

LOOK AT WHAT YOUR SUPPORT HAS ACHIEVED! A NEW PROGRAM CONNECTS AFULA'S AT-RISK KIDS WITH ADULT "BUDDIES"

UJA/Federation WWWN is a participant in SNEC, the Southern New England Consortium of 13 Jewish federations throughout Connecticut, western Massachusetts and Rhode Island. By combining the resources of 13 federations, our region is able to support our sister communities of Afula and Gilboa in ways that no single federation could accomplish on its own.

Afula's Youth Futures is a unique, innovative model for working one-on-one with children in need, and introducing them to the community's existing support system. The program seeks to help children and teens realize their potential by developing their self-confidence and social and learning skills, and by enhancing their individual strengths. "Trustee" is the name of a new role developed in the Youth Futures Program, a title that reflects the belief that the position is based on a relationship of trust between the child and the adult. The trustee is a significant adult in the child's life, providing important assistance in the education and human-services systems.

This year, thanks to the support of SNEC, the program has expanded to include junior high schools, where two new trustees work with 32 students. The transition from elementary school to junior high can often be challenging. At this stage, students move from familiar to unfamiliar surroundings; they may be separated from friends; and they move from a small, intimate setting, to a larger, more anonymous environment. This transition requires an ability to adapt to many new conditions and expectations.

Rakefet Dasta joined the Afula Youth Futures Program as a trustee in October. Rakefet is 28 and of Ethiopian origin. Of her work, she says:

My position as trustee tends to bring out the child within me, and I don't mean this as a cliché. Whoever thought of this program and brought it to Afula is a



Rakefet Dasta, left, with one of the students she mentors in the Afula Youth Futures Program

genius. My parents came to Israel from Ethiopia in 1983 and my absorption process was fraught with difficulty. As a child, I had to worry about my parents as if they were my children. I think that if this type of program had been around when I was younger, many of the difficulties that I and other new-immigrant children faced would have been easier to overcome.

Although I have only recently become involved in this program, I have a strong connection with the concept behind the project and I am excited by the little things in its day-to-day aspects. For example, an introverted child who doesn't talk much or share his feelings, suddenly opens up and has more self-confidence. After several meetings, a little girl who lacks self confidence began to tell me about her life and ask for help. More than anything else, the program motivates these children, giving them the willpower to succeed and grow, particularly in often complex situations. I would like to thank all the donors to this project, and the Jewish Agency for their continuous work and for managing to imbue these children and their families with hope.

May we go from strength to strength.

KEEPING THE CANDLES LIT

As another Chanukah celebration is already a memory, we are reminded that each generation produces its own heroes and that miracles are made possible by the selfless and dedicated acts of "regular" people. Reading about Rakefet Dasta's role as a mentor in The Jewish Agency's Youth Futures program catches our attention at the same time that it inspires us. Rakefet's work on the front lines must be supported. Her dedication must be fueled by resources that we provide year-round and not only when the mood strikes us. And so it is with all the vital life-saving work that the Jewish Federation system supports.

Perhaps we should light a candle every day of the year to constantly remind us of the need to perform the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*. We can never have enough miracles and we can never stop providing the resources that make the occurrence of miracles possible. By acting now we empower forever.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

B'shalom,
Steve



Steven Friedlander
Executive Director



SUPER SUNDAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010

UJA/FEDERATION WWWN
invites you to participate in our annual
SUPER SUNDAY PHONE-A-THON
to benefit Jews in our community, in Israel and around the world.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR ONE OF THE TIME SLOTS:
10 a.m.-12 noon • 12 noon-2 p.m. • 2 p.m.-4 p.m. • 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

There will be a one half-hour orientation immediately before each session.

Join us for good company, refreshments and a common goal.
We rely on cellphones, so please bring one.
There will also be a limited number of land-lines available.

For information and/or to volunteer:
(203) 226-8197 / www.ujafederation.org



NOT TOO SOON TO PLAN AHEAD!

Connecticut Jewish Federations Insiders' Mission to Israel

LATE AUGUST, 2010

The nine Connecticut Jewish Federations are getting together to host the first-ever statewide insiders' mission to Israel. More details to follow!

UJA/Federation

NEWS AND JEWISH COMMUNITY UPDATE

WESTPORT • WESTON • WILTON • NORWALK
WWW.UJAFEDERATION.ORG

CELEBRATING CHARITABLE WOMEN

On Dec. 1, at the Westport home of Laura and Mitchell Felton, UJA/Federation WWWN joined with UJA/Federation of Eastern Fairfield County to honor more than 50 Lion of Judah and Pomegranate women for their generous charitable giving. The evening featured an educational and inspiring discussion, "Growing up to Give Back," presented by the Israeli Young Emissaries from the two communities - Inbal Magen and Naama Kelman (WWWN), and Dvir Dor and Keren Shemesh (Eastern Fairfield County). The event was generously sponsored by Mitchells (Westport). *Photo credits: Alison Wachstein Photography*



L to R: UJA/Federation executive committee member Gayle Weinstein, UJA/Federation co-president Wendy Cohen, event co-chairs Ellen Lautenberg and Meryll Wolfman



L to R: WWWN Israeli Young Emissary Inbal Magen, event co-chairs Ellen Lautenberg and Meryll Wolfman, WWWN Israeli Young Emissary Naama Kelman



L to R: UJA/Federation co-president Wendy Cohen, event co-chairs Ellen Lautenberg and Meryll Wolfman, event hostess Laura Felton



L to R: Eastern Fairfield County Israeli Young Emissary Dvir Dor, WWWN Israeli Young Emissaries Inbal Magen and Naama Kelman, Eastern Fairfield County Israeli Young Emissary Keren Shemesh

celebrate Tu b'Shevat

and join us as we honor past presidents

**Sandy Lefkowitz
&
Barbara Schwab**

for their distinguished service to
UJA/Federation WWWN

saturday • **january 30, 2010**
7:30 pm

the loft
97 washington street • sono

drinks & hors d'oeuvres
friends • light supper • music
dessert & coffee • laughter

couvert **\$90** per person
minimum pledge to the
2010 annual campaign **\$180**

dietary laws observed

Funds raised will benefit
Elderly Jews in the Former Soviet Union
The Children's Village in Afula, Israel
The Jewish High School of Connecticut
UJA/Federation annual campaign

rsvp by january 15

have fun • do good



UJA/Federation
Westport • Weston • Wilton • Norwalk

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY / EARLY FEBRUARY 2010

17 JANUARY 2010 • UJA/Federation WESTPORT • WESTON • WILTON • NORWALK

Events are free and open to the community unless otherwise indicated. Regular January / Early February 2010 venue addresses & contact information listed at the end of the Calendar.

ARTS

NIGHT ON THE TOWN WITH BEIT CHAVERIM SYNAGOGUE OF WESTPORT/NORWALK

Sunday, Jan. 10

4 p.m. performance of "Circumcise Me," the one-man show featuring Yisrael Campbell, the world's only Irish-Catholic, Orthodox-Jewish comedian. Pre-show wine & cheese reception, post-show talkback with the actor. Group dinner at a Manhattan kosher restaurant follows. Discounted tickets available. Info/RSVP: Rabbi Yossi Pollak, (203) 227-3333 / ravyossi@optonline.net

DISCUSSION

"MOTHERS CIRCLE"

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m.

Temple Israel, Westport

The Jewish Outreach Institute's Mothers Circle brings together mothers of other faiths raising Jewish children, to learn about Jewish rituals, customs, and beliefs, and to discuss ideas for creating positive experiences for their families. Info/RSVP: Alice Czuczka, (203) 227-1293

HADASSAH OF WESTPORT/WESTON MEDIA CLUB

Friday, Jan. 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Read and discuss "Sleepwalking in Daylight" by Elizabeth Flock
Info/RSVP: Michelle, (203) 226-5664 / geckmom@optonline.net

HAVE FUN, DO GOOD

"FREEZIN' FOR A REASON"

Friday, Jan. 1, 2010, 11 a.m.

Temple Israel Polar Plunge at Compo Beach (by the fire pits and picnic tables). All contributions will be donated. Info: (203) 227-1293

CHABAD-LUBAVITCH OF WESTPORT, WESTON & WILTON AND CAMP GAN ISRAEL ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Saturday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Inn at Longshore, 260 Compo Road South, Westport
Celebrating our Bat Mitzvah year of service to the community and presenting the Lamplighters Award, Camp Gan Israel Champion of Children Award, and Chabad Hebrew School Heritage Award. Cocktails, dinner, silent auction.
Info/RSVP: (203) 226-8584

HEBREW

"TELEVISIA YISRAELIT:"

ISRAELI TV NIGHT

Thursdays, Jan. 21 & Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Congregation Beth El, Norwalk

Featuring "Srugim," an acclaimed Israeli TV series portraying the lives of a group of young religious adults coping with the "Mating Game." Episodes shown on a large-screen TV in Hebrew with English subtitles. Info/RSVP: (203) 838-2710

MUSIC

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE IN MEMORY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Friday, Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Temple Israel, Westport

Songs of Freedom led by Cantor Richard Silverman. Info: (203) 227-1293

THE FAMILY THAT PLAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER

Sunday, Jan. 24, 3 p.m.

Temple Shalom, Norwalk

A unique musical performance featuring families of musicians and singers from Temple Shalom presenting classical, folk, and rock music and musical theater. See Page 3 of this insert for more information.

ANNUAL SHABBAT SHIRA-JEWISH MUSIC MONTH SERVICE

Friday, Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m.

Temple Israel, Westport

A special joint service with Congregation B'nai Israel of Bridgeport. Cantors Richard Silverman, Scott Harris, and Sheri Blum will share their artistry and love for Jewish music. Info: (203) 227-1293

NETWORKING

TING (TEMPLE ISRAEL NETWORKING GROUP)

Tuesdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 & 26;

Feb. 2, 2 p.m.

Temple Israel, Westport

For individuals in their job search

MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m.

The Conservative Synagogue, Westport
New weekly group co-sponsored by the Jewish Family Life Education program of the Jewish Family Service of Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk. Info/RSVP: Joanne Folger, (203) 454-4673 / joannef@tcs-westport.org

OPEN HOUSE

PROSPECTIVE & NEW MEMBER

FAMILY PIZZA PARTY

Sunday, Jan. 24, 4:30 p.m.

Temple Israel, Westport

Info/RSVP by Monday, Jan. 18: (203) 227-1293

SHABBAT

POP SHABBAT

Saturday, Jan. 9, 9 a.m.

Temple Israel, Westport

For ages 2-7: Shabbat service followed by craft and songs. Info: (203) 227-1656

YOUTH & TORAH FOR TOTS SERVICES

Saturdays, Jan. 9 & 16; Feb. 6,

10:30 a.m.-12 noon

Congregation Beth El, Norwalk

Torah for Tots for pre-school to age 8; Youth Service for ages 8-11. Includes weekly Torah portion, Judaism-related games and activities, songs, stories, synagogue skills. Local musician Jonathan Cahr will participate on Jan. 9 & Feb. 6. Info: (203) 838-2710

STUDY

A TASTE OF TORAH

Saturday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.

Temple Shalom, Norwalk

Annual community-wide study event with area rabbis, cantors, and educators teaching classes on a variety of topics. Co-sponsored by UJA/Federation WWWN and the Synagogue Council. Info: (203) 866-0148

"TALMUD SERIES"

WITH RABBI ERIC HOFFMAN

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Temple Israel, Westport.

SUPPORT GROUPS

For all JFS programs, call to confirm meeting times and locations:

Stamford location: 733 Summer St., Suite 602, Stamford | (203) 921-4161

Westport location: 431 Post Road East, Suite 11, Westport | (203) 454-4992

NEW DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP

Mondays, 10 a.m.

Stamford location

There is no reason to go through the separation or divorce process alone. Discussion topics might include: what to expect, the healing process, dealing with anger, depression and loneliness, coping with the children, moving on and developing new relationships. Facilitated by JFS clinical psychologist Laurel Schwartz, PhD. Info/registration: (203) 921-4161, ext. 214 / LSchwartz@ctjfs.org

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Mondays, 12-1 p.m.

Stamford location

For those coping with the loss of a loved one. Info/registration: Eve Moskowicz, (203) 454-4992, ext. 122 or emoskowicz@ctjfs.org

PATHWAYS TO LIFE

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Stamford location

Addiction recovery/substance-abuse support group for Jews in recovery from addictions and/or for their significant others. A program of Jewish Partnership for Addiction Support & Services (JPASS), which provides programs, materials, services and resources to help individuals face addiction, especially those looking for a Jewish connection. Donations welcomed. Info/dates: Eve Moskowicz, (203) 454-4992, ext.122 / emoskowicz@ctjfs.org

PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (PEP)

Friday, Jan. 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Stamford location

State-required workshop for divorcing couples with children. Fee: \$125 per person. Info/registration: Family Centers in Stamford, (203) 324-3167

DIVORCE WITH DIGNITY - AVOID ADVERSARIAL DISSOLUTION

Info: Eve Moskowicz, (203) 454-4992,

ext.122 or emoskowicz@ctjfs.org

FOCUS ON KIDS

Coordinated through the CT Council of Family Service Agencies, Jewish Family Service of Stamford is a provider of this statewide program for separated, divorced, or divorcing parents experiencing high conflict around parenting decisions. Info: Erika Garcia at JFS, (203) 921-4161 (Stamford), (203) 454-4992 (Westport), or erikag@ctjfs.org

TALKS

PARENTING SEMINAR:

"TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL"

WITH DR. DAVID PELCOVITZ

Thursday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Bi-Cultural Day School, 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

RSVP: disrael@bcds.org / Full bio and description: www.bcds.org

"ISRAEL'S CHANGING COLLECTIVE IDENTITY" WITH PROF. FRED LAZIN

Sunday, Jan. 10, 10 a.m.

Temple Israel, Westport

Full bio and description:

www.twestport.org

Continued on next page

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from previous page

PARENTING FORUM: "IS IT STILL THE BIRDS & THE BEES? RAISING SEXUALLY HEALTHY YOUNG PEOPLE"

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 9:30 a.m.
Jspace: Chabad Community Center, 20 Ketchum St., Westport
With sex educator Dr. Bob Selverstone and pediatrician Dr. Nikki Gorman. Cost: \$18 / \$72 sponsor | RSVP: (203) 226-8584

"SURVIVING A DIVORCE"

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Temple Israel, Westport
With Jessica Bram, author of "Happily Ever After Divorce: Notes of a Joyful Journey" and Elizabeth Crossfield and Nancy Wergeles, licensed marriage and family therapists with private practices in Westport. Info: (203) 227-1293

THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS IN A NUTSHELL WITH RABBI BRIAN LEIKEN

Sunday, Jan. 31, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon
Temple Shalom, Norwalk
Learn about the meaning and origin of the entire Jewish calendar, and gain insight into a variety of holidays, their evolution throughout history, and the different ways in which they are observed throughout the Jewish world.

THE RACE FOR COLLEGE

Mondays, Jan. 11 & Feb. 8, 5-6 p.m.
Harry Bennett Branch of Ferguson Library, 115 Vine Road, Stamford
College pre-planning for 8th- through 11th-graders and their parents, conducted by JFS College Consultant Claire Friedlander. Info: (203) 921-4161 / cdfriedlander@aol.com

TU B'SHEVAT

KESHER PROJECT FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY CHALLENGED ADULTS
Thursday, Jan. 28, 7-8:30 p.m.
Congregation B'nai Israel, 2710 Park Ave., Bridgeport
Enjoy a Tu b'Shevav seder and sing and dance to live Jewish music. RSVP required: (203) 383-2125

TU B'SHEVAT "GREEN" DINNER FEATURING MAGEVET

Friday, Jan. 29, 6 p.m.
Congregation Beth El, Norwalk
Environmentally sensitive Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a festive (and environmentally sensitive) family dinner and performance by Magevet, Yale University's Jewish a capella singing group. Cost: \$22/adult, \$14/child | RSVP: (203) 838-2710

UJA/FEDERATION WWWN

TU B'SHEVAT GALA
Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.
The Loft, 97 Washington St., SoNo
See invitation on Page 2

JANUARY / EARLY FEBRUARY 2010 VENUES AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

NORWALK

Temple Shalom 259 Richards Ave.
(203) 866-0148, www.templeshalomweb.org
Congregation Beth El 109 East Ave., Norwalk
(203) 838-2710, www.congbethel.org

WESTPORT

Temple Israel 14 Coleytown Road
(203) 227-1293, www.tiwestport.org

THE FAMILY THAT PLAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER

UNIQUE CONCERT AT TEMPLE SHALOM NORWALK

Temple Shalom's Cantor Shirah Lipson Sklar comes from a musical family. Her father, Rabbi Mark Lipson, is also a cantor. Her mother, Alice Lipson, is a music teacher and choral director at Staples High School in Westport. Brother Dave sings, but the fitness expert is better known for recently being selected as "Hunky Trainer" by NBC New York. Her husband is Dan Sklar, rabbi and cantor of Westchester Reform Temple.

Aside from its clergy and family, and perhaps because of them, Temple Shalom seems to draw musical people, Cantor Lipson Sklar says. (Assistant Rabbi Brian Leiken is a guitarist and wrote the introduction to the recent "Jews Rock!" coffee-table history book.) The congregation has a tradition of diverse and rich musical programming, the cantor says, with Shabbat services being almost entirely musical. The temple hosts an annual cantors' concert with performers from the local community and Westchester.

Among the congregation are many families of professional and semi-professional musicians, and who like to perform together, Sklar says. "I've been at concerts and musical performances by all these musicians at venues outside our temple. I thought it would be wonderful to have them share their gifts with our community." This is the first event of its kind at the Temple Shalom.

The concert will take place on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 3 p.m., and will include a program of classical, folk, pop, Broadway, and original compositions. It is free and open to the community.

PERFORMERS INCLUDE:

The Four-Hand Band

Paul Levi & Cathy Waldman, Westport

Cathy is a pianist and accompanist; Paul is a composer. Son Ariel Waldman will accompany them.

Gitlin Family, Westport

Recently located from Florida, the family has performed in choirs all over the country.

David & Heather Levy, Weston

David is an acoustic guitarist and Heather is a seasoned choral singer and folk and rock soloist.

Stacy & Jacob Reiss, New Canaan

The sister and brother are both French hornists. Stacy is a junior at Brown University where she plays in the student orchestra and with the Boldly Brass Quintet. Jacob, a sophomore at New Canaan High School, plays in the school orchestra. Both have been Western Regional and Connecticut All-State French hornists.

Rachel, Ellie & Daniel Shapiro, Westport

In this classical trio of siblings, Rachel has performed at the Steinway Gallery in Westport and Ellie and Daniel are members of local youth symphonies and the New York Youth Symphony.

Fran & Jeff Southworth, Westport

The founders and members of the band Heart & Soul have been featured in Temple Shalom's "Jews Rock" concert. They and their son Alan, a musician and senior at Staples High School, will sing pop selections.

Jake & Jamie Yarmouff, Westport

Brothers and Staples High School students, both played lead roles in the school's recent production of "Guys and Dolls" and perform with the Temple Shalom children's and adult choirs.

Taste of Torah

An inspiring evening of learning and camaraderie with our area rabbis, cantors and educators

Saturday, January 23, 2010 @ 7p.m.

Temple Shalom
259 Richards Ave., Norwalk

For information, call (203) 866-0148

Co-sponsored by
The Synagogue Council and
UJA/Federation Westport
Weston Wilton Norwalk

This program is
free and open to
the community.

