

Community ...

Students and Elders Celebrate Chanukah Together

A group of Jewish Senior Life residents and Hillel Community Day School students celebrated Chanukah together Thursday, December 10, at the Jewish Home of Rochester. They played Chanukah games and enjoyed a festive Chanukah meal, but most importantly, the participants gained wisdom from a different generation.

This event is part of a Jewish Senior Life/Hillel Day School Intergenerational Program, which launched in October and was made possible by a grant from the Legacy Heritage Foundation. Ten students are matched with Jewish Home residents to interact through discussion, arts and therapeutic recreation. Through



the program, students are sensitized to the challenges seniors face and learn compassion, re-

sponsibility and a duty of care.

Seniors shared their wisdom and experiences with students,

telling stories of their childhoods and comparing notes with the students about the dif-

ferences between their respective upbringings.

The same day, The Summit at Brighton, a Jewish Senior Life campus, commemorated America's favorite swooner Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday with a celebration straight out of the 1950s. Along with Sinatra impersonator Michael Mirand, the event included casino games and a raffle as well as an open house for community members to tour the facilities. Other activities throughout the week included a special showing of "Ocean's Eleven," Sinatra Bingo, Sinatra Trivia, and even a Sinatra Specials day at the restaurant, which included dishes like the "Ol' Blue Eyes Burger." ★

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Local Survivor Celebrates Chanukah With President at White House Party



Jack Feldman, who for decades owned and operated Jack's Fish Market on Joseph Avenue, received an early Chanukah gift in the form of an invitation to the White House Chanukah party, hosted by President Barack and Michelle Obama.

Jack, 89, a survivor of Aushwitz, attended the special holiday dinner and reception with his granddaughter, Stacey Feldman Saiontz, on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

The guest list also included Israeli President Reuven Rivlin along with hundreds of other

Holocaust survivors, American Jewish politicians, organization heads, and school and yeshiva deans.

The annual White House Chanukah Party was established in 2001 by President George W. Bush. ★

Meet Miss Israel

BY CURT SCHLEIER

(JTA) — Avigail Alfatov eats her pizza upside down and has funny hiccups. Her favorite food is falafel and she makes her face shine by wiping it with green tea bags.

How do we know this and, perhaps more important, why do we care?

Well, Alfatov is the reigning Miss Israel and is the country's entry in the Miss Universe Pageant, which airs Dec. 20 on Fox. These are just a few of the fun facts listed on her contestant profile.

She is also a national fencing champion, would love to meet Michael Jordan and has volunteered with Akim, an organization that works with people suffering from intellectual disabilities.

It's 7:30 a.m. and she's on the phone with JTA from Las Vegas, where the pageant will be held. (Some activities, such



Miss Israel, 19-year-old Avigail Alfatov, will compete in the Miss Universe Pageant airing on Dec. 20. Photo: Courtesy.

as the swimsuit and evening gown competitions, begin Dec. 16; the grand finale is the Dec. 20 broadcast from Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.) Alfatov has just arrived from Israel; she's tired and, as her handler points out, she's a little nervous about her English

skills. So our questioning starts with the easy stuff, her background.

"My parents were born in the Ukraine and came to Israel," she says. "I was born in Israel. We are not very religious."

They emigrated because "to
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JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER ROCHESTER

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