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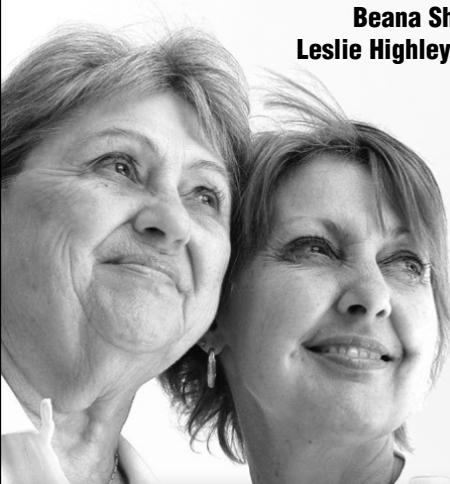
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Beana Shlakman - Executive Administrator

Leslie Highleyman - Director of Community Relations



76 Passaic Avenue. Livingston, NJ 07039. 973.758.4100



State & Local



ITC Foundation president Alan Goldner and global development vice president Jackie Glodstein have welcomed ITC alumna and star athlete Nadine Fahoum, center, to their New York-based team.

Photos by Susan Bloom

Tennis program helps kids gain advantage

Local supporters host celebration of winners on the court and off

SUSAN BLOOM
Special to NJ Jewish News

Tennis player Rachel Pashaev, 11, is ranked among the Top 10 girls in her age group in Israel. But for Rachel and other players representing the Israel Tennis Centers, swinging a racquet is much more than a game. A resident of Sderot, where missile attacks from Gaza are a common occurrence, Rachel is one of over 1,000 "children at risk" who rely on Israel Tennis Centers throughout the country as a safe haven.

Founded in 1976, the Israel Tennis Centers Foundation is a non-profit that works to enhance the social, psychological, and physical development of Israeli children of all backgrounds through the medium of sport. Now comprised of 14 centers throughout Israel, ITC offers structured tennis programs for children ages four-18 as well as coexistence, kindergarten, and special programs for at-risk and developmentally challenged children.

The ITC sites "offer so much more than tennis," said Jackie

Glodstein, vice president of global development at the New York City-based ITC Foundation office. "They provide a loving, nurturing environment and a place where children can come, be happy, be themselves, make friends, and learn about respect, sportsmanship, and coexistence — skills they can use their whole lives."

On June 8, four children representing the ITC, including Pashaev, were all smiles as they visited the Short Hills home of Randi and Eric Sellinger for a unique Shabbat supper and celebration.

In presentations that included spirited group singing, the kids shared their personal stories and experiences at the ITC with the 50-plus guests and supporters at the event.

Dana Kamyshev, 15, a bubbly teen whose parents were born in Russia, trains at the ITC in Haifa. She speaks Hebrew, Russian, and English fluently, and said she hopes to earn a scholarship to play tennis at a college in the United States.

"I came to the Tennis Center when I was eight and was really shy and used to hide," said Dana, who is part of the ITC's High Performance Program and who now helps younger kids develop their skills. "I'm at the center from 4-8 p.m. every day, and it's become like

Continued on next page

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CORRECTION — In "RU Hillel aims to boost Conservative outreach" (June 7) about the possibility of funds being cut for the Conservative movement's campus Koach program, the following quote was misattributed. It should have been attributed to Kim Syvarth, the immediate past cochair of Koach at Rutgers University: "The Conservative movement is aging, and not spending money for Koach could be the downfall of the Conservative movement," said Syvarth, an incoming senior English and Jewish studies major from Brick. "It needs to create new leaders, and Koach is the perfect way to do that. The movement is not thinking strategically because without Koach there will be no Conservative movement in 15 years."