maryles on the birth of a daughter.

Jill and Rob Negron on the birth of a daughter, Sasha Negron; grandparents are **Carol and Michael Rosmarin**.

Arlene and Carl Rosen on the birth of a granddaughter, Sierra Grey Saunders.

Lindsay and Peter Rosen on the birth of a son, Jack Benjamin Rosen; grandparents are **Sabrina and Dan Benjamin**; great-grandmother is **Vicky Benjamin**.

Elyse Turshen Panlilio and Alex Panlilio on the birth of a daughter, Olivia Jane Panlilio; grandparents are **Sharon and Jeff Turshen**.

Amy and Mark Schneider on the birth of a grandson, Leo Ethan Koczek.

Sarah and Leslie Steinmetz on the birth of a son, Tyler Mason Steinmetz; grandparents are **Norine and Dov Steinmetz**.

Betsy and Mike Stone on the birth of a granddaughter, Isabela Grace Reese.

BITS AND PIECES

Jenette and Ben Woskow on the birth of a daughter, Elise MacKenzie Woskow; grandparents are **Leslie and Jeff Liss**; great-grandmother is **Lee Fanwick**.

Leah and Nolan Zeide on the birth of a daughter, Elora Mabel Zeide; grandpar-ents are **Dorothy and Steven Zeide**. MAZEL TOV TO:

Darona and Tzvi Bernstein, on the marriage of their daughter, **Leora Bernstein**, to **Yaakov Hauptman**; grandparents are **Sarey and Sam Bernstein**, and **Debbie Steinhorn**.

Lenore and Michael Cooper on the marriage of their daughter, **Rachel Hana Cooper**, to **Joshua Morgan Troy**, son of Catherine and Allen Troy.

Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg, and **Yair Zur** on the engagement of **Ilana Zur** to **Roi Shabtay**.

Wendy and John Fitzgerald on the marriage of their daughter, **Rachel Fitzgerald**, to **Sean Calahan**.

Sue Frieden on the marriage of her son, **Eric Frieden**, to **Rachel van der Steur**.

Nan and Paul Gordon on the engagement of their daughter, **Marcy Gordon**, to **Micah Julius**.

Miriam and Josh Hurewitz on the engagement of their son, **Jeremy Hurewitz**, to **Rachel GROSSER**, daughter of **Shira and Mayer GROSSER**.

Diane Indyk and Rob Indyk on the engagement of their daughter, **Shoshana Indyk**, to **Daniel Levie**, son of **Esther and Warren Levie** of Teaneck, NJ.

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

Meryl and Larry Meiteles on the engagement of their son, **Elliot Meiteles**, to **Alana Chill**, daughter of **Abbey and Steve Chill** of Harrison, NY.

Anne Peskin for receiving the Ziporah and George Freedberg Spirit of Excellence Award from Congregation Agudath Sholom.

Burton Rubin for receiving the Ziporah and George Freedberg Hineni Award for Outstanding Service to Congregation Agudath Sholom and the Community.

Roz and Mitch Rubin on the marriage of their son, **Amitan Rubin**, to **Apryl Stone**.

Lisa and Abraham Slen on the engagement of their son, **Efram Slen**, to **Mandie Biron**, daughter of **Irene and David Biron**.

Lisa and Abraham Slen on the marriage of their son, **Matthew Slen**, to **Mary Cline**, daughter of **Barbara and Daniel Cline**.

Rhoda Spiegelman's granddaughter, **Ariela Schear**, for completing the 2,078 mile Appalachian Trail Hike. Ariela is entering Yale University in September.

Rabbi David and Rivka Walk and Debbie Walk on the engagement of their son, **Yishai Walk**, to **Shayna Liba Brainen**, daughter of **Gail and Norman Brainen**.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH: **Joshua Milstein**, son of **Sarah and Stuart Milstein**; grandparents are **Hillary and Bob Zitter**.

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

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

CONDOLENCES TO:

Maureen Beder, and Barry Beder, Daryl Beder, Lance Beder and Michelle Beder on the loss of her husband and their father; and **Joyce Kaplan** on the loss of her brother, **Woolfie Beder**.

Terry Brenner on the loss of his father, **Ernie Brenner**.

Lee Brauer on the loss of his wife, **Rima Brauer**.

Phyllis Brodsky, and Meryl Brodsky, Mark Brodsky and Steven Brodsky on the loss of her husband and their father, **Gerry Brodsky**.

Corinne Chapman on the loss of her father, **Stanley Needle**.

Judy Cohen on the loss of her brother, **Steven Mullens**.

Henry Feuerstein on the loss of his mother, **Charlotte Helen Clein Feuerstein**.

Rena Gelb and Paul Gelb on the loss of their mother, **Gina Gelb**.

Larry Ginsberg on the loss of his mother, **Adeline Ginsberg**.

Sam Judd on the loss of his father, **Harold Judd**.

Arnold Kapiloff, Steven Kapiloff and Howard Kapiloff on the loss of his wife and their mother, **Phyllis Kapiloff**.

Barbara Klipper on the loss of her sister, **Susan Miller**.

To the family of **Betty Korn**.

Sophia Lumelsky on the loss of her mother, **Vera Chozhik**.

Kathy Mandel on the loss of her mother, **Jane Kass**.

Lisa Miller Weissman, Abbey Miller Kreinik and Neile Miller Lutze on the loss of their mother, **Belle Miller**.

Michael Moskowitz and Donna Troisi on the loss of their mother, **Harriet Weiss**.

Mia Needle, Corinne Chapman, Danna Needle, Elona Needle and Monica Needle on the loss of her husband and their father, **Stanley Needle**.

Bonnie and Ronald Nyman on the loss of their nephew, **Michael Klinofsky**.

Daniel Ramras on the loss of his brother, **Charles Ramras**.

Noel Robin on the loss of his brother, **Richard Robin**.

Gloria and Randy Skigen on the loss of their brother-in-law, **Kevin Rickert**.

Brenda Smith on the loss of her sister, **Gladys Gochberg Jacobson**.

Lois Stark and Amy Stark on the loss of their mother, **Tillie Stark**.

Harriet Sternlicht, and Andrew Sternlicht, Barry Sternlicht and Russell Sternlicht on the loss of her husband and their father; and **Celina Sternlicht** on the loss of her brother, **Mark Sternlicht**.

Family of **Bernie Taub**.

Ilse Wischnia on the loss of her husband, **Herbert Wischnia**.

Alfred Wolfsohn, and Sharon Karp, David Wolfsohn and Deborah Wolfsohn on the loss of his wife and their mother, **Royce Wolfsohn**.

Shalom Baby – A New Program of UJF

Shalom Baby, United Jewish Federation's new program to welcome new babies to the community, has added a new item, a "future philanthropist" bib, to its gift bag. Also included in the bag are toys and blankets, sweets and information on the local Jewish community. Take a photo of your baby wearing the bib and UJF will feature him/her in this newspaper and on the UJF Facebook page!

Anyone who has a new baby, or knows someone who does, should contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373, ext. 109.

At right: *Shailee Raz modeled the "future philanthropist" bib.*



UConn Judaic Studies Lunch and Learn Series

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford is preparing for the fall 2015 semester of educational programming. The Center's Lunch and Learn series will kick off at noon on Thursday, October 15, with the Norma and Milton Mann Memorial Lecture, "Counterhistory: Anti-Semitism in Contemporary British Drama" by Dr. Liora Brosh, professor of English at UConn-Stamford. On Thursday, October 22, Dr. Paul Franks, professor of philosophy at Yale, returns to the Stamford campus to present the Hyacinthe Hoffman Memorial Lecture, "From the Brink of Christianity to the Renewal of Judaism: Franz Rosenzweig (1886-1929) and the Reinvention of Jewish Life and Thought in Pre-War Germany." Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, Center director and professor of comparative literary and cultural studies at UConn, will present the Barbara and Jo-

seph Field Lecture on Thursday, October 29, "Home and Homelessness: Paradigms of the Jewish Experience in Literature." Closing the series on Thursday, November 5, Dr. Jeffrey Shoulson, chair of Judaic studies and professor of literatures, cultures, and languages at UConn, will present "Prayer for the Government: Jews and Citizenship," the Nina and Norman Lotstein Lecture.

Nina Lotstein, chair of the Center's Advisory Committee, remarked, "I would like to personally invite our community to take part in the Center's highly-regarded and enriching programs. We are looking forward to another thought-provoking semester with an exceptional group of scholars who will enrich our students' understanding of Jewish texts and Jewish



Professor Liora Brosh

history. The Center is proud to continue to offer such exciting and first quality educational opportunities to our community."

Also, the Center's annual Louis J. Kuriansky conference, "From Enmity to Friendship: The Remarkable Transformation of Christian-Jewish Relations Since Vatican II (1965)," will take place on Tuesday, November 10, at 7 pm.

JEEP.Continued from page 6

As we enter a new year, may we all be privileged – everyone from the youngest to the oldest, from the busy, active teen to the preschooler and the senior—to learn something new, to take part in the exciting and engaging life of the community, and to strengthen

To register for the 2015 Lunch and Learn Lecture Series, 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 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.

JEEP* TRACKS: MUSINGS ON EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

BY CANTOR MARCIA LANE



When the summer was approaching, I was piling up my stack of books to read. Now, in the waning days of the summer, I'm looking at the calendar. I'm picturing the year ahead.

On Saturday, September 12, the Torah reading is *Parashat Nitzavim*. I've always loved the opening of this section of the Torah: "You stand here this day, all of you, before the Lord your God; tribal leaders, elders and officials, all the men of Israel. Your children, your wives, even the stranger within your camp – from the wood chopper to the water-drawer – to enter into the covenant of the Lord your God..." (Deut. 29:9-11)

What I love about it is the huge circle of inclusion. Nobody is left outside of the community. Nobody is forgotten. Nobody is too high or too low to participate in the covenant, including the

ger—the stranger. Everyone in the community is considered important. That, to me, is both the essence of Judaism and the essence of UJF.

When I arrived here in November last year, I was plunged into Tapestry. Nearly 300 people came out for an evening of adult Jewish learning. As a newcomer, I could not have been more delighted! A Jewish community that loves learning is a great and vibrant community. As I type these words, Tapestry 2015 is nearly set. There will be a wonderful mix of local rabbis and cantors, artists and scholars, with new and exciting learning. Mark your calendar: Saturday evening, November 21, marks the 12th year of Tapestry!

The year 5776 is upon us, and I'm looking at all the crazy notes stuck to my desk and my computer:

- ◆ Storytelling at Library – Tuesday, September 8
- ◆ Call Kuriansky teens and parents! First meeting is breakfast on Sunday, September 27
- ◆ Seniors program – Jewish Storytelling?
- ◆ Melton! New class. Advertise.
- ◆ Speaker for Shabbat Across Stamford (!) – check out spaces at Plaza
- ◆ PJ Babies? parents? Workshop? Bagels and Books?
- ◆ Yom Hashoah (arts? music? hidden children? All three?)

I look at my lists and I think, "Who have I left out?" Because our obligation as Jews is to learn and to teach, *lifmod ul'lamdeid*, and to include absolutely everyone!

See "JEEP" on page 7

KLEI KODESH A MONTHLY COLUMN FROM OUR CLERGY “Through Their Eyes”

I have often found what would have been different in the grocery store had I been wearing a *kippah*. How would it have affected her opinion of Jews? Would I have been responsible for that opinion? Perhaps her impression of Jewish people would not have changed at all. But, I decided to put on my *kippah* as an experiment and I found that it had the desired effect – my behavior improved! I was more likely to hold the door and allow the person behind me to enter a building first. I was more likely to demonstrate proper behavior in public and I liked what it did for me! It was as though the sacrifice of my anonymity provided constant awareness that I was now a representative of the Jewish community.

I share this story to demonstrate one person's non-Orthodox approach to tradition. Serious liberal Jews, who do not feel themselves bound by *halachah* (Jewish law), see it incumbent upon themselves to take responsibility to interpret our tradition. In my years serving as a Reform rabbi, I have come across individuals in each of our movements who take their responsibilities seriously (and, of course, those who don't!). Liberal Judaism has certainly not proven to be the "easy way out" for committed, thoughtful expression of our tradition. And, I'm proud to lead a community full of such people.

I reflected on what allowed me to behave in such an obnoxious way and I believe it had something to do with anonymity. When there is no accountability, we feel less motivated to be our "best selves." It is why there is such bad behavior on the roads; in the privacy of our own car, we don't have to look into the eyes of the person we just mistreated! As a Jew, I have the ability to fade into the safety of anonymity in America. I look and dress like everyone else and my behavior

can look like everyone else's, too.

I wondered what would have been different in the grocery store had I been wearing a *kippah*. How would it have affected her opinion of Jews? Would I have been responsible for that opinion? Perhaps her impression of Jewish people would not have changed at all. But, I decided to put on my *kippah* as an experiment and I found that it had the desired effect – my behavior improved! I was more likely to hold the door and allow the person behind me to enter a building first. I was more likely to demonstrate proper behavior in public and I liked what it did for me! It was as though the sacrifice of my anonymity provided constant awareness that I was now a representative of the Jewish community.

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L'shalom, in peace,
Rabbi Jay TelRav
Rabbi Jay TelRav is the spiritual leader of Temple Sinai.



Rabbi Jay TelRav



William F. Gilbert, Owner is a long standing member of the Jewish Community

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JFS Home Companion Celebrates 30th Anniversary

BY LYNN SALTZ

In 1985, a first class postage stamp cost \$.22, Operation Moses resettled 8,000 Ethiopian Jews in Israel. "Amadeus" won the Oscar for best movie of the year and Jewish Family Service created the JFS Home Companion. After 30 years, the program continues to provide affordable assistance that enables seniors to remain safe, healthy and independent in their homes to the fullest extent possible, for as long as possible.

In 1986, all trainee aides were 65 and older with only 20 clients served. A JFS geriatric social worker developed the training manual for the companions, which still serves as the basis of the Elayne and James Schoke Home Companion Training Course taught

▶ Linking Generations of the Shoah

A local Second Generation Group of children of Holocaust survivors began in July 2012. The group has approximately 50 members ranging in age from 40 and up, from all over Connecticut and Westchester County. Monthly meetings take place in Westport, usually at the UJA offices, on the second Tuesday of every month. Spouses of Second Generation members, as well as Third Generation, often attend the general meetings. Those interested are invited to attend the meetings. For further information, call 203-762-0058.

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today. Certified nurses aides were added to the registry in April 2007. In 2014, the JFS Brain Fitness Program was introduced.

Today, JFS Home Companion helps between 90-100 clients a month, served by more than 110 trained home companions or CNAs. Over the past 30 years, 1,975 clients have been provided with more than 4.15 million hours of service. Today's registry of aides totals more than 400.

In addition to those requiring assistance at home, services are provided to people who suffer from ailments such as dementia, hearing and visual impairments, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, ALS, heart attack and stroke. Companions can help promote recovery from surgery, illness or injury. They are also available to assist women who are confined to bed rest during pregnancy.

The JFS Home Companion works closely with both aides and clients. The seven-week training program is offered twice a year, certifying more than 60 aides annually. Last year, the program reached a record number of 192 clients, with more than 225 aides. Home companions are taught to perform tasks with which clients have difficulty or are unable to perform themselves, such as meal preparation; clean-up; laundry; bed making; exercising and socialization; organizing activities in the home environment; shopping; and transportation to medical appointments, errands and social activities.

The program provides a broad spectrum of services, including helping seniors create a safe environment in the comfort of one's home; personalized scheduling of companions (two-24 hours from one to seven days/week; hourly, live-in or sitter service in hospitals); professional screening and training of aides; social work supervision; regular home visits and follow-up, or as needed; assessment and search for a companion who best matches client's needs and temperament; and temporary or long-term care.

JFS also provides certified nurses aides whose duties may include feeding, bathing, dressing, toileting (changing undergarments), tooth brushing and ileostomy care. In 2015, a first class postage stamp costs \$.49, more than double the cost in 1985, but the fees for JFS Home Companion have remained reasonable and a viable solution for clients and their families.

For more information, contact Isrella Knopf at 203-921-4161 or isrellak@ctjfs.org. To participate in the JFS Brain Fitness Program, contact Matt Greenberg at 203-921-4161 or mgreenberg@ctjfs.org.

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

Lynn Saltz is the JFS marketing and communications coordinator.

NEW AROUND TOWN

Claudia Brenner – Donor Relations Coordinator, JFS

Claudia Brenner joins Jewish Family Service as the new donor relations coordinator, where she will be spearheading the fund-raising efforts and donor outreach for the agency. Born in South Africa, Brenner earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Cape Town and a post-graduate diploma in strategic marketing management from the University of South Africa. For several years, she worked at British Airways in South Africa and New York in both loyalty marketing and advertising. While her four children were young, she switched careers and worked as a preschool teacher at Chabad of Stamford's Gan Yeladim. Brenner and her husband, Terry, have been Stamford residents for 13 years. Brenner says she is passionate about the work that JFS does for the community and is very excited to be a part of the JFS team.



Claudia Brenner

Amy Ritell – Interim Director of Religious Education, Temple Sinai

Temple Sinai welcomes Amy Ritell as its new interim director of religious education. Ritell is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport, where she received a B.S. in advertising and mass communications with a minor in art. She also received certification from United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Teacher Development Institute. She and her husband, Jeff, reside in Ridgefield, where she was the education director at Temple Shearith Israel of Ridgefield for 14 years.



Amy Ritell

"Working in the Jewish community runs in my blood," says Ritell. "I grew up attending a Hebrew School where my mother served as educational director for 36 years." Ritell will oversee all aspects of the Temple Sinai Religious School: create and implement grade level family programs, design holiday celebrations for religious school students and their families, coordinate community service and social action projects, and organize adult education opportunities for the greater Temple Sinai community.

"Amy brings warmth and a friendly demeanor to every interaction," says Rabbi Jay TelRav. "And already she's brought new and creative ideas to the table that we can't wait to put into action."

Jewish High School Celebrates New Leadership and Home

The community is invited to visit the Jewish High School of Connecticut on Tuesday, September 8, at 9 am, for a *Uchayim* to welcome the new head of school, Rabbi Elisha Paul, the start of a new academic year, the first anniversary of the school in its new home at 1937 West Main St. and the new year, 5776. The community is invited to have coffee, dip an apple in honey and take a quick tour of the school.

"It's the last piece of a puzzle," said one local philanthropist, referring to the Jewish High School and its role in the Stamford Jewish community. "Synagogues, day schools, kosher establishments, the *mikvah*, Jewish Community Center, Federation, senior services and adult education programs are hallmarks of a flourishing, vibrant Jewish

community. JHSC helps complete the very well-established Stamford Jewish community infrastructure. When it arrived on West Main Street just one year ago, it launched right into its mission to educate Jewish youth in an environment that emphasizes Jewish values, learning and responsible action. Now one year later, with new head of school Rabbi Elisha Paul at the helm, more local families are hearing about the school's excellence and seeking information about admissions."

Here are just a few highlights:

◆ Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision is a competition with more than 30,000 applicants from the United States and Canada. The JHSC 2012 and 2014 ninth-grade ExploraVision teams were the top teams in Connecticut. These teams also received Honorable Mention Awards, placing them in the top 10 percent among all teams that entered the competition.

◆ The JHSC Literary Magazine, Echo, received a certificate of excellence from the National Council of Teachers of English.

◆ In the last year, the school has had one National Merit finalist and one National Merit commended scholar. Two students were Advanced Placement scholars and two students were named AP scholars with distinction. One student was named a National Young Arts Foundation winner for violin (787 winners were selected from a pool of more than 11,000 applications).

◆ Internships: In 2014 and 2015, A JHSC student was accepted to Yale University Discovery to Cure High School internship. Three students were accepted to Brandeis University

At right: In the award-winning STEM program at the Jewish High School of Connecticut, students learn to apply scientific principles to the practical world through project-based classes and experiments, in a research lab setting. L-r: Emma Judd, Inna Cohen and Dr. Paul Castle participated in a STEM program.



Global Youth Summit on the Future of Medicine 2014-2015 and one student was accepted to Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence International Summer Science Institute, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel 2015. (Eight students in the world are accepted.)

◆ The Class of 2015 has earned nearly \$1 million in scholarship awards.

◆ Graduates of JHSC were accepted

to colleges and universities including, Brandeis, McGill, University of Toronto, Tulane, University of Connecticut Honor, Washington University in St. Louis and Yale University. Many students spend a gap year in Israel.

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

▶ JCC Run/Walk and Family Fun Day

More than 450 people of all ages are expected to run, walk, sprint and stroll their way through the Eighth Annual Give a Child a JumpStart 5K/10K Run/Walk and Family Fun Day on Monday, September 7. Check-in will begin at 9 am and the race will start at 9:30 am.

The event raises funds for JumpStart, the JCC's preschool program for young children with special needs, and is sponsored by The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Charitable Foundation, Auslander Kasindorf Group/Keller Williams Realty, and the Dorf and Gotler families. It is presented by The Center Women of the Stamford Jewish Community Center.

Online registration for the JCC Run/Walk is available at www.stamfordjcc.org, or call 203-322-7900 for more information. Families and local businesses can also support the JumpStart program by becoming sponsors of the communitywide event. Information on sponsorship levels is available by contacting the JCC. In addition, registration and sponsorship forms are available on the website for download, and completed forms can be mailed to or dropped off at the JCC.

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Dodgeball – More than Just a Game

BY LAEL SHAPIRO

"July 22nd was a truly proud day for our local Jewish community," said Robin Treidel, co-chair of the community's second annual Dodgeball Tournament.

United Jewish Federation's Young Leadership Division together with Jewish Family Service's Jewish Twenties and Thirties rallied around a cause that many in the local community rarely face: hunger. The annual tournament, chaired by Treidel, Robin Fischel and Lael Shapiro, dedicated a portion of the entrance fees collected to support the 3 SQUARE program, developed by Women's Philanthropy of UJF and dedicated to providing food to Stamford public school children so that they

do not go hungry over the weekend. In Connecticut, nearly one child in five is hungry or food insecure and does not get enough food outside of the free meal programs provided by the public schools. The monies collected from the dodgeball event will help insure dozens of meals are provided to children in the coming school year.

Attendance at the event topped organizers' expectations and 10 teams battled it out until daylight was lost to dusk with more than 19 games of dodgeball played on the Jewish Community Center's outdoor tennis courts. Winners of the event received gift certificates to Stamford's kosher sushi restaurant, Soosh, which was also a sponsor of the event.



L-r: Chairs Robin Treidel, Robin Fischel and Lael Shapiro (Photos by Lee Peskin)



Team Bi-Cultural Day School (L-r): Craig Price, Amy Davidson, Glenn Price, Remi Rosenberg, Marni Amsellem and Julie Rosenberg.



More JTF Team members (L-r): Justin Greenfeld, Erika Smith, Allie Zur, Tova Feldstein and Jeff Kilstein.



Members of the Carmel Academy Team. Standing (L-r): Leslie Napach, Emil Nusbaum (alumni), Philip Steinmetz (alumni), Jeff Kilstein, Josh Hurwitz, Eli Freedberg, Maureen Pollack and Josh Levine. Kneeling: David Napach and Seth Young.



Members of Jewish Family Service's JTF Team. Standing (L-r): Jordan Meer, David Johnson, Jeremy Luksberg, Arielle Luksberg, Mark Frank, Arielle Krause, Rachel Aaron and Robin Treidel. Kneeling: Loren Steinfeldt and Robin Fischel.

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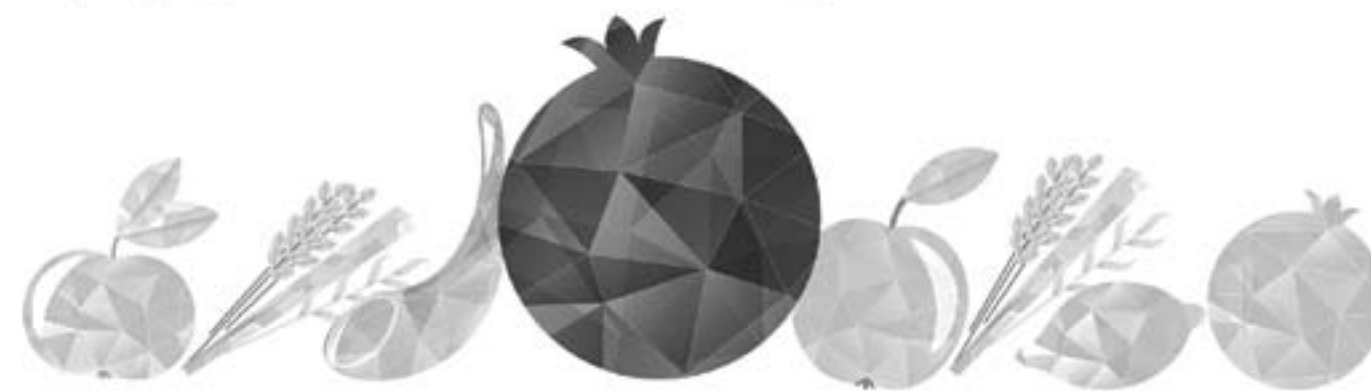
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UJF and Mark Family Reward Teen Leadership

In June, the United Jewish Federation announced the winner of an award for teen leadership. The Helen S. and Isadore Mark 2015 Teen Leadership Award 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 Gaby Baum, who is entering her junior year at AITE.

Baum was nominated by Malya Shmotkin for her work at The Friendship Circle. In her nominating statement, Shmotkin said, "Gaby joined Friendship Circle as a volunteer only two years ago, but the impact she's made in that short time is admirable.... Gaby has advocated for people with unique needs in Washington, DC, and has taken leadership roles in many areas and organizations."

Although there were five nominations, the committee felt that Baum has made outstanding contributions by creating new opportunities to contribute to society through her work in raising awareness about food allergies. Baum continues to lead with her involvement in philanthropy, her volunteering with children with special needs, and her work at her school and at a national level.

The 2015 Helen S. and Isadore Mark Teen Leadership Award Winner's Statement

BY GABY BAUM

During my middle school years, I was diagnosed with a disease that caused me to be allergic to all food. I had to drink formula in order to get all my nutrition to survive. This brought stares, comments and bullying from peers about my "drink" and about food allergies. I decided to take a stand and together, with a supportive teacher, created a Food Allergy Walk at my school to educate my peers. Participation started with my grade and blossomed into the whole school. I gave a presentation, and everyone raised money and walked



Gaby Baum

to donate money toward research for food allergies. In total, we were able to raise over \$6,000! Students of all ages came to thank me saying they had never told anyone about their food allergies before.

From there I was invited to speak for FARE (The Food Allergy Research and Education) at a conference in Washington, DC, and I was asked to join the Junior Advisory Board. However, when I came home, I knew that I wanted to bring this issue closer to home and to my community. Over

See "Teen" on page 16

Youth Philanthropy Connect – Through Adult Eyes

BY MARCIA LANE

It takes a lot to convince a teenager to give up a Sunday – in spring, no less! – to spend it indoors, talking about money. On June 14, 30 young people from as far as Boston and Philadelphia converged on a high-tech building in Manhattan to learn about the world of philanthropy from each other and from a host of talented, dedicated adults. The focus of Youth Philanthropy Connect Road Show was to highlight existing programs, and to educate teens and adults on making these programs even more effective.

It was exhilarating to hear the young people describe their programs. Students from the Convent of the Sacred

Heart High School explained that philanthropy is a required class for ninth-grade students, and participants in Youthadelphia talked about working closely with their adult counterparts in The Philadelphia Foundation. Two college-age students gave insights into working on their family's charitable foundation.

Workshops for adults included sessions on "Troubleshooting Youth Engagement and Empowering Youth to Lead" and "Driving Impact Through Effective Youth-Adult Partnerships." Lunchtime sessions gave young people and adults the chance to attend "facilitated conversations" on issues of social justice and careers in philanthropy. Group leaders

and parents attended, all of us striving to learn more about creating meaningful experiences for youth.

The culmination of the day was a mammoth, two-hour long grant making session. Through a generous donation from the Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation, attendees had \$5,000 to distribute in anyway they saw fit. Any adult who wished to attend had to sit in the back of the room, silently watching the three tables of young attendees evaluate five New York City organizations that had gone through the preliminary process of applying for up to \$2,500 in grant money.

Prior to the conference, the young people had received the proposals, complete with financials of the organization, proposed budget for their projects, descriptions and histories of the organizations. As a group they watched "video site visits," reviewed requests and narrowed the field down to three projects, three organizations to receive some portion of

the \$5,000 grant money. Then each table debated and discussed, and eventually came up with recommendations for the whole group. At each table one young person was assigned – by their group, not by any adult – to present their case to the room. Then each of the young attendees was given a marker with which to cast his or her vote. When the markers were tallied one plan was a clear favorite, and two lucky organizations received \$2,500 each.

The day ended with a circle of all participants, young and older, something like a benediction on the day's activities. Each participant wrote a short note that would be included in a long paper chain to travel to the next Youth Philanthropy Connect site. We wrote what inspired us, and what we would take away from the day. I wrote, "Dedication to making the world a better place." And with that we each went home, energized to renew the work.

YOUNG VOICES Entering the World of Teen Philanthropy

BY GABY BAUM

On June 14, I attended an amazing event: a conference of young people, ages 8 to 20, who are all interested in giving.

Coming into this conference, I had no idea what to expect. YPC (Youth Philanthropy Connect) was an opportunity to improve my philanthropy skills and learn from others. Little did I know that I would be inspired beyond words by the incredible individuals that I would meet. Just walking into a room filled with people wanting to make a difference, knowing we all had a common goal and were there for the same reason, automatically created common ground. These were all people who were used to standing up for what they believe in and fighting to give money to the cause that meant the most to them; it was inspiring.

Over the course of the day, all of the activities were geared towards educating and assisting us in order to be able to make a more informed decision with allocating funds. We were given \$5,000 to allocate. In order for us to make this life changing decision we were to learn the ideals behind philanthropy. Here with my previous knowledge of Jewish philanthropy I was exposed to the multitude of cultures that people from all over contributed to their own philanthropy work. Together as one, with all our different skills, we were stronger together allowing this process

to be a learning experience for us all. Sitting together with such dedicated people from all over the North Eastern area representing philanthropy was a complete honor. Here we would make an informed decision based on the knowledge that we had gained to allocate the \$5,000.

In the end, I was given the honor of calling one of the chosen foundations to inform them that they would be getting the full amount they had requested. This call opened my eyes to the true impact that we are making by choosing to give this money. On paper, the information that we see is a mission statement and financial information, but the call made me realize that behind the paper were real people whose lives would be so greatly affected by our taking the time to make the correct decision in awarding these funds to this foundation.

Sitting in that one room, collectively making a financial decision over several thousand dollars, we had the power to impact other people's lives. The power of philanthropy is astounding and each contribution, big or small, impacts all parties involved. Might it be the donors, recipients or the decision makers, no one is untouched. We are all a part of the philanthropy chain that helps to make a difference in the world.

Gaby Baum is an 11th-grader at the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering.

The Rabbi Alex J. Goldman Memorial Essay Contest

The winners of the 11th Rabbi Alex J. Goldman Memorial Essay Contest were announced at the end of June. The teens wrote essays discussing their involvement in the Jewish community by responding to the following prompt: "I never thought I would...." This year Alex Bergman, who is entering her senior year at AITE, was the first-place winner, receiving a prize of \$1,000. Rachel Steinmetz was the second prize winner (\$500), and Jenna Plotzkywon third prize (\$250). Two other contestants, Melanie Roloff and Gaby Baum, were awarded honorable mention (\$100).

The Goldman Essay committee was chaired by

I Never Thought I Would ...

BY ALEX BERGMAN

I never thought I would be in the same room as the son of the founder of Hamas. Furthermore, I never thought I would meet the son of the leader of the Hamas. Even further, I never thought I would meet the son of a Hamas leader at an international pro-Israel advocacy conference. Surprisingly, meeting this man led me to the most impactful connection and passion for my Judaism that I have ever felt.

On Sunday, March 1, I walked into a room boasting 16,000 people. I had the privilege of steering away from my daily routine of school on weekdays, Hebrew School on Sundays and sports somewhere in the middle to attend this conference truly like no other. The American Israel Public Affairs Conference (AIPAC) in Washington, DC, held general sessions that emulated the unanimous support of Israel over an enormous range of



Alex Bergman

ages, races and backgrounds. While the general sessions were incredibly moving, nothing compared to the private interview with Mosab Hassan Yousef, which I ironically discovered accidentally.

After reading the session I had wanted to attend was full, I went on to search for a session with open seats; what I found was Yousef's packed session with an AIPAC staffer kind enough to allow me to join anyway. Yousef is the oldest son of Hamas' founding and most popular leader, and changed his ways to help Israel in any way

he could – here is an understatement. It wasn't until I stood up and personally asked Yousef a question about how he copes with leaving his family behind for justice when I realized the passion behind his voice. This passion emanated from not just Yousef, but the 30 other people in the room, and the 16,000 others that had put their lives aside to support justice. I had

This 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 essays will be printed in *The New Jewish Voice*.

finally grasped the concept.

From this moment, the purpose behind my Jewish identity became clear. I shook Yousef's hand, and thanked him for the enormous impact he had just made on my life. I soon shared the story with the other students from my Stamford community that were also in attendance; they had incredible stories of their own, speaking with natural passion and heart. From here, I felt as prepared as possible for the history I was about to witness the following morning.

Three hours of security lines later, I witnessed Prime Minister Netanyahu share his vision for Israel, and his gratitude for each and every one of us. His words, "Today we are no longer silent, today we have a voice," made me aspire to make a difference by speaking up every day to protect our heritage. I am incredibly proud to have witnessed such moving speakers and leaders make history in our Jewish community.

See "Thought" on page 17

FAMILY CENTRAL SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2015

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Back 2 School BBQ and Youth Kick-Off <i>Open to all. Monday, Sept. 7 • 4:30-6 pm at Chabad. Event FREE. Food for sale.</i>
Beiten Lekach (Honey Cake for a Sweet Year) <i>Open to all. Tuesday, Sept. 22 • 11:30 am-12:30 pm at the Shemtov Home, 10 Brandt Road. No Charge.</i>
Friendship Day <i>Sunday, Oct 18 • 12:30 pm @ Friendship Circle Center. For more information, contact (203) 329-0015</i>
Give a Child A JumpStart 5K/ 10K Walk or Run & Family Fun Day at the JCC <i>Monday, Sept. 7 • 9 am check-in, 9:30 am start. \$36 adults, \$18 students and children (up to age 18). Contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0942 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org</i>
2016 Stamford JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest Kickoff <i>Sunday, Sept. 20 • 1:30-4 pm. Free of charge. Contact Rachel Rothman at 203-487-0949 or rrothman@stamfordjcc.org</i>
JCC Membership & Fitness Open House <i>Sunday, Sept. 20 • 10 am-1:30 pm. Free of charge. Contact Ilene Kirschner Madwed at 203-487-0945 imadwed@stamfordjcc.org</i>
JCC Family Sukkot Celebration <i>Thursday, Oct. 1 • 5:30-7 pm. Free of charge. Contact Emily Eisen at 203-487-0973 or eeisen@stamfordjcc.org.</i>
Jewish High School Open House & Welcome New Head of School <i>Tuesday, Sept 8 • 9 am at JHSCT, 1937 West Main Street, Stamford • (203) 357-0850</i>
Loaves of Love Cooking Marathon at the Friendship Walk <i>For Shabbat 2Go packages. Sunday, Oct. 18 • 12:30-3:30 pm. No Charge.</i>
The Shabbos Project <i>Friday, Oct. 23-Saturday, Oct. 24. Begins at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm. For more info www.TheShabbosProject.org or contact Leah Shemtov at Morahleah@ChabadStamford.org</i>

GRADES K-8

BBYO <i>For Grades 8-12. Every 2nd Monday • 7:00-9:00 pm at The J. Information: BBYO Regional Office (203) 389-2127 or CVR@bbyo.org www.cvrbbyo.net. Leviticus AZA (Boys) & Tikvah BBG (Girls).</i>
PJ Library at the JHS Judaica Library at the JCC <i>Grades K-2. Second Tuesday of the month, October 13 • 4:00-4:45 pm Grades 3-5. Third Thursdays of the month, October 22 • 4:00-4:45 pm Parents and caregivers welcome. Information: Marcia Lane at (203) 321-1373, x104. Program in partnership with UJF and Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County. There is NO FEE.</i>
Sing & Dance with Amy Rogell at the JCC <i>See description under Birth through Preschool.</i>

BIRTH through PRESCHOOL

Got Shabbat! Tiny Treasures Mommy & Me <i>Birth - 30 months with a parent or caregiver. Begins Friday, Oct. 16 • 9:30-10:30 am at Chabad. \$15 per class – (First Timers FREE).</i>
JCC Mommy & Me Class: Movin' and Groovin' <i>12-30 months with parent or caregiver. Tuesdays, Sept. 8 – Dec. 22 (No class Sept. 15, 29, Oct. 6). Fee: \$288 for 12 sessions / JCC members \$240. Contact Galit Roloff at 203-487-0974 or groloff@stamfordjcc.org.</i>
Music, Movement and Yoga, Mommy & Me Inclusion Program at the JCC <i>2-4 years with parent present. Sundays, Sept. 27 – Dec. 13 (No class Oct. 11) • 9:30-10:10 am. Fee: \$165 for 11 sessions / JCC members \$110. To register, contact Inclusion Coordinator Dinushka De Silva at 203-487-0946 or ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org.</i>
Sing & Dance with Amy Rogell at the JCC <i>1-8 years old with parent or caregiver. Wednesday, Oct. 14 • 5:30-6:30 pm. Member \$9 / Community \$12 if registered by October 7; Member \$11 / Community \$14 beginning October 8. Contact Galit Roloff at 203-487-0974 or groloff@stamfordjcc.org.</i>
Tiny Treasures Fall Session "My Jewish Home" <i>3 months to 4 years. 8 sessions. Wednesdays October 14-December 9 • 9:30-10:30 am at Chabad. Fee: \$100 or \$15 drop-in fee (*first class always free). For more information, contact morahnechama@chabadstamford.org.</i>
Tiny Treasures Holiday Class <i>Birth-30 Months. Wednesday, Sept. 9 • 9:30-11:00am at Chabad. Fee: \$20 per class – (First Timers FREE). For more information, contact morahnechama@chabadstamford.org.</i>
Wonderful Ones: Mommy & Me Class at the JCC Sara Walker Nursery School <i>1-2 years. Thursdays, Sept. 24-Dec. 17 • 9:15 – 10:15 am. Fee: \$216 for 12 sessions / JCC members \$180. Contact Sandi Waldstreicher at 203-322-6542 or swaldstreicher@stamfordjcc.org.</i>

GRADES 9-12


BBYO <i>For Grades 8-12. See description under K-8.</i>
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE <i>For volunteers in Grades 9-12 at Chabad. Information: Malya Shmotkin at 203-329-0015 #414, Malya@friendshipct.com or www.friendshipct.com</i>
Jewish Student Connection <i>For Grades 9 – 12. Tuesdays • 2:15 pm at Stamford High School or Thursdays • 2:15 pm at Westhill High School. Information: rebecca@myisc.org</i>

SHABBAT

For information about Shabbat services, call the individual synagogues

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

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For more information or to make a donation,
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L'DOR V'DOR, FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, YOUR GIFT HELPS PRESERVE JEWISH LIFE

The sound of the shofar alerts us—it's time to prepare for the new year! We look inside ourselves and reflect, what will we accomplish? What challenges will we face? How will we make a difference in the world? The High Holy days encourage us to dream big dreams.

It's also a time for serious reflection on the past year. We think about our proudest accomplishments and about where we have fallen short--what we might have done differently, how we might have acted more thoughtfully, generously or shown more patience.

At UJF of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien we're proud of everything we've done in the past year - with your partnership - to keep our Jewish community strong, and to help so many people who have faced hardships preserve their Jewish identity.

Your gift spans across many continents touching Jewish lives in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Israel and the former Soviet Union. And closer to home, right here in Stamford, the elderly join together in good company, partaking in delicious kosher Rosh Hashanah meals at the Stamford JCC. Additionally, Stamford's JFS Kosher Food Pantry provides traditional, festive and nourishing High Holiday Food Gift Baskets.

Your gift helps preserve Jewish lives, and as a result, our Jewish community remains strong. Of course, our job is never done. We are Better Together, and thanks to your generosity, we will continue strengthening Jewish identity here and abroad.

L'Shana Tovah!



Maintaining Jewish identity in France is not so simple whether you want to keep kosher, or freely walk to synagogue wearing a kippah. Thanks to your gift, French Jews can make aliyah to Israel with UJF agency Jewish Agency for Israel or stay put knowing the American Joint Distribution Committee is there to help rescue, rehabilitate and revitalize local Jewish life.



L'Dor V'dor. Thanks to your gift these Carmel Academy children will grow up with a sense of Jewish pride, safely experiencing the Jewish High Holy days in joy and wonderment.

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UConn-Stamford Fall Courses Feature Guest Lecturers

Classes Open to Community Senior Audits

BY REBECCA ISENSTEIN

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford will offer a selection of credit courses this fall, featuring several guest lecturers. Senior citizens who do not seek degree credit may audit the courses.

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy will offer the course "Politics, Society and Gender in Contemporary Middle Eastern Writings" (ENG 3318) on Thursdays from 2:35-5:15 pm. In this course, students will explore the works of contemporary Middle Eastern writers. Topics will include the literary representation of political and economic instability, tradition vs. modernity, and the changing roles and status of women. The course

will include a guest lecture on Israeli movies on Thursday, October 29, presented by Dr. Eric Goldman of Yeshiva University, an expert on Jewish film and recent co-host of the series "The Jewish Experience on Film" on the Turner Classic Movies network. ENG 3318 is a core course for the Certificate in Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies.

Two related courses will also be offered.

Dr. Beth Ginsberg will teach her political science seminar, "Religion and Politics" (POLS 2998W), on Wednesdays from 2:35-5:15 pm. The seminar



Dr. Eric Goldman

is an exploration of the fundamental nature of political conflicts on the national and international levels.

Additionally, English Professor Dr. Fred Roden will teach "Spiritual Autobiography" (ENG 4600W) on Tuesdays from 5:30-8:10 pm. Students will consider how all literature has its roots in the interior journey, and will begin to develop a clear sense of the role that literary studies play in his/her own self-definition. Course assignments will be designed to manifest students' professionalization as wordsmith, humanist and critical thinker. The course will include a guest lecture by Dr. Joy Ladin of Yeshiva University on Tuesday, October 20, at 7 pm, MPR at UConn-Stamford, "I am what I will be": Meeting God at the Burning Bush

of Becoming." Ladin is the author of "Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders." The guest lecture is co-sponsored by the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies; the Center for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and the Program Committee.

Classes were scheduled to begin on Monday, August 31. Seniors (age 62 and up) wishing to audit a course may register through the Office of the Registrar beginning on Tuesday, September 15. For more information on the Center's credit courses or the certificate program, 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.

Teen..... Continued from page 12

the years I have worked with young students in school who are bullied about their allergies and helped them stand up for themselves. During this time, I also found a home as a member of BBYO where I am honored to have been named the stand-up chair for children with special needs. This gave me the opportunity to bring a representative of Friendship Circle to come and talk to over 70 young Jewish girls.

The Friendship Circle is a youth organization which allows high school students to volunteer with special needs children. My involvement with this organization has also allowed me to advocate for those with food allergies when they could not speak at all. I have met children there with allergies who are nonverbal, trusting me to take charge of their allergies and their safety when I am out with them. I soon joined the board of Friendship Circle where I am the president of my school for the program. I realized that these opportunities to bring awareness are important, and together with close friends we have taken it to another level and created a Facebook page that stands up for kids with food allergies and has over 1,200 likes and over 6,500 views since its inception just three months ago.

Now my goal is focused more on fund-raising with my work with philanthropy. I was on a philanthropy board over the summer and then was invited to join KTTC (Kuriansky Teen

Tzedakah Corps) where we have worked to allocate money and I was invited to lead the group next year showing future philanthropists the ropes. I am continuing my Teen Advisory Board with Food Allergy Research and Education for the third year in a row, while I work with Friendship Circle every week on the board and continue to attend Friendship Circle events in other towns to gain new ideas for fund-raising. I have also been invited and will be attending, a philanthropy conference in New York City this weekend (YPC – Youth Philanthropy Connect), to talk with people from all over who are involved in philanthropy work. [Editor's Note: See Baum's article about the June 14 Youth Philanthropy Connect conference on page 12.]

Through all this work I have been fortunate to have the support of my amazing community and friends. I am currently working on bringing a Jewish after-school program to AITE, and I am a believer in *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). My current plans include creating an organization called SMILE (So Much In Life (to) Enjoy). This is a program that I am developing that will bring opportunities to students to help others, as we all have so much, and giving back and making someone smile is the most amazing gift!

Gaby Baum is an 11th-grader at the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering.

Reading Partners Celebrates its 16th Year



Children's author Fran Manushkin signed her book for Johanna Nugteren.

Conference of Torah (Kinus Torah)

Stamford has a number of young men that study at yeshivas in Israel and throughout the world who join their families in Stamford during the Jewish holidays. Last year, Chabad launched the first Kinus Torah (Conference of Torah), a forum that allowed eight young men from Stamford and Greenwich to share their Torah thoughts and insights with members of the community. This year, Chabad will continue the Kinus Torah with two evenings dedicated to Torah study with presentations from local yeshiva students. The community is invited to the events on Wednesday, September 30, at 7:45 pm, at Chabad of Stamford, and on April 28, 2016, at 7:45 pm, at Chabad of Greenwich.

Know Your Legacy

On Sunday, October 11, from 9:30 am-1 pm, the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County will present "Know Your Legacy," a Heritage@Home Memoir Writing Workshop, with Joseph Kaplan and Sam Uhl at the Stamford Jewish Community Center. Kaplan will discuss what it was like to grow up "tall, Jewish and free" in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Those attending will also have the opportunity to rediscover their life's adventures, wisdom and favorite memories, and preserve their stories during the interactive workshop by The Cheerful Word. There is an \$18 fee to attend, which includes brunch. The program is open to the community.

Thought... Continued from page 13

The experience will forever contribute to my emotional investment in my Jewish heritage and support for our Jewish homeland. A movement so large is one that is difficult to grasp, but I am lucky that I was able to have that moment of realization. If the son of the largest anti-Israel group in the world can choose justice over family, I can take the time to do simple things like donate *tzedakah*, say the *Shema* with my family once a day and engage in *gemilut-chasadim*, or acts of loving kindness.

Since those three days in March, I have not only become more involved in Jewish values and organizations, but also learned how to speak up for our Jewish community. Events like the UJF Women's Philanthropy Spring Dinner and BBYO Spring Convention have made my passion for Jewish values and community ideals even stronger. This time last year, I would have never thought I'd have the opportunity to meet such inspirational people. Their impact on my life is truly immeasurable.

Alex Bergman is a senior at the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering.

In June, the Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners Program celebrated its volunteers with a breakfast at the Stamford JCC. Seventy guests attended and children's author Fran Manushkin was said to delight the assembly with her reading of "The Tushy Book." In honor of Westover Elementary School becoming the 12th and final elementary school in the program, Reading Partners director Marlyn Agatstein penned a mini-drama, "How Westover Came on Board."

The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners Program is sponsored by the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, and is an affiliate of the National Jewish Coalition for Literacy. Volunteers work one-on-one with young children from kindergarten-third grade in the Stamford public school system and beyond.

For information on becoming a Reading Partner, contact Marlyn Agatstein at UJF at 203-321-1373, ext. 115, or at readingpartners@ujf.org.



At right (l-r): Reading Partners at the book sale table – Asha Gupta, Marie Belfiore, Ena Sarkar and Ronni Ginsberg.

At right (l-r): "How Westover Came on Board" was performed by Avidan Pell, former UJF Development associate; Marlyn Agatstein, director of Reading Partners; Jim Benjamin, reading partner; Jennifer Grant, staff liaison at Stillmeadow School; Amy Neer, Staff Liaison at Westover School; and Susan Kolbrenner, reading partner.



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	Monday Sept. 14	10:00 am
Yom Kippur Services:	Tuesday Sept. 22	8:00 pm
	(Kol Nidre)	
	Wednesday Sept. 23	10:00 am
	Yizkor service	5:00 pm
	Martyrology	6:30 pm
	Closing service	7:00 pm
	Break Fast	7:30 pm

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BETTER TOGETHER CHAPTER TWO

Tea Time With Chapter Two

Featuring Jane Weitzman
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Thursday, October 15th 4-6pm
at a private residence
(location to be provided upon registration)
\$18
Chapter Two Chairs
Sari Jaffe & Sue Frieden

Sign Up To Register: www.ujf.org/shoes
For more information, contact Rebekah at (203) 653-2665

Chapter Two is a new UJF women's group dedicated to empty nesters and retirees in the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien communities. This group gives women a chance to connect with one another and learn about the United Jewish Federation's work locally and around the world, while they write the next chapter of their lives.

Success for JFS Achi (My Brother)

By EVE MOSKOWITZ
Over a year ago, Jewish Family Service introduced one of its newest programs, Achi, Hebrew for “my brother.”

The program began when a young man met the mother of an adolescent in the community, who was concerned about her socially isolated son. The young man and the adolescent boy met and a mentor/mentee relationship was formed, encouraged by the teen’s mother. During the course of that year, the teen began to thrive with new-found self-esteem, the ability to make friends and successfully plan for college. The parent and the mentor approached JFS

with the idea of a “big brother” program. JFS recognized a need in the community for such a program and developed Achi.
Since this first relationship, two additional boys have been paired with mentors trained by JFS. One boy is described by his parents as insightful and intelligent, with a sense of humor, yet having a difficult time making friends. The mother, teen and mentor worked out expectations for the relationship, and say the results have been most rewarding. Matt Greif, the mentor, recalled, “The experience I’ve gotten from the Achi program has been very fulfilling. Being able to work with (this individual) has allowed

us both to grow our relationship naturally and into something organic. I have never seen a program like this before, and I know more parents wish there was more of it to go around.”
The other Achi mentee is described by his parents as a hard worker who has been bullied, and is extremely shy. After establishing the relationship, this teen is doing better than everyone expected and, with the mentor’s help, has learned how to communicate feelings that are now being received and heard.
Both relationships started out as a formal connection and blossomed into what the mentees consider a strong bond and friendship.

Achi serves boys between the ages of 15 and 18 who are not suffering from any major learning or spectrum disabilities, but battle with social skills deficits and/or bullying. The boys are matched to their mentors, for a relationship lasting six-12 months, and a commitment of bi-monthly meetings, under the guidance and supervision of JFS professional staff. Parents are involved initially to vet the mentor and then are provided with updates regarding activities and ongoing progress. All activities are parent approved.

Mentors are undergraduate or post-baccalaureate (ages 19-25) from within the Jewish community. They are evaluated through applications, interviews, and background and driving record checks. They must attend a comprehensive two-hour training, which includes safety parameters, communication skills and sensitivity training, and the importance of building trust through consistency.

For further information about Achi, contact Eve Moskowitz, director of clinical services at Jewish Family Service, at 203-921-4161 or e-mail emoskowitz@ctjfs.org.

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

Eve Moskowitz is the JFS director of clinical services.

Carmel Academy’s 10th Graduating Class



Carmel Academy graduated its Class of 2015 on June 18, celebrating the school’s 10th commencement exercises. In both Hebrew and English, the school’s graduates reflected on their graduation theme, “Unity and Friendship,” through personal writings and song. Throughout the ceremony, the graduates shared their memories, as well as their aspirations for the future based on the foundation they received at Carmel.

Prize

with other schools across North America.
Bi-Cultural’s new Masora Program in Judaic Studies was presented at a competition in Florida by its co-creators, BCDS Director of Judaic Studies Michal Smart and teacher/administrator Rabbi Yehuda Jeiger. Competition judges were seeking “to reward the most likely to succeed with the greatest potential to become a nationally utilized model for Jewish education.”
“We are very excited to receive this prestigious award for innovation in Jewish education,” said Jacqueline Herman, Bi-Cultural’s principal and head of school. “To put it simply, it’s a big deal.”
The new Masora Program at Bi-Cultural, which was introduced in the fifth and sixth grades this year and will expand to seventh grade in September, takes a new approach to traditional Torah study, Herman explained.
“In the Masora Program, Judaic Studies are integrated rather than divided into discrete subjects,”

explains Smart. “Masora’s emphasis is on the content, meaning and relevance of the material. Lessons are interactive, hands-on, technologically based and most important, relevant to students’ lives.”
“The curriculum is based on the ‘Understanding by Design’ model, and built around eight or nine ‘Big Ideas’ that are the essence of Jewish education, identity and experience,” Rabbi Jeiger added. “The aim is enduring understanding for our students.” Conversational Hebrew is another element in the program, helping students master practical vocabulary and build experience and confidence in fluency.
Offered as an alternative to the school’s text-based Matmid learning program, Masora had 50 percent participation this school year, Herman added. “Next year, two-thirds of our fifth grade students and parents have opted for this program. We prepare students in both tracks to enter the high school of their choice,” Herman noted.

Continued from page 1

Bi-Cultural Teachers Turn Lockers into Literary Lane

By DORA SALM
A short video that went viral on social media sparked an idea at Bi-Cultural Day School, transforming a sixth-grade hallway of lockers into a colorful shelf of giant books.
In July, middle-school teacher Adrienne Robinson and third-grade teacher Beth Fritz saw a video that a group of teachers from Biloxi Junior High in Biloxi, MS, posted to Facebook describing their project of painting school lockers to resemble the spines of books. While many teachers and students were enjoying the restful months of summer, Robinson and her team began a large-scale project, with literacy at the forefront. “As teachers, we are constantly looking for ways to engage our students,” she said. “Social media has been a great



Teachers Beth Fritz and Adrienne Robinson painted standard metal lockers to look like large book covers at Bi-Cultural. (Photos by Dora Salm)

forum for teachers to share ideas and motivate others. We saw the project on Facebook and immediately thought that this would be a great idea for our school.”
Robinson then used social media herself as a way to rally her colleagues to assist: “I posted a message to Facebook with a call to action for several of our teachers. In a matter of eight minutes, we had 23 responses from teachers willing to contribute energy, ideas and a little elbow grease to get the job done. Our teachers, like our students, thrive on innovation and creativity.”
Not only did teachers respond, but parents also became excited about turning standard lockers into oversized books. Parent and Board of Trustees member Barbara Friedlander, who purchased much of the supplies for the project and also assisted with the painting, saw the posting and wanted to join. “It’s so important to support our students and staff. I felt it would boost morale and show that parents and board members appreciate the thoughts and ideas of our staff. I was so proud to have teachers who were so willing to give their personal time to make others happy,” said Friedlander. “Adrienne had the idea, I told her to get volunteers to do it and I would be right there with them.”
In just a few days, the team of teachers gathered to begin the project, starting with painting the bank of more than 60 lockers bright colors, and then reproducing the book cover illustrations onto the metal lockers. Robinson explained that the team of teachers collaborated to showcase a wide range of middle-school literature, including classic literature and popular, current books, with a heavy emphasis on award-winning titles; many of the books selected being part of the school curriculum. The team also integrated Jewish literature,



Some of the finished book cover lockers.


choosing Jewish content books and Hebrew-language translations.
“We want the students to be excited about their lockers and hope they see this as a legacy that they can pass down with pride year after year. We are also hopeful that this will ignite a conversation about literature. You can’t help but marvel at the books as you walk down the new Literary Lane. We hope to see students compare the books that they’ve read and provide recommendations to each other along the way,” said Robinson.
Bi-Cultural Day School is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.



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The Board of Directors & Staff
of United Jewish Federation of
Greater Stamford, New Canaan & Darien

Teen and Adult Friendship Circle Boards Work Together

BY ROGER LOB

The Friendship Circle Board of Directors and Friendship Circle Teen Board held their first joint meeting to review accomplishments for 2014-15 and begin planning for 2015-16.

Friendship Circle Executive Director Malya Shmotkin commented, "I'm delighted for the adult board to see the passion and energy of the Teen Board members. The teens are an integral part of our planning process. Their input is invaluable in helping us improve our programming to serve the special needs community."

According to Mira Schildkraut, "Being part of the Teen Board has given me a greater understanding of all the behind the scenes planning that helps make the programs a success. I appreciate that the Friendship Circle staff reviews and values the feedback we give."

In addition to its signature Friends at Home Program, which pairs two teenagers with a special needs child, the Friendship Circle expanded its outreach efforts this year to include an adult bowling league and a swim party hosted at the Stamford Jewish Community Center. Teen Board member Jason Nekritz reported, "The swim party was an amazing evening for both the teens and volunteers." It included swimming lessons provided by Ailene

Tisser and her Angelfish staff, game room activities and dinner at Mike's Café. In collaboration with the Jewish Community Center, three more swim nights are planned for the 2015-2016 year. Eric Koehler, chief executive officer of the JCC commented, "As we reflect back on the beginnings of the JCC almost 100 years ago, our founders knew that it was critically important to ensure that the JCC was a second home and central point for everyone in the community. Those sentiments are just as important today as they were a hundred years ago."

Program initiatives planned for the 2015-2016 year include increased programming for adults with special needs, a woman's retreat for moms to get away and recharge, and three Friendship Circle Saturday morning Shabbat services that will be inclusive and modified for the special needs community.

Fred Springer, chairman of the Friendship Circle Board of Directors, said he felt energized by the joint meeting: "I am constantly impressed by the commitment, compassion and maturity of these young adults. I am confident that we are developing the future leaders of our community."

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



The Friendship Circle teen and adult boards: Lauren Zalis, Julie Rosenberg, Joshua Levine, Natalie Shlover, Brian Roitman, Tamar Cohen, David Wayne, Mira Schildkraut, Hannah Kriftcher, Fred Springer, Samantha Schechter, Susan Mark, Jason Nekritz, Roger Lob, Doron Feller, Tanya Barton and Malya Shmotkin.

Kriftcher. Continued from page 3

and improvements to the JCC facility. Since 2008, Kriftcher has also been a member of the Board of Directors of the intercontinental Jewish Community Centers Association.

Following a successful career on Wall Street, Kriftcher founded the Stamford Peace Basketball Club in 2008. The organization uses the game of basketball as a means of positively influencing and enhancing opportunities for local inner city youth.

Kriftcher serves as the global chairman of the Board of Directors of Peace-Players International, an organization that uses the game of basketball to bridge divides among children and communities in various conflict and

post-conflict regions around the world, including the Middle East. Kriftcher recently completed his first season coaching the girls' varsity basketball team at Westhill High School, following four years as the boys' varsity head coach at St. Luke's School in New Canaan.

Kriftcher's wife, Jeannie, is herself a past recipient of the Hyacinthe and Harold Hoffman Humanitarian Award. They live in Stamford with their daughters, Hannah (17), Charlotte (15), and Sophie (12).

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

JBS. Continued from page 3

was included in an anthology published by SUNY Press."

The longest-running public affairs program in the history of American Jewry, "L'Chayim" has given its audience the opportunity to hear in-depth conversations with a galaxy of Jewish "stars" such as Abba Eban (z'l) and Yitzhak Rabin (z'l), Chaim Potok (z'l) and Joseph Heller (z'l), Ari Shavit and Yossi Klein Halevi, Alan Dershowitz and Jeremy Ben Ami, Peter Beinart and Mordechai Kedar, Joy Levitt and Betty Ehrenberg, Meir Kahane (z'l) and Moshe Arens, Jane Eisner and Abigail Pogrebin, David Harris and Malcolm Hoenlein, Abe Foxman and Russell Robinson, Jerry Silverman and Mort Klein, Ruth Messinger and Phyllis Chesler, Michael Melchior and Charles Small, Yehudah Sarna and Thane Rosenbaum, Steve Bayme and Steven Cohen, Eric Yoffie and Isi Leibler, Jeffrey Gurock and Deborah Dash Moore, Micah Halpern and Mark Langfan; David Broza and Dudu

Fisher, Jan Peerce (z'l) and Itzhak Perlman, Tovah Feldshuh and Fyvush Finkel, Jackie Mason and Peter Yarrow; and Rabbis Shlomo Riskin and Gene Borowitz, Harold Schulweis (z'l) and David Hartman (z'l), Yitz Greenberg and David Wolpe, Uri Regev and Sara Hurwitz; and countless others on the world Jewish stage who are helping to shape Jewish life today and for the future.

To watch JBS programs, tune into Optimum Channel 138. "L'Chayim" airs Monday through Thursday at 9 pm, with encores at midnight and 3 pm the following day. "L'Chayim" also airs on Saturdays at 6 pm and Sundays at noon and 7 pm. "L'Chayim" can be viewed online by visiting the JBS YouTube Channel.

The Simon Rockower Award was established in 1979 by the children of Simon Rockower and is given for "Excellence in Jewish Journalism." The award is sponsored by the American Jewish Press Association.

A Hole in One for Carmel



Carmel Academy's Golf Classic on June 8 was called a hole in one for the school. The annual event held at the Glen Arbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills. A day of golf was followed by a cocktail reception, awards dinner and raffle. L-r: Seth Jonas, Josh Levine, Rabbi David-Seth Kirshner and Jeff Manheim.



L-r: Carmel Academy parents volunteered at the school's Annual Golf Classic. In back (l-r): Julia Brennan and Lynn Jablowsky. Front row (l-r): Jamie Kesmodel, Alix Field Eben, Bonnie Citron and Dana Roth.

Tent. Continued from page 3

to narrate her life story, when her 22-year-old granddaughter asked her how she got to be the woman she became. Born in 1900 in Boston, Addie's immigrant parents were not prepared for life in America, and they were quite suspicious of "modern times" for their three daughters. They did not understand a world where women could wear short skirts, go to movies and imitate what they saw in celebrity culture. Addie's parents were particularly puzzled by the new opportunities for women. Addie's story is the tale of a woman trying to find her way through the opportunities and challenges of 20th century America.

Before creating her novels, which also include "Day After Night," Diamant worked as a freelance journalist, writing for the *Boston Globe*, *Boston Magazine*, *New England Monthly*, *Yankee*, *Self*, *Parenting*, *Parents*, *McCall's* and *Ms.* Her interest in contemporary Jewish practice led her to produce articles for *Reform Judaism Magazine*, *Hadassah Magazine* and *jewishfamily.com*. Her books about Jewish life and Jewish lifecycle events have found an audience in the contemporary Jewish world. "The New Jewish Wedding" was just the first of these handbooks, which include "The New Jewish Baby Book" and "Living a Jewish Life: Jewish Traditions, Customs and Values for Today's Families."

From Brooklyn to Boston, Diamant has lived in many parts of the United States. She was born in Brooklyn, grew up in Newark, went to high school in Denver, attended college at Washington University in St. Louis, attended graduate school at Binghamton University, and finally moved to Boston in 1975. Diamant is the founding president of Mayyim Hayyim, Living Waters Community Mikveh and Education Center in Newton, MA. At the Center, she has helped make the ancient Jewish tradition of ritual immersion, the *mikvah*, relevant for the Jewish community of today.

For questions about the program, contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148 or elissa@de-kaplan.com. For additional information, visit website <http://jhsfc-ct.org>.

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

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

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

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

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Carmel Academy Opens Transitional Kindergarten Program

BY JULIE LAPIN
Carmel Academy is expanding its early childhood division this September with a transitional kindergarten program. Early childhood educator Julie Thaler is returning to Carmel Academy to spearhead the new program as the lead teacher.

“We are thrilled to welcome Julie Thaler back to our faculty,” said Carmel Academy Head of School Nora Anderson. “Her exceptional

creativity, educational philosophy and understanding of how to encourage learning in young children is extraordinary. Julie is one of those teachers whose influence remains with her students for life.

“Carmel Academy’s transitional kindergarten program is something we are proud to offer the community,” Anderson said. “Our parents love our kindergarten and first-grade programs, and have

been asking for a transitional kindergarten to round out our early childhood offerings.”

Transitional kindergarten bridges preschool and kindergarten, and gives students a head start that can yield future academic success. The program plans to provide students with a strong foundation for success in elementary school.

The program’s project-based curriculum follows the standards of the

National Association for the Education of Young Children (or NAEYC) and incorporates Bank Street and Reggio Emilia approaches to early childhood learning.

For information about limited fall openings, contact Daneet Brill at 203-983-3503 or daneet.brill@carmel-academy.com.

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

Negev’s First Class of Social Business Entrepreneurs Sets Sights on Israel’s Future

BY MEGAN E. TURNER
JNS.org

Under a beautiful desert sky during a recent evening in Be’er Sheva, a new initiative presented the Negev region’s first organized class of social business entrepreneurs to the greater public.

The Lauder Employment Center, which is the brainchild of Jewish businessman, philanthropist, and organizational leader Ronald S. Lauder – chairman of the Jewish National Fund and president of the World Jewish Congress – served as the backdrop



Jewish National Fund Chairman and World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder spoke at the opening of the Lauder Employment Center in Be’er Sheva, Israel, in March. (Photo courtesy of JNF)

for Israeli entrepreneurs exchanging ideas for the future. The clinking of glasses and bustling, cheery atmosphere marked the debut of HaMeitz, a social enterprise and small business accelerator that is the first program of the PresenTense entrepreneurship initiative in southern Israel.

The employment center facility itself reflects Be’er Sheva’s character through a blend of tradition and modernity, featuring an architectural style that is a throwback to Israel’s era of Ottoman rule for the building’s for-

ward-thinking tenants – entrepreneurs whose passion is instantly evident. The first words coming from HaMeitz program coordinator Maor Elkayam were, “It’s so nice to meet you – do you have any ideas for future projects?”

The introduction of HaMeitz’s 2015 Entrepreneur Class began with remarks from Be’er Sheva’s deputy mayor, Tal Elal, who said, “Be’er Sheva is the city of opportunity.

“The Negev is the future of Israel,” Elal added, invoking the sentiments

See “Negev” on page 25

France

for the pain that comes with loss.”

Defiance is a common reaction among many French Jews to the growth of violent antisemitism that has been building for years and culminated at the shop on January 9. But there is real and palpable fear that the Hyper Cacher attack will turn out to be a watershed moment for the Jews of France – one that accelerated already record immigration to Israel, caused a sharp drop in sales at kosher shops and introduced new levels of anxiety to the lives of the Jews who stayed.

Yvan Lellouche, a founder of the Union of Kosher Consumers of France, which advocates for the distribution and consumption of kosher food, spoke of “a sharp drop in traffic at kosher shops” in the Paris area since January compared to the corresponding period last year. The union does not compile statistics, but Lellouche said anecdotal evidence suggested sales were down as much as 40 percent. “We’ve seen a decrease in traffic at Jewish shops until Passover, when it picked up again back to normal levels,” said Lellouche, whose acts as a liaison between kosher shop owners and French police. “Then the peak was over and the decrease continued.”

“We’re grateful to police and the army for protecting us,” said the mother, who declined to give her name because she said doing so might endanger her children. “But I can’t leave my kids at a school that needs military protection. I can’t do my shopping like this.”

It is not yet known what effect the Hyper Cacher shootings will have on Jewish school enrollment. Roger Cukierman, president of the CRIF umbrella of French Jewish groups, said two months before the kosher market attack that while some Jewish parents fear sending their children to at-risk, private Jewish schools, antisemitism also means they are hesitant about enrolling them in public ones. Many emigrate or opt for Catholic schools.

Another longtime Hyper Cacher shopper who, citing business reasons, identified himself only by his surname, Fitoussi, said the carnage earlier this year – 12 were killed by an Islamist at a satirical French newspaper, two days prior to the kosher market attack – triggered his decision to move with his wife to Israel later this year. A Sephardic Jewish



Security stood guard outside the kosher supermarket in Paris where four Jews were murdered in January in a hostage siege by an Islamist gunman. (Photo by Serge Attal/Flash90)




The scene outside the Hyper Cacher kosher market on January 12 as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paid his respects to the victims of the terrorist attacks. (Photo by Aurelien Meunier/Getty Images)

businessman who was born in Sousse, Tunisia – the scene of a massacre of 38 people in June by an Islamic terrorist who targeted Western tourists – Fitoussi has lived in France for five decades. “I love France, it gave me so much,” he said during an interview inside Hyper Cacher, where shelves are stocked with Israeli imports and a year-round supply of Badatz-certified matzah. “But what happened here, I can’t take it anymore. I can’t live like this.”

Like many French Jews, Fitoussi, who resides in an affluent district of Paris, takes care to always wear a hat over his *kippah* when he walks to synagogue on Shabbat, so as not to be identified as Jewish and invite attack. Last year, of the 851 hate crimes against Jews recorded by the Jewish community, 241 were violent attacks. The previous year, the figures were 423 and 105, respectively.

But in June, Fitoussi was called “dirty Jew” on the street on his way to synagogue even though he was wearing a hat. “They are looking for us now,” he said, “and the more we hide, the closer they will look.”



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Not all of the approximately 20 shops in the Hyper Cacher supermarket chain have such tight police protection. Yet following the attack in January, the French government assigned a total of 10,412 soldiers and policemen to guard hundreds of Jewish schools, synagogues and other Jewish institutions. Hundreds of additional uniformed and plainclothes personnel patrol what they consider high-risk areas – in other words, areas where many Jews live.

The Paris region is home to about 350,000 Jews, or about 70 percent of the 500,000 Jews living in France.

In December and January, bullet holes from an air gun were found on the walls of two kosher restaurants in Paris. The previous month, a kosher sushi restaurant was firebombed in Paris’ heavily Jewish 17th arrondissement, or district.


“I say this with pain but, frankly, I’d be very worried if my children worked at a kosher shop,” said Lellouche, a father of five.

Staff at the Hyper Cacher location targeted in the attack and their counterparts at Charles Traiteur, the adjacent kosher deli, said they have not seen a significant decrease in their sales. But Yaakov Deri, who owns the La Boucherie Gourmet deli, which is situated across the road from Hyper Cacher, needs no spreadsheet to confirm a slowdown. Sales, he said, have dropped drastically since January. “I’m feeling it in my pocket,” he said. “Some of my customers dart in and leave as soon as possible, wanting to spend as little time as possible in a place they regard as dangerous.”

Also impacting kosher shop sales: shoppers organizing discount bulk purchases of kosher food from abroad and, of course, the departure for Israel of at least 20,000 Jews since 2008. Some 70 percent of those emigres left after 2012, when a *jihadist* killed four Jews, including three children, at a Jewish school in the southern city of Toulouse.

The Jewish Agency for Israel, which facilitates Jewish immigration to Israel, is expecting about 8,000 French Jews to arrive this year. It would set a new record over last year’s all-time mark of 6,668 newcomers – the highest number that year from any country.

Among those preparing to leave this summer is a young mother who came on July 7 to shop at Hyper Cacher, perhaps for the last time as a French resident.



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• JFNA Membership Dues (www.jewishfederations.org)	
• World ORT (www.ort.org)	
• Partnership 2000	
UJF Israeli Partnership Cities Afeka/Gilboa	\$15,000
Helping Jews Locally:	
BBYO Stamford (www.bbyo.org)	\$3,968
BI-Cultural Day School (www.bcds.org)	\$103,000
Camp Laurelwood (www.laurelwood.org)	\$1,250
Carmel Academy* (www.carmelacademy.com)	\$17,000
Center for Judaic Studies (www.judaicstudies.uconn.edu/stamford-center)	\$4,090
Friendship Circle (www.friendshipcircle.com)	\$4,744
Hillel UConn Storrs (www.uconnhillel.org)	\$8,000
Jewish Community Center (JCC) (www.stamfordcc.org)	\$105,188
Jewish Family Service (JFS) (www.rjfs.org)	\$191,600
Jewish High School of CT (www.jhsct.org)	\$5,000
Jewish Historical Society (www.jhsc-ct.org)	\$600
Jewish Senior Services (www.jsejers.org)	\$3,170
Jewish Student Connection (JSC) (www.mysjc.org)	\$3,250
Sustaining the Community UJF Allocable Programs	\$19,963
Total Dollars Allocated:	\$736,000
*Carmel Academy resides in Greenwich, CT and receives Federation support from the Greenwich, Stamford and New York Federations.	
New Jewish Voice Newspaper*	\$54,000
*The New Jewish Voice is 100% funded by UJF.	

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Young Israel of Stamford (Sizzling Summer Topics Discussion Series)	\$2,000
Total Dollars Allocated:	\$10,250

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Shalom Baby	\$1,000
Shalom Stamford	\$1,000
Stop the Sirens- Gaza War Emergency Campaign	\$65,788
Sunshine Fund	\$36
Super Sunday Sponsorship Fund	\$950
TOM Youth Village	\$2,500
TribeFest Scholarships	\$2,380
UJC/Emunah	\$1,750
Ukrainian Relief Fund	\$180
Women's Division	\$11,900
WP Financially Fit sponsors	\$250
Total Dollars Allocated:	\$225,124
Total Funds Distributed: \$1,025,374	

#BetterTogether

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

Greenberg..... Continued from page 25

Greenberg won with his historic home run. “This was the image of baseball in World War II,” Klima writes. “The serviceman was thanking the temporary worker for keeping the factory humming while he was on. The hero got his life back. The replacement was swept out the door. Hank seemed to realize what few others could, that both of them had helped win the war in their own different ways.” Indeed, while players such as Greenberg made their contributions on the battlefield, the likes of Gray kept the game alive on the baseball field and boosted both Americans’ morale at home and soldiers’ morale overseas. Greenberg’s gesture in the season-ending game against the St. Louis Browns – which was also Gray’s final MLB game – “was as grand as any home run he ever hit,” writes Klima. “That was a very symbolic moment,” Klima tells JNS.org. “I don’t like doing my baseball histories the way other people do. I like moments that tie things together.” Gray and Greenberg both endured hate, the former for his physical disability and the latter over his Jewish faith. On the field with Gray that day, Greenberg’s character shone through. “Hank had a very deep integrity about him that transcended everything he did on the field,” Klima says. “When Hank found these moments of integrity, he just sailed above everything... Hank is going to do

what Hank knows is right. That’s really the essence of Greenberg, and I think that’s why people are still drawn to him. That’s why I’m drawn to him. He’s got tunnel-vision for the right thing.” Klima writes that Greenberg, after hitting the pennant-winning home run, “swore he heard one of the infielders mutter, ‘Goddamn that dirty Jew bastard, he beat us again.’ He savored the thought of the Washington Senators (who lost the pennant because of the Tigers’ win that day) sitting around a hotel room listening to his grand slam on the radio, calling him every dirty Jew name in the book, and he loved the thought of how angry his home run must have made them.” “Hank was hearing ‘dirty Jew bastard’ all the way through the end of his career. He didn’t talk about it after the 1930s, but he still heard it. The big leagues were a rough, nasty place,” Klima says, adding that the Washington Senators were a particularly “antisemitic bunch.” Kilma believes Greenberg “took a lot of joy in triumphing over bigots,” but “would never say it to you” and “would always let his actions speak louder than his words.” Greenberg was also understated about his military service, which was highlighted by his time in the China Burma India Theater region with the first group of Boeing B-29 Superfortress aircraft during the bombing campaign against Japan. But one incident Greenberg did elucidate with a first-hand

account was a dramatic story from June 1944, when he was part of a ground crew trying to rescue a plane that developed engine trouble and could not get airborne. The bombs on the plane exploded during the rescue effort, nearly killing Greenberg. “I was stunned and couldn’t talk or hear for a couple days, but was otherwise undamaged,” Greenberg says, according to the book. “The miraculous part of it all was that the entire crew escaped. Some of them were pretty well banged up, but no one was killed. That was an occasion, I can assure you, when I didn’t wonder whether or not I’d be able to return to baseball. I was quite satisfied to be alive.” While Greenberg would not “make a big deal” out of his military service publicly, Klima says, it “was something he cared about immensely.” “He took great pride in it,” says the author. “He didn’t need any adulation for it and I actually didn’t write the book to hero-worship him. I wrote the book because it was a good story, and he’s the rock that you could build it around. So that’s sort of my compromise with Hank.” Reiterating how Greenberg’s actions spoke louder than words, Klima says, “If you walked up to Hank and said, ‘Tell me about how you’re standing up for the Jewish people,’ Hank would probably demur. But if you watched him in his everyday life, you would see him do that everyday.”

Birthday..... Continued from page 1

and be part of the social fabric of the JCC Maccabi Experience. The Stamford JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest will take place from August 7-12, 2016, at various venues throughout Stamford and around Fairfield County. More than 1,000 visiting athletes and artists are expected to participate alongside 300-400 local teens, in what many of the young participants often describe as the experience of a lifetime. On Sunday, September 20, the JCC will host a JCC Maccabi kick-off event from 1:30-4 pm, at which the community is invited to experience Maccabi-style sports activities, engage in arts activities, play on inflatables, enjoy refreshments and more. Volunteers will be on hand to talk about ways to become involved in the Games and ArtsFest, including joining the Stamford delegation, volunteering, becoming a host family, sponsorship opportunities and more. “Once in a great while, a moment of incredible opportunity arrives for institutions like ours,” Koehler continued, “and this is one such moment. In addition to planning for our 100th anniversary and the JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest, we have embarked on a capital campaign to raise funds for much-needed improvements to our 30-plus-year-old building. Several years ago, we raised \$4.6 million for infrastructure improvements, most of which were made inside the walls in the form of new wiring, plumbing, HVAC, etc. With funds raised through The Centennial Campaign, we will be able to upgrade public areas of the building.” Spearheading the work surrounding the JCC’s centennial are JCC Maccabi Games Co-chairs Michael Gold and Jeannie Kriftcher; ArtsFest

Co-chairs Robin Frederick and Kim Schweber; and Centennial Committee Co-chairs Maxine Freilich and Rich Vogel. For more information, visit stamfordjcc.org. *The Jewish Community Center is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.*

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Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and sweet New Year!

Bonnie Rozen
Advertising Representative

September/October 2015
Senior Adult Happenings

KOSHER LUNCH AT THE JCC Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 12 pm. \$4 suggested donation. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .
TRANSPORTATION TO JCC SENIOR PROGRAMS Call every Monday. \$1 each way, suggested donation. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .
AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE AT THE JCC Reservations required. Wednesday, Sept. 2 & Wednesday, Nov. 4 • 8:30 am-1 pm. AARP member \$15 / All others \$20. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .
BLIND and VISUALLY-IMPAIRED ADULTS SUPPORT GROUP AT THE JCC Tuesdays & Thursdays, Sept. 17, Oct. 22, Nov. 24, Dec. 29 • 1-2 pm. Free of charge. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .
BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING AT THE JCC No appointment necessary. 1st Tuesday of the month, Sept. 1 (No screening in October • 9:45-11:15 am. Free of charge. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .

EXERCISE YOUR BODY – CHAIR EXERCISE AT THE JCC Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:15–11 am • Sept. 10-Dec. 31 (No class Sept. 15, 29, Oct. 6). Free to all seniors. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .
GAMES & GAB AT THE JCC Thursdays & Fridays, 1-3 pm. Free of charge. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .
JUDAIC STUDIES FALL 2015 COURSES AT UCONN-STAMFORD <i>See article on Page 16.</i>
LIFE ENHANCEMENT CLASSES AT THE JCC Tuesdays & Thursdays, Sept. 10-Dec. 31 (No class Sept. 15, 29, Oct. 6) • 11-11:45 am • Free to all seniors. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .
LEARN TO PLAY MAH JONGG AT THE JCC Thursdays, 1-3 pm. Member \$25 / Community \$35 (5 sessions). Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .
JCC MORNING MOVIE MATINEE/GAMES Fridays, Sept. 11 – Dec. 18 • 10 am • Free of charge. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org .



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

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

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

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

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION
FOR OUR LOCAL PARTNERS**

- BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL (BCDS):**
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford 06903 • (203) 329-2186 • www.bcds.org
- BBYO - Leviticus AZA (Boys) and Tikvah BBG (Girls):**
Regional Office (203) 389-2127 or CVR@bbyo.org • www.cvrbbyo.net
- CARMEL ACADEMY:**
270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich 06830 • (203) 863-9663 • www.carmelacademy.com
- CHABAD HOUSE:**
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford 06905 • 203-3-CHABAD #102 • Leah Shemtov: morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadstamford.org
- CHAVURAT AYTZ CHAYIM:**
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- CONGREGATION AGUDATH SHOLOM:**
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- FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE:**
(203) 329-0015 X414 • malya@friendshipct.com or www.friendshipct.com
- HADASSAH STAMFORD CHAPTER:**
(203) 829-9341 or rhonda.greif@gmail.com. Find us on facebook [stamford hadassah](https://www.facebook.com/stamfordhadassah)
- JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC OR THE J):**
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- JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL OF CONNECTICUT (JHSC):**
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- JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY (JHSFC):**
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- JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES:**
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12.12.15 7:00PM

ENJOY AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION WITH FRIENDS & COMMUNITY

★ **FEATURED SPEAKER:** JOSHUA MALINA ★

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BENSON ZIMBARG LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD WINNERS:

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HARVEY A. PELTZ YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS:

DANA HOROWITZ & PETER WOLLY

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LISA & JEFF MANHEIM

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COCKTAILS & DINNER

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UJF ANNUAL MEETING

AWARDS CEREMONY

DESSERT & MUSIC

YOUNG LEADERSHIP

CHAI SOCIETY*

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

6:30—7:30PM

*FOR YLD DONORS AT \$180 GIVING LEVEL & ABOVE



Joshua Malina, a life-long Federation supporter, has made a career in film and television for the past 25 years. He is most recognized for his television work playing Will Bailey in "The West Wing" and his current role in the part of David Rosen in "Scandal".