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JEWISH NEWS

Our Community, Our Responsibility

Volume XXV, Number 2

UJA Greenwich | One Holly Hill Lane | Greenwich, CT 06830

November 2015 | Kislev 5776

Come 'Bash the Trash' at JCC Greenwich/PJ Library's Hanukkah Party

The Maccabees stretched one day's worth of oil to last eight days, and on Sunday, December 13, resourceful Greenwich kids and parents will behold a new Hanukkah miracle. That's when the environmental arts troupe, **Bash the Trash**, will help young celebrants turn household junk into musical instruments and then mount a performance. The much-anticipated interactive show anchors this year's JCC Greenwich and PJ Library Hanukkah Party, to be held from 3-5 pm at Carmel Academy.

Families can anticipate a dollop of educational enrichment along with their DIY fun and latkes. After learning how to build instruments from reusable materials, youth will be invited to play their creations at the centerpiece performance and then strut with them at the parade finale. Along the way they will come to embrace **Bash the Trash's** message of "Science, Sound and Sustainability." All materials will be provided with the exception of small plastic water bottles, which may be brought to the program or deposited at the UJA/JCC offices.

Bash the Trash was founded in 1988 by husband and wife duo John Bertles and Carina Piaggio, with a mission to combine science, environmental awareness and music, and to highlight how these disciplines mesh. Since then the group has performed at hundreds of schools, libraries, festivals and summer camps around the country. In 2014 they released their debut full-length album, *Think Big*.

"**Bash the Trash's** motto is 'think globally, act locally' to spread environmental awareness and change. And, with responsible stewardship of our earth as a theme in many of the PJ Library titles, this is an ideal way to ring in this year's Hanukkah," said Greenwich PJ Library Director Tracy Daniels. JCC/PJ Library event co-chairs Lisa Small and Jamie Kesmodel agree. "The holiday is all about maximizing – and illuminating – what's around us, noted Small. "We can't imagine a more meaningful update of the finiteness of the Hanukkah oil than to be creative with the finiteness of resources in today's world," Kesmodel chimed in. Helping to produce the event are Greenwich PJ Library chairperson Cori SaNogueiro, Jody Siegartel Lazlo, Jill Derikrava and Marissa Cohen, with support from PJ Library Parent Planners.

The Hanukkah gathering will include a PJ Library fundraiser to provide PJ Library subscriptions for children living at the Emunah Afula Children's Center, a residential facility

PJ Library **JCC GREENWICH**
HANUKKAH PARTY
FEATURING
Bash the Trash
Sunday, December 13
3-5pm \$18 per person
Carmel Academy
270 Lake Ave.
Greenwich
Event Chair:
Jamie Kesmodel &
Lisa Small
Committee:
Marissa Cohen, Jill
Derikrava, Jodi Lazlo,
Cori SaNogueira
HELP GIVE
PJ LIBRARY TO
KIDS IN ISRAEL
Menorah Lighting
Latkes & Donuts
Science,
Sound & Sustainability!
Build your own
instruments
from recycled and reused
materials then play and
parade in this musical
celebration for Hanukkah!

for children at-risk due to poverty, neglect or abuse. A collection box will be on hand with the goal of raising \$1,500. Yet, this is no mere check-writing campaign. To engage young philanthropists in the process of giving, Greenwich children will have an opportunity to repurpose a PJ Library book from their personal collections for re-gifting where Jewish children's books are needed. "We are asking our kids to give a book and to write a message as a symbol of their family contribution," said Daniels. Donations in support of this goal can also be made online at www.jccgreenwich.org.

Hanukkah Party tickets are \$18 per person. Registration and additional information is available at jccgreenwich.org or 203-552-1818.

save the date

04
07
16

UJA
Annual Gala

Thursday, April 7th, 2016

7:00 PM

Co-Chairs
Pamela and Matthew Chasin
Madeline and Scott Simon

UJA Greenwich Annual Meeting Followed by an Evening with Alan Dershowitz

Meeting at 7 pm • Event at 7:30 pm
\$25 per person includes book; \$10 General Admission

One of the world's best-known attorneys gives us a no-holds-barred history of Jewish lawyers: from the biblical Abraham, who argued with God on behalf of the doomed sinners of Sodom, through modern-day advocates who have changed the world by challenging the status quo, defending the unpopular, contributing to the rule of law, and following the biblical command to pursue justice.

ALAN M. DERSHOWITZ is the New York Times best-selling author of more than thirty books. His articles have appeared in hundreds of publications, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Huffington Post*, *Harvard Law Review*, *The Yale Law Journal*, *The Jerusalem Post*, and *Haaretz*. He is the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law, Emeritus, at Harvard Law School, and has worked for more than fifty years in the areas of civil liberties, human rights, and criminal law.

Abraham: The World's First (But Certainly Not Last) Jewish Lawyer

Tuesday, December 1

Give Thanks This Holiday Season

Happy Thanksgiving & Happy Hanukkah

Best Wishes
from UJA & JCC Boards and
the Staff of UJA/JCC Greenwich

PJ Library Sukkot Party



Jewish Rock star Shira Klein (ShirLaLa) rocked Irit & Jonathan Tratt's house at the PJ Library Sukkot Party. The Tratts welcomed a huge crowd of playful preschoolers and made us all feel at home. ShirLaLa brought the Sukkah inside with songs and stories. BIG THANKS to the **Tratt family**, Event Co-Chairs **Rebecca Cooper, Jen Davis and Stacey Zwilling** and generous sponsors **Marissa & Jarret Cohen, Jill & Michael Derikrava, Jennifer & Jeffery Davis and Jordan & Doug Sanders**.

JBabies is Growing!

A growing number of moms with babies are joining the Jbabies network to chat and coordinate meet-ups. We are thankful to committee chairs **Anne Akyuz, Jessica Rickert and Jordan Sanders** for helping to launch and develop Jbabies. Anne has



JBabies buddies, Eddie & Ryan, already sharing!

been hosting "meet-ups" (play dates) at her Riverside home and the group will continue to meet at homes, parks and play spaces on a flexible basis. Jbabies also holds a monthly speaker event at the JCC/UJA offices. In October Jbabies mom and dietitian, **Jessica Shapiro**, spoke with the group

Got a Baby?

Pediatric Behavior:
Unlocking the Mysteries to Your Child's Thoughts and Actions
with Jennifer Smokler Zigler, MsEd

Monday, December 14 @ 9:45am
at One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich

Jennifer Smokler, MsEd, is an adjunct Professor at Hunter College Graduate School of Education. She is a Behavioral Therapist and Applied Behavioral Analyst as well as a Certified General and Special Education Teacher. Ms. Smokler currently works with typically developing children and their families as well. She specializes in feeding, sleeping, potty training, and other behavioral facets of everyday life.

JBabies is a JCC Greenwich-moderated listserv, which is a great resource for moms with babies. Your first connection to mom's with real questions and real answers, info on meet-ups for moms and babies, and other special events.

Sign up at: www.bigtent.com/groups/jbabiesgwch

about Infant and Toddler Nutrition. In November sleep training expert **Brooke Nalle**, founder of Sleepy on Hudson, was back by popular demand. In December **Jen Smokler Zigler**, MsEd, will speak on early childhood behavior and the mysteries of our children's

thoughts and actions. (See above). We are working on the speaker line-up for 2016. If you have any suggestions, send them to tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org or any of the Jbabies chairpersons - Anne, Jessica or Jordan. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you!



Sunday Funday Tots, dancing and playing with Miss Nina and friends, see more pictures on page 14 and join us for Crafty Critters with the New Children's Museum in January!



2015-2016 PJ LIBRARY PARENT PLANNERS

Creating delightful events for our children and community

Lisa Abrams • Lala Addeo • Anne Akyuz • Marissa Cohen • Rebecca Cooper
Jennifer Davis • Jill Derikrava • Stephanie Esquenazi • Penny Goffman-Vazquez
Allison Jackson • Jamie Kesmodel • Natalie Landres • Jessica Maiman Rickert
Kelly Meyers • **Cori SaNogueira** * PJ Library Chair • Jordan Sanders
Jody Siegartel Lazlo • Lisa Small • Jen Smokler • Stacey Zwilling

PJ LIBRARY is sponsored by UJA Greenwich in partnership with Harold Grinspoon Foundation and generous local donors, including our Grandparent Partners.

"PJ" programs are presented in collaboration with JCC GREENWICH. You'll find everything posted on www.jccgreenwich.org. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us. We'd love to hear from you.

Call or email Tracy Daniels 203-552-1818 or Tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org

Shabbat Around Town

Celebrate Shabbat with friends and the traveling "99" Shabbat Treasure Box at the home of a PJ Library family. Make your reservation to host or attend as a guest...

For all ages!

12/18	1/29	2/26
3/11	5/20	

PJ Library® Books Coming Your Way



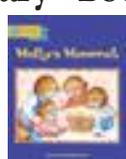
Age 1
Hanukkah, oh Hanukkah



Age 2
Is it Hanukkah, Yet?



Age 3
The Runaway Latkes



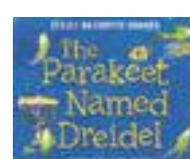
Age 4
Melly's Menorah



Age 5
The Eighth Menorah



Age 6
Hanukkah Cookies with Sprinkles



Age 7
Parakeet Named Dreidel



Age 8
Hanukkah Fairy Tale Feasts

HEARTFELT THANKS FOR WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY FALL BRUNCH

Over one hundred women gathered for the Women's Philanthropy Fall Brunch, honoring **Suzanne Katz** for her years of service to the community. The ambiance was delightful as friends and family enjoyed an elegant affair and warm, personal presentations. Following the ceremonial National Anthems led by **Rebecca Cooper** and **Barbara Salop** and the Hamotzi blessing led by **Stuart Katz**, Suzanne spoke with her trademark poise and grace. Her remarks aptly articulated the importance and impact of working on behalf of Jewish community locally, globally and in Israel.

Guest speaker Rabbi Sherre Hirsch, bestselling author and spiritual consultant to Canyon Ranch, established an instant bond with the group and engaged and inspired all generations with insights (based upon her latest book, *Thresholds*) about new ways of thinking, feeling and being during moments of life transitions. Heartfelt THANKS to Event Co-Chairs **Silvina Knoll** and **Christine Toback** and Vice Presidents **Dina Klein Lunder** and **Yael Rosen** for their time and dedication to creating a meaningful and beautiful event. Hearty thanks also go out to Event Patrons, Raffle Donors, to the many women who attended the Brunch and to families who sent gifts in honor of Suzanne for your generous support of UJA Greenwich.

DONORS OF RAFFLE PRIZES

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Equinox	Ken Schur
Exhale Spa	Yael Rosen & Daryl Roth Productions
Jaafar Tazi Salon	Z life
Jen W Collection, NYC	
J House Spa	

EVENT PATRONS

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Rabbi Vicki Axe	Jill Oberlander
Rhonda Barnat	Alma Rutgers
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Robyn Blaser	Pamela Sanders
Patricia Brecher	Maura Shapiro
Beth Cutler	Rhoda Shemin
Debbie Daum	Debra Shore
Alice Delikat	Laurie Siegel
Rita Edelston	Betty Steinberg
Linda Forman	Carolyn Surgent
Debra Fram	Ronna Sussman
Marlene Gilbert	Christine Toback
Rabbi Joui Hessel	Mina Tulchinsky
Judith Kallman	Jane Weitzman
The Katz Family	Linda Young
Gail Kirhoffer	Nancy Zisson
Silvina Knoll	
Laura Lehman	

Why I have been on the Women's Philanthropy Board for nearly twenty three years...



My story really began three generations ago with my grandfather, William Shemin, who posthumously received the Medal of Honor several months ago for his heroism during WWI in France. He was brave and saved many lives. After the war, his passion and love of the forest and trees lead him to the school of Forestry at Syracuse University where he earned a degree in horticulture. My parents attended Syracuse University too with my father becoming a 2nd generation horticulturist. We had a family greenhouse/nursery business, first in the Bronx, NY and then it moved to Greenwich in the 1960's. We were all required to work in the family business on weekends, all four daughters and our five cousins. Our Aunt Ina, my father's sister, was the greenhouse manager. We worked hard and developed a strong work ethic as a result.

My grandfather and father also believed in supporting the state of Israel and made this a priority. Not only were my parents philanthropic, but my father had a dream: To help promote agri-business in Israel and help make the desert green. A dream that I like to believe became true before his passing six years ago.

Not many of you know this, but our family co-owns an organic seed business in the Negev, a partnership my father created with his Israeli botanist friend, Dr. Isaac Nir. Today we sell Israeli organic seeds worldwide. Our family also has a small foundation, which annually helps fund Israeli agriculturists' ability to travel abroad promoting global knowledge. In addition, the foundation awards an annual scholarship at the Faculty of Agriculture, part of Hebrew University. These were the seeds that were sown by my grandfather and parents.

Today, I am proud to say I am a 3rd generation horticulturist. I worked for many years in the horticulture industry. But the most outstanding legacy that has been passed on to me is the commitment to our people right here in Greenwich, worldwide and particularly in our Jewish homeland.

UJA helps me feel connected to our people locally and globally. I think this is why I have stayed on the board of this wonderful organization for so long. Locally there is a lot of interesting programming; be it educational, spiritual or motivational. I love how much work we do worldwide for Jews. On a family vacation to Buenos Aires several years ago, we visited an infant daycare center that UJA helps support, through the Joint Distribution Committee. This was the first time I saw, for myself, UJA's dollars at work. Believe me, it was a very emotional experience.

Women's Philanthropy will be leading a mission to Buenos Aires next month under the stewardship of Silvina Knoll, who is from Argentina. The money that we raise here helps support the many Jews that are living in crisis, poverty or have been otherwise forgotten. Like the elderly Jews who are still living in the former Soviet Union. UJA helps within Israel where there is an extreme need for social and financial support. An example is the Emunah Children's Center in Afulah, a home for approximately 140 children, previously living in at risk situations with their troubled families.

Day to day here at home, I love this multi-generational group of women, with whom I identify very closely. The many friendships that I have developed at UJA Greenwich make any amount of work worthwhile. The great news is that I don't have to say good-bye, I can merely step down as Co-President, and remain on the board allowing our younger generation to lead.

Save the Dates for UJA GREENWICH WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY 2016 Winter/Spring Schedule

Education Symposium
March 6

UJA Gala
April 7

JCC Comedy Night
June 2

Women's Philanthropy Board Meeting Schedule will be delivered online

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

UJA Greenwich
(203) 552-1818

Anti-Defamation League
(203) 288-6500

Bi-Cultural Day School
(203) 329-2186

Carmel Academy
(203) 863-9663

Chavurat Deevray Torah
(203) 637-9478 or (203) 637-5877

Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich,
Camp Gan Israel of Greenwich
(203) 629-9059

Gan of Greenwich Preschool
(203) 869-1742

Congregation Shir Ami
(203) 504-2424

Greenwich Reform Synagogue
(203) 629-0018

Hebrew Wizards
(203) 249-4036

JCC Greenwich
(203) 552-1818

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich
(203) 622-1881

Jewish High School of Connecticut
(203) 357-0850

Jewish Senior Services
(203) 365-6400

Selma Maisel Nursery School at TS
(203) 622-8121

Temple Shalom
(203) 869-7191

SHABBAT & HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Fri., Nov. 20, 2015..... 4:15pm

Fri., Nov. 27..... 4:11pm

Fri., Dec. 4..... 4:08 pm

First Night of Hanukkah
Sun., Dec. 6

Fri., Dec. 11..... 4:08 pm

Last Night of Hanukkah
Wed., Dec. 14

Fri., Dec. 18..... 4:09 pm

Fri., Dec. 25..... 4:13pm

Fri., Jan. 1, 2016..... 4:18 pm

Fri., Jan. 8..... 4:24 pm

Fri., Jan. 15..... 4:32 pm

Fri., Jan. 22..... 4:40 pm

Fri., Jan. 29..... 4:48 pm

Fri., Feb. 5..... 4:57 pm

Fri., Feb. 12..... 5:06 pm

Greenwich Jewish News

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www.ujafedgreenwich.org

BRIAN NEILINGER
PRESIDENT, UJA GREENWICH

SUZANNE KATZ
CAROLYN SURGENT
CO-PRESIDENTS,
WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

PAMELA EHRENKRANZ
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TRACY DANIELS
WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY &
PJ LIBRARY DIRECTOR

NANCY ZISSON
EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN

JUDITH MARGOLIN
EDITOR

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School Gives New Meaning to “Hands-on Learning”

The Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School, located at 300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, has found a unique and exciting way to bring the outdoors inside for its 2s, 3s and Pre-K classes. Through a special partnership with the Stamford Museum & Nature Center, the school’s Discovery Room hosts live animals – such as turtles, lizards, hedgehogs and other small creatures – on a weekly basis. “We are the only nursery school in the area that has a dedicated Discovery Room,” says Phyllis Lyons, who became the school’s Director in 2004. “This room has evolved into a true interactive science

lab where children can explore with animals as the basis.”

As part of the curriculum, students cover geography, the five senses, habitats, communication, movement, color and texture, with guidance from the museum’s wildlife educators. They also understand the values of sharing, kindness and responsibility as active participants in caring for and feeding the animals. “Along with teaching them Jewish values, we’re helping them grow socially, emotionally, academically and physically,” says Lyons. “Learning with animals can be a segue for adapting to adults and learning respect for others.

This partnership provides an interesting educational experience for them.”

Another way in which the Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School promotes hands-on learning is through its impressive after-school enrichment programs. For the first time this year, the school has added Mad Science, Yoga and Spanish to its already successful offerings in Cooking, Sports, Ballet and Interactive Theater. “I’m so happy that my three-year-old son has the opportunity to explore different disciplines through the enrichments, and to have the social component of eating lunch with his friends,” says Sarah Fradkin, an early

childhood specialist who leads Temple Sholom’s free drop-in playgroup for moms and babies (under 24 months), known as Itsy Bitsy. “The enrichments bring so much variety to his week with a unique planned activity after school each day. The curriculum is age-appropriate, engaging and stimulating.”

Registration is now open for the 2016-2017 school year. For more information, contact Director Phyllis Lyons at 203-622-8121 or phyllis.lyons@templesbolom.com. To view a virtual video tour of the nursery school, visit www.templesholom.com/smns.



Students acting out “The Tortoise and The Hare” during the Interactive Theater after-school enrichment.



Through a unique partnership with the Stamford Museum & Nature Center, students interact with animals weekly in the school’s Discovery Room.



Students learning how to bake in the Cooking after-school enrichment.



Students participating in the Ballet after-school enrichment.

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**Stay in the know about
our Greenwich Jewish Community.**

Send your email address to renana@ujafedgreenwich.org. We will keep you up to date on everything you need to know – about kids, teens, young families, travel, PJ Library, newcomers, films, Lunch and Learn, Israeli Emissary Program, Women’s Philanthropy, Israel and other Greenwich Jewish organizations.




**ALL READY FOR
SUMMER 2016!**

- Mommy & Me
- Mini Gan (2-3 yr olds)
- Juniors (4-5 yr olds)
- Sports Camp
- All Activity Camp
- Theatre Arts Camp
- Intensive Tennis Camp
- New expanded trip program for middle division (7-8 yr olds)

Located at Carmel Academy
270 Lake Ave. Greenwich, CT

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Davis Film Festival Brings Israeli TV Sensation “Fauda” to Greenwich

By Laura Blum

Ready for your next TV obsession? JCC Greenwich is too. That’s why we’re bringing the Israeli smash hit “Fauda” to the Bow-Tie Criterion Cinemas on Wednesday, December 16 as part of our Davis Film Festival. Don’t be surprised if this becomes the latest adaptation of an Israeli series to rock American screens, like “Hatufim” or “B’Tipul” before it. The Davis Film Festival will

screen Episodes I and II. “Fauda”—named for the Arabic word for “chaos”—presents the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as heart-pounding human drama. Filled with Arabic dialogue, it follows the Mistarvim, an undercover unit of IDF soldiers disguised as Palestinians. Each episode carries the disclaimer that “Fauda” is a fictional series and not one based on reality. Yet its co-creators have a special familiarity with the elite unit

dating back to their reserve army service. They are journalist and Middle East analyst Avi Issacharoff, who was stationed in the West Bank, and actor Lior Raz, who served in an actual Mistarvim unit.

The main character in the series is Doron Kavillio (Raz), a Mistarvim veteran who rejoins his unit after learning that leading Hamas militant Tawfiq Hamed, whom he had once caught and who was thought to be dead,

had outfoxed him and is indeed alive and kicking. As played by Hisham Suleiman, Hamed is a complex figure who dotes on his wife, is sharp-witted and dodges his captors. His Achilles’ heel was his wife, to whom he wrote love letters and with whom he even rendezvoused. In 2012 he was served with 45 life sentences.

Both Ibrahim and Tawfiq Hamed hail from the West Bank village of Silwad. “Fauda,” however, was largely shot in Kfar Qasem, an Arab-Israeli town 40 minutes northeast of Tel Aviv. The shoot itself was something of an ordeal: much of Season One was filmed as Operation

Protective Edge was unfolding. “Fauda” delves deep into the hard motives and soft underbellies of its Arab and Israeli protagonists, portraying both sides with a degree of sensitivity and humanity that’s rare to come by in any form, much less on commercial TV. Greenwich audiences will discover the authenticity and dimensionality that have kept viewers across political and national divides glued to the screen since the show’s February 2015 debut on Yes TV. Tickets are \$15, or \$118 for all 10 films. Festival Registration and further details are available at jccgreenwich.org.



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CHANUKAH CELEBRATION
OUTDOOR MENORAH LIGHTING
in the Heart of Greenwich

1st Night
SUNDAY DEC. 6 4-6 PM
YMCA • 50 E PUTNAM AVE

WATCH THE RABBI LIGHT THE MENORAH!
4:05 PMSHARP.....Menorah Lighting:
(outdoors, dress warmly)
4:30 PM.....Dinner (indoors)
5:00 PM.....Concert (indoors)

Hot Dinner - Sizzling Latkes -
Sufganiyot - Chanukah Gelt -
Dreidels - Menorah kits

Chairs: Allison Jackson, Jill Derikava,
Daisy Florin, Abigail Levy, Penny Vazquez

EARLY BIRD BY DEC. 1 \$60 / Family
\$20 Person / \$72 Family / \$36 0 Sponsor
- includes dinner for adults as well

SMOCC BAND DANCE PARTY!
ROCK

Chanukah Present for
Peer Children/Toy Drive
for J&A Families

RSVP CHABADGREENWICH.ORG 203.629.9059

Chanukah at Temple Sholom!

Temple Sholom
Celebrating 100 Years

You Are Invited!

Sholom Center
Interfaith Lighting

Thursday, December 3, 6:00 pm

Gather in front of Christ Church to light a giant Menorah and Christmas tree, sing holiday favorites from both traditions and enjoy snacks. Event is free.
Christ Church • 254 East Putnam Avenue • Greenwich CT 06830

Chanukah “Mock Mitzvah”

Sunday, December 6, 11:30 am

DJ Adam will be here to put on a party! We will do the Macarena, Dance to Cotton Eyed Joe; play coke & pepsi and more.
Lunch is available for \$5 per person/\$20 family maximum.
Temple Sholom • 300 East Putnam Avenue • Greenwich CT 06830

“Latkes & Pajamas” Shabbat
for Young Families, Friday, December 11, 5:30 pm

Join Temple Sholom for a special Shabbat & Chanukah celebration with singing, dancing, stroytelling, latkes & a family-friendly dinner. Wear your favorite PJs!
Event is free. Registration is requested so we know how much food to order.
Temple Sholom • 300 East Putnam Avenue • Greenwich CT 06830

To RSVP or for more information: Alice Schoen, 203-542-7165 • www.templesholom.com

Op-Ed by Rabbi David Israel, Rabbinic Dean, Bi-Cultural Day School

Is She Crazy?!

A dear childhood friend blogging about his impending *Aliyah* told of his recent encounter with a (typical) talkative Israeli cab driver who when hearing of my friend's plans, not so subtly shared his opinion: "Are you crazy?!" The image of the garrulous and candid Israeli taxi driver was very familiar and brought a smile to my face. The cabbie's reaction, however, startled me. In reflecting back on my first trips to Israel, I remember a very different response. Back then, the taxi drivers used to press me and my friends, "when are you coming to live here?"

Today, ongoing struggles with the Palestinians, the uncertainty of the Arab spring (and subsequent winter), the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran, tensions between the religious and non-religious and a host of other domestic and political problems cloud the clarity with which we once embraced the miracle of the State of Israel. And so goes today's shift in the philosophical discussions between Israel's visitors and its sage taxi drivers.

Our daughter made Aliyah two years ago and entered the Israel Defense Forces where she continues to serve. When she left for her gap year in Israel, the writing was literally "on the wall." Indeed, the day after her departure, I wandered into her empty room and, somewhat wistfully, looked around. There I noted the Israeli and B'nai Akiva flags prominently displayed. On her dresser was a pastoral water coloring of Israel, in the middle of which was written the famous statement of Theodore Herzl, the visionary of the modern State of Israel, "If you will it, it is no dream." Had I never noticed that?

If you ask my daughter why she made Aliyah, her answer will be clarion clear: "Israel is a modern-day miracle. It is where the future of Jewish history will be written." She might even quote the famous opinion of Nachmanides (RamBan) that it is a *mitzvah* to live in Israel even when under foreign rule – how much more so when we have a sovereign Jewish state.

We are of course supportive of our daughter's

choice. What are we supposed to do, tell her that all that stuff we said about our connection to Israel was only in theory? Yet, we are cautious when telling others. We are trying to avoid confronting the question asked by my friend's taxi driver: "Is she crazy?!" Worse yet, we might be asked, "How could you let her do that?!" And so, we openly share the information with our friends and like-minded individuals; others receive a more "round-about" answer.

We recognize how hard life in Israel can be and how much we will miss our daughter. We worry about her life in the IDF and the shifting geo-political scene around her. We also know that with all Israel's problems, Israel is a modern-day miracle filled with opportunities for spirituality, family-oriented lifestyle, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

Is my daughter crazy? No, just idealistic.

Are we crazy? No. We are very proud.

On occasion community members submit opinion pieces that reflect their own views on items of interest to our audience.

Carmel Academy Announces New Partnership with Mechon Hadar

Carmel Academy, a nationally recognized thought leader in day school education, is thrilled to announce a new partnership with Mechon Hadar, the

internationally acclaimed center for Jewish leadership and learning. In the inaugural program of this new partnership, Mechon Hadar co-founder and renowned

scholar, Rabbi Shai Held, will lead a three-part interactive lecture series exploring how Jewish texts can help answer some of life's biggest questions. He will delve into themes such as self-worth, compassion, gratitude, grace and generosity in relation to enhancing our spiritual connections and how

we can help ourselves and our children truly identify and live a good life.

"We are delighted and honored to be in partnership with the Carmel Academy," said Rabbi Ethan Tucker, Rosh Yeshiva at Mechon Hadar. "Both Mechon Hadar and Carmel Academy work daily to strengthen a vision of Torah that transcends denominational boundaries and connects all Jews to their birthright. In the 21st century, we need institutions that put Jewish content and community building at the center of the communal agenda. Carmel is helping to train the next generation of Jews who will lead that charge and make that vision a reality on the ground."

Carmel Academy Announces Its New Partnership with Mechon Hadar and Proudly Presents Our First Event:

A Three-Part, Intellectually Stimulating Interactive Lecture Series Led by Renowned Scholar **Rabbi Shai Held**

How can Jewish texts help us answer some of life's biggest questions? Self worth, compassion, gratitude, grace and generosity are just some of the themes Rabbi Shai Held will delve into as part of this interactive lecture series.



■ **Flipping Self-Worth on its Head: A Revolutionary Jewish Approach to Human Dignity and Value**
December 10, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

■ **The Spiritual Life Begins With Gratitude and Culminates In Generosity**
December 17, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

■ **Compassion and the Heart of Jewish Spirituality**
January 14, 2016, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

All lectures are free of charge and will be held at Carmel Academy, 270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich, CT.

For more information about each of these sessions please visit www.carmelacademy.com/mechonhadar

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Party Planning Showcase

Sunday, January 10, 2016

11:00 am–1:00 pm at Temple Shalom

300 East Putnam Avenue • Greenwich CT 06830
203-869-7191 • www.templesholom.com

Planning a Special Event?

Come meet over 40 local vendors specializing in photography, entertainment, catering, decor and floral arrangements and much more at our **FREE** showcase.



From the Rabbi

☆ *In the Face of Jew-Hatred, Assemble Your Own Assembly* ☆

by Rabbi Yossi Deren, Chabad of Greenwich

Bad News/Good News

The bad news is that the latest flare-up of murderous attacks in Jerusalem has laid bare the motivation of the Arabs in this conflict: pure Jew-hatred.

The good news is that the latest flare-up of murderous attacks in Jerusalem has laid bare the motivation of the Arabs in this conflict: pure Jew-hatred.

It's the oldest hatred in the world and it's unfortunately alive and well. Arabs were stabbing Jews long before we occupied the heartland of our homeland in 1967, long before Israel declared its independence in 1948 and long before England established a mandate for the Jews in Palestine in the 1920's. But the Talmud tells us that "identifying the illness is half the cure." When we're honest about a problem, that this is simply about Jew-hatred, there is hope that we can resolve it.

How to resolve the problem of Jew-hatred and the bloodshed that comes with it? By sucking the oxygen out of their murderous drive and blatantly denying them any glory of success in their vile goals.

Just Be More Jewish

So while we all pray to G-d for the success of our defense forces, for the resolution of this conflict there is a role we all play. Every Mitzvah we proudly stand up and do, is a defiance in the face of our enemy's desire to destroy us:

Wrapping Tefillin...Studying Torah...Eating Kosher...Loving Our Fellow...Lighting Shabbat Candles...Providing our Children with a Jewish Education...Putting a Mezuzah on Every Doorpost...Giving Charity to Those in Need...Beautifying Our Marriage with Mikvah...Stocking Our Homes with Jewish Books...

The Mitzvah of Hakhel

And then there is a Mitzvah that's unique to this specific year on the Jewish calendar. You may be familiar with the Mitzvah of Shemittah, the Sabbatical year that follows six years of agricultural labor in Israel, when we are commanded to let the land lay fallow. This Mitzvah is observed today in the Holy Land that G-d has given to us, as a Sabbath for the Earth when we refrain from agricultural work. What you're probably less familiar with is the "post-Shemittah" Mitzvah called Hakhel – a Mitzvah which fell out of observance since the destruction of the Temple, the place where this Mitzvah was actually observed.

The Rebbe taught us that although this Mitzvah was observed in its literal sense only in the Temple, the spirit behind it is one that can and must still be invoked, for it emphasizes the highest values of our great heritage.

In the very last verses of the Bible (this is Mitzvah #612 of 613), Moses exhorts ALL Jewish people – "the men, the women and even the smallest of children!" – to assemble every seven years as an entire nation, to hear the word of G-d read aloud to the People by the King in the Temple. This was an awe-inspiring assembly of total unity and fear of G-d, through which the People relived the experience of the Giving of the Torah at Sinai. In stressing the integrity of EVERY individual joining these assemblies, the Torah informs us that every individual has the power of assembling others and inspiring them as well.

YOU can gather people in your circles of influence, family, friends, co-workers, for brief moments of inspiration in the course of everyone's week or month. It is guaranteed that those whom you invite will have nothing but words of gratitude for the opportunity to

come together and refresh their souls with the life-enhancing energy of unity and inspiration.

Your Assembly

Assemble your own "Assembly" in 5 simple steps:

1. CHECK your calendar and set a date/time for a "Hakhel – A Gathering of Jewish Inspiration," in your home or workplace.
2. CHOOSE a topic to inspire people. (Ideas: Israel, your favorite Bible story, historical figures, holidays, current Jewish issues).
3. CALL a scholar well-versed in your chosen topic or do some research yourself.
4. ORDER a Kosher lunch, dinner or light fare (from a Kosher establishment you'll find at: www.chabadgreenwich.org/595419 or anything Kosher-certified in the local markets).
5. ASSEMBLE! E-mail or call your target audience (family, friends or co-workers) and...voila! Your Hakhel comes together!

The spirit of this Mitzvah will accomplish exactly what it is meant to – more Jews will be inspired through unity and G-d's great gift called Torah.

Holding fast to these ideals is precisely why against all odds we – the Jewish People – are still here, alive, well and thriving... and why we will without doubt and with the help of G-d, not only endure the current onslaught of Jew-hatred, but also come through it stronger than ever. Amen!

Editor's Note: The rabbis of Greenwich alternate in providing messages for each issue of the Greenwich Jewish News. These comments are those of the Rabbi alone and are not meant to reflect the opinions of UJA Greenwich.

Why
We Support
UJA Greenwich

"We support the UJA Federation because of what it has done and continues to do to help Jewish lives all over the world."

–Yael and Josh Rosen and their children, Eitan, Eli, Asher and Ayla



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Carmel Academy Act of Kindness Honored by Japanese Visitors

It truly is a small world after all. At least that is what it felt like at Carmel Academy when a group of students from the Fukushima region of Japan visited with members of the Greenwich school's Student Council to present them with a special thank you card. Acts of *chesed*, big or small, are an integral part of a Carmel Academy education. One of those acts of kindness was honored by the visiting Japanese students in recognition of Carmel Academy's response to the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

Five years ago, immediately following this disaster in Japan, Carmel Academy's



Carmel Academy Student Council Co-Presidents meet with students from the Fukushima region of Japan to receive a thank you card for Carmel Academy's response to the Japanese earthquake and tsunami five years ago.

students and staff bonded together and folded 1,000 origami cranes to give to the Greenwich Japanese School, which leases space on Carmel Academy's Greenwich 17-acre campus. The cranes, as per the Japanese tradition, symbolized Carmel's wishes for a swift and smooth recovery. The effort was spearheaded by alumnus, Michael Adler, who knew how to create origami and shared that skill with the school community. Carmel also raised and donated \$6,000 to relief efforts.

In planning their trip to the U.S., the students from Fukushima wanted to acknowledge Carmel Academy's generosity and the healing spirit sent their way via the cranes. Three of Carmel's Student Council 8th-grade co-presidents met with the Japanese visitors and graciously accepted a beautiful handmade card that included short thank you notes written in English as well as several origami cranes. "It was a wonderful lesson for our students to see how one never knows how an act of kindness truly impacts others," said Erica Sokoloff, Carmel's Director of Jewish Life, who accompanied the Carmel Academy students to meet with their Japanese peers.

Temple Sholom Teens Continue Thanksgiving *Tzedakah* Tradition

Turkey, mashed potatoes and green beans are just a few of the holiday favorites that will be prepped, cooked and packaged at Temple Sholom on Tuesday, November 24 at 6:30 pm. More than 30 teens in grades 8 through 12 are expected to participate in this annual volunteer program, which will provide more than 100 meals to low-income senior residents at McKinney Terrace. "Our teens will break up into groups and work together at specific stations set up around the kitchen," said Temple Sholom Youth Director and Rabbinic Intern Yoni Nadiv. "One group is peeling potatoes while one is chopping vegetables. Another is mixing the batter for cornbread or cutting and washing the green beans."

This event, which has become a yearly tradition at Temple Sholom, serves as an example of *tzedakah* and teaches the importance of justice and fairness toward those less fortunate

in a hands-on approach. Once the meals have been prepared, the teens will form an assembly line to fill the containers. The following day, volunteers will drive the food to McKinney Terrace to be distributed.

Over the next few months, Temple Sholom's teen program will continue its work within the community, particularly through BBYO, a Jewish youth movement that engages teens regardless of synagogue affiliation in fun and meaningful experiences. "We will be doing food drives throughout the year and hosting a Project Ezra Senior Luncheon," said Nadiv. "BBYO will also identify a stand-up cause for each chapter, which serves as their outreach project for the year."

If you are interested in learning more about BBYO, or are in need of community service hours, please contact Yoni Nadiv at yoni.nadiv@templesholom.com.

THE WILDLY POPULAR
CIRCUS OF THE KIDS
 IS BACK SUMMER 2016

LIMITED SPOTS





THIS PROGRAM OFFERS A ONE-ON-ONE TRAINING WITH CIRCUS PROFESSIONALS TO TEACH CAMPER THE ARTS OF TRICK ROLLER SKATING, TRAPEZE, FIRE-EATING, SPANISH WEB AND OTHER CIRCUS ROUTINES. THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES ARE CAPPED BY A CIRCUS PERFORMANCE COMPLETE WITH COSTUMES AND RINGMASTER.

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Students at Jewish High School of Connecticut Benefit from Internship Opportunities

The President, The Donald and The Pope all have one thing in common: Jewish High School of Connecticut's (JHSC) Sophomore Natalie Shlover has sung for all three of them. Natalie is part of The Young People's Chorus of New York City. The chorus is a collection of the finest young singers in the region. They perform at numerous events and occasions, the most recent one being the Pope's visit to the 9/11 Memorial in New York City.

The Weitzmann Institute, Yale Discovery for a Cure, Brandeis Summer Institute, Cytec, Young People's Chorus of New York City, AIPAC, and Tanglewood Summer Institute are just some examples of internships JHSC students participated in this summer. "We encourage our students to develop the full measure of their potential – and the way we do that is to encourage every student to discover and deeply explore his or her interests," said Rabbi Elisha Paul, Head of School.



JHSC Sophomore Natalie Shlover, performing with The Young People's Chorus of New York City.

Inspiration Strikes for Bi-Cultural "Makers"

For students who thrive on learning by doing, the opening of a "Makerspace" lab at Bi-Cultural Day School is an exciting milestone for the school and the community. Makerspace is a forum for hands-on invention and creation; melding DIY (do-it-yourself) methods with modern technology. The teaching format combines STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math), with hands-on building and discovery. Makerspace at BCDS is the inspired creation of third-grade teacher Beth Fritz and middle-school teacher Adrienne Robinson, who promise that parents can expect their children to bring home Makerspace projects ranging from crafts to circuitry and from woodworking to wearable technology.

"The Makerspace Movement encourages student exploration, collaboration and forward thinking. Students will be able to fine-tune their problem-solving skills in an environment where there are no limits to their creativity. Each session asks students to question the world around them. These students are going to be the artists and engineers of the future," said Robinson.

Students will be able to take classes in robotics, coding, fashion technology, knitting and circuitry during Bi-Cultural's Lunch and Learn period, with projects designed according to grade, curricular units and the students' own interests, explained Robinson. "We have assembled a Makerspace team of teachers who are excited to participate in this groundbreaking program. Also, several of our parents have approached us, eager to help by donating their talents for our projects." The first Makerspace project will be the upper

school students planning, creating and building the actual worktables for the lab.

"The space itself was renovated with a little old-fashioned elbow grease and a few late nights with a paintbrush in hand," explained Robinson. "When we announced the launch of this Makerspace initiative, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our parent body. Within the first 24 hours, one family donated the funds for us to purchase our 3D printer. Donations continue to come in through Home Depot gift cards, cash, web allocation and even tools." Currently, Bi-Cultural is one of only two Jewish day schools with this type of lab.



Teacher Beth Fritz paints the walls for retooled space for the newly-created Makerspace lab at Bi-Cultural. (Photo by Adrienne Robinson)

Youth Programs at



Greenwich Reform Synagogue

Holiday Happenings and More!

Fun and enriching drop-off program for kids ages 3-4, Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:30 twice monthly.

Shabbat Yeladim

Services for kids ages 2-6, with songs, crafts, and snacks on Friday nights, once a month.

Generation J: Exploring Judaism Together

Active, flexible learning environment teaches Jewish values and builds community, Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:30, for kids age 5-14. Plus weekly, flexible, one-on-one Hebrew tutoring, monthly junior youth group and family education programs.

Programs for Teens

Monthly Confirmation Academy; GRSTY Youth Group for grades 8-12; *Madrachim* class volunteers and leadership training for grades 8-12.

For more information and to register, go to www.grs.org or call 203-629-0018.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS



Carmel Academy

Inspirational Adult Lecture Series with Rabbi Shai Held
Thursdays, Dec. 10, 17 and Jan. 14, 2016; 270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich; 7:30-9pm

Chabad of Greenwich

Early Morning Torah Study

Monday-Friday, 6:30-7am

Sunday Morning Torah Study

9:30am-10:30am

Email RabbiFeldman@ChabadGreenwich.org for info.

Parsha with Classic Commentaries

Thursday, 9:45am-10:45am

Chassidic Philosophy Class

Shabbat, 8:45am-9:30am

Fairfield University Carl & Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies

Jacoby-Lunin Humanitarian Lecture:

“Donors Choose: Expanding the Possibilities of Education,”

Charles Best, Founder & CEO, DonorsChoose.org

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 8pm; Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts, *Tickets: \$45

Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Lecture in Judaic Studies:

“Germans Who Stood Up to Hitler: The Resistance Movements of Nazi Germany”

Anne Nelson, author, former war correspondent, adjunct faculty at Columbia University School of International & Public Affairs

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7:30pm; Dolan School of Business Dining Room

Please call the Bennett Center to reserve your seats at (203) 254-4000, ext. 2066 or email bennettcenter@fairfield.edu.

Greenwich Reform Synagogue

New! Crash Course in Hebrew Reading

Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm with Rabbi Andrew R. Sklarz.

Intro to Judaism

Sundays 9:30am with Rabbi Andrew R. Sklarz

Jews in the News

Sundays at 10:30am with Rabbi Robert Rothman

To register for these free classes, call 203-629-0018 or email info@grs.org

JCC Cinema

Davis Film Festival

Bow Tie Cinema, 2 Railroad Ave, Greenwich

Like Brothers

Wednesday, November 18, 7pm, \$15

Fauda—See article on page 5

Wednesday, December 16, 7pm, \$15

Felix and Meira

Wednesday, January 13, 7pm, \$15

JCC Greenwich

Living with Courage, Spirit and Gratitude after Breast Cancer

with GERALYN LUCAS

Feb. 3, 10am, Vince, 161 Greenwich Ave.

Shir Ami

Boomers and Beyond, Sacred Aging

Monthly conversations with Rabbi Vicki L. Axe and Friends

Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 2, March 30, May 4, June 1

Temple Shalom

Shabbat Study

with Temple Shalom Clergy, Saturdays, 9-10am

Lunch & Learn

Tuesdays, 12-1pm. Kosher lunch provided

Jewish Meditation

Wednesday, Nov. 18; Tuesday, Dec. 1 & 15 and Jan. 5 & 19, 7:15pm-8:30pm

Contact Cantor Asa Fradkin at cantorasa@templesholom.com

Adult Learning with Rabbi Mitch

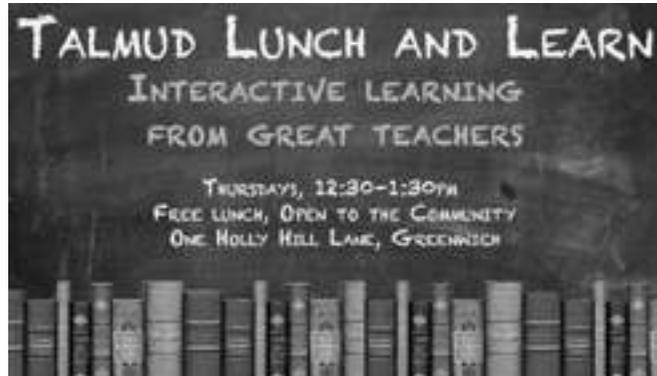
Sunday, Nov. 22 and Dec. 13, 9:15am-10:15am

Sunday, Jan. 31, 10:15am-11:15am

Are you considering taking a class or attending a lecture this Fall or Winter?

Look no further!

Here is a list of what’s going on right here in the Greater Greenwich Jewish Community.



Sponsored by Rita Edelston

- November 19..... Rabbi David Schuck
- November 26..... Thanksgiving
- December 3..... Dr. Mark Weisstuch
- December 10..... Rabbi Adam Mintz
- December 17..... Rabbi Jack Bemporad
- December 24..... Rabbi Simcha Berger
- January 7, 2016..... Rabbi Greg Wall
- January 14..... Rabbi Eric Hoffman
- January 21..... Rabbi Yaffa Epstein

Prayer: An Act of Subversion and Creation

With Rabbi David Schuck

Thursday, November 19

Peer deep into the soul of a blessing, with senior rabbi of Beth El Synagogue Center in New Rochelle.



November 26: Thanksgiving - No Class



Thursday, December 3

Trace the holiday's evolution, from the rededication and purification of the Temple as a celebration of military triumph to the rabbinic introduction of the miraculous dimension to the modern incorporation of the themes of Zoltan - nationalism, liberation and freedom.

With Dr. Mark Weisstuch

How Has the Meaning of Hanukkah Changed Over Time?

Thursday, December 10

Over latkes and applesauce, deepen your acquaintance with the heroine who inspired the military victory that drove out the Syrian-Greek army and restored Jewish temple worship.



With Rabbi Adam Mintz

Judith and the Hanukkah Story

Jesus as Teacher of Judaism

With Rabbi Jack Bemporad

Thursday, December 17

What are the Jewish inspirations for the Gospel of Jesus?



Check JCC calendar for updated schedule



Educate
Stimulate
Motivate

A Focus on JCC Teens

Help bake and sell baked goods for a good cause.
\$18 per participant

Baking:
Monday, November 30, 6 - 8 pm
One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich

Selling:
Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Greenwich Library, 101 W. Putnam Ave



Baking Goods For Good



Hanukkah Helpers

Sunday, December 13, 2:30 - 5:30 pm
Carmel Academy, Lower School Gym
270 Lake Ave, Greenwich

Volunteer to help kids in our community enjoy a festive Hanukkah party with activities, community service project and snacks for kids.

For Middle and High School Students

For more information about JCC Teen Action Committee Meetings and Events, visit JCCGreenwich.org/TAC or call Leah Schechter at 203-552-1818.

JCC TEEN ACTION COMMITTEE

Teens Doing Good Together

Teen-led Activities & Community Service Projects

Every other Sunday 5:30—7pm

For Middle & High School Students

\$5 per meeting for dinner / pay in advance \$50/year

Winter Meeting Dates

12/6/2015 12/20/2015 1/10/2016

1/24/2016: Special time 2:30—5:30pm at Big Day Out (see jccgreenwich.org for details)

2/21/2016



On Sunday, October 4th, 16 JTAC Teens and Parents served breakfast to about 50 homeless men and women in NYC through the MidnightRun Organization. A huge thank you to Dunkin Donuts at 271 W. Putnam Ave. for donating all the coffee and bagels that were served.

FILM



FESTIVAL

Bow-Tie Criterion Cinemas at Greenwich Plaza, 2 Railroad Avenue | 7 pm • \$15, or \$118 for all 10 films



Like Brothers

(Comme des frères)
Hugo Gélin / Drama, Comedy, Adventure / France / 104 min.
A box-office sensation in France, this comedy follows a trio of mismatched Frenchmen as they try to honor the dying wishes of the woman they all love. A successful entrepreneur in his forties, a cynical screenwriter in his thirties, and a young man on the cusp of adulthood still living with his parents, reeling with grief after her funeral, embark on a spontaneous trip together to a summer cabin in Corsica—a trip she originally planned for all of them—that becomes a journey of both tribute and discovery.

NOVEMBER 18

Faada

(Chaos)
Assaf Bernstein / TV Drama, Israel / 40 min. per episode

The latest TV sensation from Israel gives an unprecedented look at a special IDF unit, IDF combat soldiers disguised as Arabs. Episode I & II.

"More than a television event... 'Faada' is also a political event."
—Yediot Achronot



DECEMBER 16



JCC will be traveling to New Orleans for a spring visit to this exciting city! We will learn about Southern Jewish history and have an insider's look at the vibrant Jewish community living there today. Our action-packed agenda will include tours of all New Orleans' most famous sights, plus lunch with a well known Jewish historian at the beautiful new Tulane Hillel, and a jazz dinner!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to savor the sights, sounds, and great tastes of New Orleans!

For more information or to register, contact Pam Ehrenkranz, pam@ujafedgreenwich.org.

Joan Mann and Risë Mattler

Mission Co-Chairs



Women, Wine and Wisdom Event *Featuring Author Robin Berman, MD on October 15* *Hosted by Stephanie & Marc Esquenazi*



Ambassador Michael Oren and Ambassador Dennis Ross *Recently Addressed Sold-Out Crowds on the Iran Deal and* *U.S./Israel Relations*

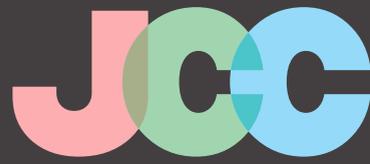


UJA Women's Philanthropy Fall Brunch 2015 *Honoring Suzanne Shemin Katz with Guest Speaker Rabbi Sherre Hirsch*



Photos by Asher Serge Photography

WINTER 2015



GREENWICH

Youth

Educate
Stimulate
Motivate



Sunday, January 24, 3 - 5 pm
@ Fenom Fitness, 67 Grant Ave, Harrison, NY

Games • Activities • Raffles • PJ Library Story Corner •
Community Service Project • Fun For Everyone!



Save the Date for Family Fun!

BIG DAY OUT 2016

Our Tots and Kids at Sunday Fundays!

PJ Library
Sunday FUNDAY
Tots! (18 months to Preschool)

Tots play and learn with pre-school educators. Moms and dads drink coffee and schmooze. Get connected with PJ Library and Jewish Greenwich! Baby siblings welcome!

Sundays 3:45 - 5 pm
Activity begins at 4 pm
75 Holly Hill Lane

In partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation



Crafty Critters

Sunday, January 10
With The New Children's Museum. Visit with some Wildlife Sanctuary critters and find out about where they live and what they eat.



Little Yogis

Sunday, March 6
Come play yoga with Karma Kids Yoga of NYC. Weave stories with our bodies, minds and souls as we become animals, trees, flowers and warriors - and honor the ways children learn.

PJ Library
Sunday FUNDAY
KIDS! (Grades K-2)

Sundays 3:45 - 5 pm
One Holly Hill Lane

\$15 per session before 9/20
\$20 per session
\$105 for all seven sessions



Garden Science Adventure

Sunday, January 10
Go on this Garden Science Adventure with fear! The New Children's Museum returns with a garden adventure story and helps us discover flowers and plants to see what's happening inside. Sponsored by The Magaziner Family in honor of Nise.



Purim Hamantaschen Making

Sunday, March 6
What's your favorite filling for these traditional triangle cookies? Try both the traditional and unusual fillings!



Sunday, February 21, 2 - 3 pm & 4 - 5 pm

For children and families—A gift to the community
Greenwich Arts Council Meeting Room
299 Greenwich Avenue, 2nd Floor

Sruli and Lisa have been featured on PBS and NPR, and the Family Band has headlined at world festivals from Krakow to Toronto in addition to playing at Citifield for the NY Mets. Their mix of traditional music, song, dance and *mischegas* (Yiddish for "fun") will have you clapping, singing and dancing in the aisles.

JCC Greenwich and Curiosity Concerts Present:

Sruli and Lisa's Family Band Klezmer Concert!

Carmel Academy Students Tap into Their Inner Genius School Launches Innovative Genius Hour Program

Once a week, Carmel Academy fifth-grader Sophie Citron puts aside her math, science and Hebrew learning to explore what it takes to publish a book. Classmate Annie Mozer does the same, as she delves into research about the Medieval period and why people wore such strange clothing in the Middle Ages. Sophie and Annie, along with their classmates, are taking an hour each week from traditional classroom learning to explore their own passion and creativity as part of a new Carmel Academy program called Genius Hour.

“Genius Hour has a variety of roots but it is largely based on a concept started by Google,” said Dr. Cindy Mann, Carmel

Academy’s Director of General Studies Curriculum & Professional Development. Google allows its developers to spend 20 percent of their time working on projects that interest them. The philosophy of allowing people to pursue their passions has been extremely successful, with both G-mail and Google News.

The same principles apply at Carmel. Students from 4th through 8th grade have a set amount of time to immerse themselves in projects as they explore their personal interests, choose a topic and craft a driving question that will guide their inquiries. While students gain a tremendous sense of autonomy, the teachers help facilitate the projects

to make sure the students stay focused. The final result is a project that can be shared with classmates and even the world.

For 5th grader Elie Madof, that means exploring a topic he is extremely passionate about, yet doesn’t necessarily fit into the parameters of the daily academic curriculum – sports. After working with his teacher to focus his interest, Elie’s driving question is to figure out why taller professional basketball players miss more free throws than their shorter counterparts. Who knows, perhaps his findings could be useful for the NBA? It’s been a terrific experience for the students,” said 5th grade teacher Toby Ring, adding that student topics range from technology and

culture to art and sports. “Because they are so interested in the topics, they are not likely to just settle for the first answer they find. It really empowers them to be an expert about something.”

For Annie, who is researching the purpose and design of Medieval clothing, she is excited to become the resident expert about her topic. “I probably still will not know everything about it, but I will know a lot about it,” she said, adding that she is currently deciding how she plans to share her research and findings with her classmates. Sophie says she plans on sharing her research on book publishing by writing a book and creating a business plan to market it – something she says she is very enthusiastic about, given her passion for reading.



Carmel Academy 5th graders Elie Madof, Sophie Citron and Annie Mozer point to the topics they are delving into as part of a new program at the school called Genius Hour. Once a week, students from 4th-8th grade take an hour from traditional classroom learning to explore their own passions and creativity — a philosophy based on a successful initiative at the search engine giant Google.

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A Reform Congregation in Downtown Greenwich
Rabbi Vicki L. Axe, Spiritual Leader and Educational Director

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 www.jfsgreenwich.org

Mission

The Jewish Health and Healing Center of JFS of Greenwich was created to offer support, counseling, and education to members of the community who face physical, emotional, or spiritual challenges. Looking through the lens of Jewish wisdom and tradition, the Center offers a variety of services and programs to reduce isolation and promote a sense of connectedness. Some services will sustain those facing bereavement, loss, or illness; others will promote activities and kinship for people seeking to strengthen and enrich their lives; still others will extend comfort and healing to those in need.

Services

- **Bikkur Cholim** – Trained volunteers provide emotional support and spiritual connection to those in the Jewish community experiencing life challenges in hospitals, senior facilities, and at home.
- **Bereavement Services** – Support group services co-facilitated with a member of the Greenwich Clergy; individual bereavement counseling.
- **Shabbat, High Holy Day, and Festival Services** – Jewish Holiday programming for Greenwich area seniors who reside in facilities and would not otherwise be able to participate in the rituals and traditions.
- **Spiritual Support Groups** – Groups offered in partnership with the Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department. Those seeking wholeness, comfort, and connection, as well as those in need of personal growth and healing, will find strength and support through these services.
- **Collaboration with Area Synagogues** – Support, volunteer training, and programs to address needs identified by area Rabbis and Jewish institutions.
- **Better Together Book Club: A Monthly Intergenerational Experience** – A unique program, offered in partnership with Carmel Academy, gives participants a chance to get to know a different generation; for adults to look at books, concepts, and historical events through the eyes of the Jewish youth of today, who are in turn getting to know the generation that came before them.
- **Collaboration with Area Schools** – We partner with Carmel Academy and Gan Chabad to bring their children to area senior facilities to experience Shabbat with song, challah, and celebration.

SPECIAL DONATIONS to JFS

For Bar/Bat Mitzvah “Bima Baskets”:

In Honor of:

Suzanne Katz, by Lee Katz

In Memory of:

Sylvia Tunick, by Susan and Jerome Davis

Ruth Albert, by Susan and Jerome Davis

Ruth Albert, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone special in your life or community, you may do so by making a donation to Jewish Family Services and we will send a note of acknowledgement to the person or family involved, informing them of your generosity in their honor/memory. If you wish, you may request that your donation be used to benefit a specific JFS program, e.g. our “Counseling Services & Support Groups,” our “Supermarketing for Seniors” program, our Refugee Resettlement program, our College Scholarship Fund, etc. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will help make it possible for us to continue to provide the highest quality programs, resources, and services to all who come to us for assistance.

Update from the Online Support Group Project

By Naomi Kobl, LMSW, Project Manager

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich is proud to be one of the first social services agencies in the U.S. to widen its therapeutic reach via its pioneering **Online Support Group Project (OSGP)**. The online groups are run by experienced, licensed social workers and offer the same supportive group dynamic as do in-person sessions. Online video support groups are terrific for people who cannot easily leave their house due to caregiving responsibilities, as well as for those who are chronically ill. Our groups make it possible for people in similar situations to create a caring community right from their own home.

This fall has been busy! We have been working hard to widen the reach of this wonderful resource by partnering with outside organizations. Our partnership with the ALS Association of CT has been successful, and they are already on their fifth round of groups offered to their members. Many other partnerships are in the works including a group for Children of Holocaust Survivors, and groups for seniors – some of whom may be homebound.

The **OSGP** provides vital emotional support without sacrificing much-needed energy and travel

time. Groups are available to those of any religious background, and sliding scale fees are also available. The services are provided via secure, state-of-the-art live video conferencing technology. Anyone with a computer and Internet access can join an online support group.

Presently we are running online support group programming for those with chronic illness and for



This is what an OSGP session looks like.

caregivers. If you know of anyone who could benefit from one of these support groups, please have them contact Naomi at nkohl@jfsgreenwich.org or check out our website, www.jfsgreenwich.org.

Supermarketing for Seniors Celebrates Grandparents Day

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich's Second Annual **Supermarketing for Seniors Celebrates Grandparents** event held on Sunday, September 20th was a huge success. The event was conducted in partnership with neighborhood supermarkets, including A&P, Kings, Stop & Shop, and Balducci's, as well as with the Senior Center of Greenwich, JFS Board members, members of the Greenwich High School Generation to Generation Club, the JCC Teen Action Committee, and shoppers from the **Supermarketing for Seniors** program. Volunteers were stationed across the community raising awareness and funding for the non-discriminatory Supermarketing for Seniors program. A highlight of the day was when Elyse Brown, SFS Program Director, presented the first **Supermarketing for Seniors** Shopper of the Year Award, to Chris Bisceglia, of Port Chester. The award was based on client nominations and recognizes the best example of a shopper who makes his or her clients feel safe, cared for, and connected.

Supermarketing for Seniors has served our elderly neighbors of Greenwich since 1986, and currently provides free grocery shopping and case monitoring services to 180 seniors throughout the year. The program was designed to meet the physical, emotional, and social needs of housebound Greenwich citizens 60 years of age or older. Although there are no income requirements to participate in our program, 90% of the seniors for whom we shop are considered low income by Community Development Block Grant guidelines, and many do not have other support systems in their lives for visiting and monitoring on a regular basis. Over the course of a year, JFS hears the following repeatedly, “*I don't know what I would do without Supermarketing for Seniors; you are so important for my life.*”

For more information about **Supermarketing for Seniors**, please contact Elyse Brown, SFS Program Director, at 203-622-1881 or ebrown@jfsgreenwich.org. You can also visit our website at jfsgreenwich.org/services/supermarketing-for-seniors/



Left to right, Shopper of the Year award winner Chris Bisceglia, with SFS Program Director Elyse Brown, JFS of Greenwich Executive Director Lisa-Lorraine Smith, and SFS shoppers Maria Roman and Odette Mouakad.



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH

Fall/Winter Programming

PARTNERING WITH YOUR PARENTS THROUGH THE AGING PROCESS (FREE)

Learn about the emotional, legal, and financial aspects to protecting your parents (and yourselves) through the aging process. Our panelists include: David Slepian, Board President, CT Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; Roni Lang, LCSW, Greenwich Hospital Center for Healthy Aging; Richard E. Norman III, Financial Representative, The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. See JFS website for details and to register. *Tuesday, November 10, 7 pm*

BETTER TOGETHER BOOK CLUB:

A MONTHLY INTERGENERATIONAL EXPERIENCE

This unique initiative spearheaded by Carmel Academy, and in partnership with JFS of Greenwich, offers participants a chance to get to know a different generation—for adults to look at books, concepts, and historical events through the eyes of today's Jewish youth, while the youth get to know the generation that came before them. To join, contact Lisa Goldberg at JFS. See our website for details. *Wednesdays, 11/18; 12/16; 1/20; 2/24; 3/16; 4/13; 5/8; 6/15. 10:30-11:30 am*

BOOK BEAT: A WOMAN'S NIGHT OUT

A thought-provoking book club with themes relevant to Jewish women of all ages. Facilitated by Judi Margolin; meets at JFS. 12/2; 1/27; 3/2; 4/6; 6/1. Our next book is *The Boston Girl*, by Anita Diamant. *Dec. 2, 7:30 pm*

GREENWICH HOSPITAL SHABBAT

Every Friday, JFS leads a Shabbat Service in partnership with the Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, at 1:00 pm in the hospital's Chapel. The service is broadcast LIVE on Channel 6 in all patient rooms. *Joan Mann, Spiritual Care Counselor at JFS; Lisa-Lorraine Smith, Executive Director of JFS; and Rabbi MJ Newman, Jewish Chaplain of Greenwich Hospital, lead the service.*

INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS

This series meets on Monday evenings and gives people a way to explore the opportunities and challenges associated with interfaith living. *11/30; 2/29; 4/18; 6/6. Meets at 7 pm in a private home.*

RENEWAL OF BODY, RENEWAL OF SPIRIT

JFS, in partnership with the Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, conducts a Healing Service for the community in the hospital's Chapel. *Joan Mann, Spiritual Care Counselor at JFS; Lisa Goldberg, Program Director Jewish Health and Healing Center of JFS; and Rabbi MJ Newman, Jewish Chaplain of Greenwich Hospital, lead the service. Mondays, 11/16; 12/21. 12-12:45 pm*

Volunteer Opportunities

Bikkur Cholim/Friendly Visitors/Grocery Shopper

Do a mitzvah! Get involved! JFS urges you to make a difference in the life of a Greenwich senior. Volunteers are needed to visit and/or grocery shop for home-bound and nursing home residents. The time commitment can be as little as one hour per week. The rewards are immeasurable!

B'nai Mitzvah Resource Center

This unique program provides young people with a carefully selected list of bar/bat mitzvah volunteer ideas and arranges one-on-one meetings with program participants and their parents to design and implement projects that cater to the child's individual interests and personal goals. No charge.

For current & upcoming programs, please call 203-622-1881 or visit www.JFSGreenwich.org for more information.

Fall/Winter Counseling and Support Groups

Bereavement Support Group (JFS office)

For those who have lost a family member or friend within the past five years. Facilitated by Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW, and by a member of the Greenwich Jewish Clergy. *Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am*

NEW!

Support Group for Separating and Divorcing Individuals (JFS office)

For adults whose lives are impacted by divorce. Facilitated by Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45 pm*

After-the-Divorce Support Group (JFS office)

Now that the practical details of separating are complete, there is emotional work to do. It is time to develop a new identity and a new beginning. This group will provide a confidential space to reflect on the life you are living and the life you would like to live. It will be an opportunity to grow, develop, and learn from others! Facilitated by Linda Schlapfer, LMFT. *Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45 pm*

Living Well in Later Life (JFS office)

For individuals 70+ to talk with peers about the opportunities and challenges this stage of life presents. Topics covered will include how to: maintain and manage health, manage independence with family members including adult children, continue to be involved in meaningful activity, and cope with mourning and loss. Facilitated by Lisa Mounts, LCSW. *Thursdays, 2:30-3:45 pm*

Reversal of Fortune Support Group (JFS office)

Financial challenges bring with them stressors that can affect everything in your life – your relationships, your self-esteem, your outlook, and even your marriage. In these tough economic times, you are not alone. Come and share your thoughts; get some ideas, tips, and strategies to cope with the practical as well as the emotional issues associated with reversals of fortune. Facilitated by Mary Karlan, LCSW. *Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm – NO CHARGE*

Support Group for Those Who Are Chronically Ill (ONLINE)

Today, chronic illness affects nearly half of the adult population, according to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Connect with others to reduce your isolation, and bond with people who really understand what you are going through. Learn strategies and tips for coping and make new friends at the same time. Facilitated by Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 4-5 pm*

NEW! Fractured Families, Healing Hearts

As the holidays approach, this group allows participants an opportunity to talk about strained family relationships – whether it is with a parent, a sibling, a grandparent, a son, or a daughter. These relationships, when stressed or tense, are painful to endure because family means so much to us. If you cut the ties, or someone in your family has cut you off – this group will help you explore your issues of grief, anger, regret, and forgiveness in a safe environment, with other people who understand. Facilitated by Randye Zerman, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 11 am-12 pm*

Caregiver Support Group (ONLINE)

Caring for a loved one can be rewarding, challenging, and often, emotionally draining. This group will address all issues in a non-judgmental environment and discuss the opportunities and challenges of caring for a loved one. Facilitated by Jan Mittleman, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 10-11 am*

NEW! Midrash: Retelling Your Story, Reframing Your Life

In this group we will study the great characters from the Torah in order to understand the skills the Rabbis used to reframe and interpret their stories. Through learning this ancient and deeply Jewish skill, we can make our own lives and all that has happened to us and our families, more meaningful, clearer, and more joyous. Facilitated by MJ Newman, Rabbi, Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, and Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW. *Four Fridays, beginning 11/13, 12-1 pm in the Greenwich Hospital Chapel.*

For more information, please call Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW, at 203-622-1881 or email llsmith@jfsgreenwich.org

All you need for our ONLINE groups is a computer, smart phone, or tablet with WiFi access.

Hebrew Wizards Rocking Ruach Weekends *Join Us for Our* **Rocking Share Shabbats & Sundays at Wizards**

Nov. 21 & 22	Doni & Eric
Dec. 4 & 6	Mikey Pauker
Jan. 6 & 8	Billy Jonas
Jan. 24	Peninnah Schram
March 4 & 6	Naomi Less
April 1 & 3	Ellen Allard
May 13 & 15	Doni & Eric



Check Us Out Online www.Hebrewwizards.com

Jewish High School of Connecticut Guides Its Students According to Their Unique Interests



Dan Haron and Kamal Haron joined JHSC and Rabbi Elisha Paul for the school's L'Chaim which took place at the end of the summer at JHSC.

"The summer is an ideal time to take these explorations to the next level and many of our students did fascinating internships this summer," said Guidance Counselor Elizabeth Lustbader. "As part of our guidance program, we help our students find summer programs or opportunities that enable the student to attain hands on experience. This is part of encouraging students to delve deeper into their areas of passion, talent and interest."

Adult Education at



Greenwich Reform Synagogue

Thursday Evenings

Hebrew Reading Crash Course, 7:30 PM

Learn to read Hebrew quickly and easily through the Hebrew Reading Crash Course, taught by Rabbi Sklarz.

Saturday Mornings

Torah Study, 9:00 AM

Explore the weekly Torah portion with Rabbi Sklarz in a welcoming, informal atmosphere.

Sunday Mornings

Introduction to Judaism, 9:30 AM

Rabbi Sklarz and guest facilitators explore Judaism from ancient to the modern times, through film and discussion.

Jews in the News, 10:30 AM

Join Rabbi Robert Rothman for lively, topical discussions.

Jewish Yoga, 9:45 AM

Deepen your Jewish spirituality through the practice of Yoga.

For class dates and locations visit www.grs.org or call 203-629-0018.

Boomers and Beyond, Sacred Aging – Monthly Conversations for the Third Act of Life

Congregation Shir Ami of Greenwich, CT is offering monthly conversations for Boomers and Beyond to discuss "sacred aging," while facing the reality of our own mortality. "How we view our mortality," notes Rabbi Vicki L. Axe, "impacts the way we live our lives. Human existence has a beginning and an end, and I believe that if we can accept the raw truth that life as we know it is finite, that, at the appointed time, we will die, then we can live more fully." Rabbi Axe will facilitate all conversations with speakers invited

to share their wisdom and expertise on a variety of topics that impact the "third act" of life.

Rabbi Richard F. Address, who will speak on December 2, is the Founder and Director of www.jewishsacredaging.com. This project on Sacred Aging has been responsible for creating awareness and resources on the implication of the longevity revolution with emphasis on the aging of the baby boom generation and its impact on all aspects of Jewish communal and congregational life.



Boomers and Beyond Sacred Aging
Monthly Conversations for the Third Act of Life
with Rabbi Vicki L. Axe and friends
Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00pm
at Rabbi Axe's Home 151 Guinea Road in Stamford
October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6
February 3, March 2, March 30, May 4, June 1

Rabbi Richard F. Address founder Jewish Sacred Aging
Nancy Collamer second act career coach
Jeff Graham founder Transplant Support Organization
Todd Marschall financial advisor

To learn more • www.congregationshirami.org • 203-274-5376

Carmel Academy 9/11 Commemoration in UJA Memorial Garden



Students at Carmel Academy commemorate 9/11 at the Garden.



Placing a stone on a steel beam at the 9/11 Memorial Garden, which Andrew Nitkin (shown here with his mother Helen) helped create as his Eagle Scout project.

Bi-Cultural Welcomes New Israeli Emissaries

Bi-Cultural Day School recently welcomed Chaim and Lior Helman as the newest *Sblichim*, unique emissaries dedicated to promoting Jewish life and helping the community make deep and personal connections



Lior and Chaim Helman
(Photo by Joanne Karow)

to Israel. Chaim, originally from the northern coastal city of Nahariya, and Lior, from Ma'alot near the Lebanese border, both

have extensive experience in education and service. Lior, 28, performed two years of Israel National Service teaching in a Midrasha (learning institute for women). Chaim served as a sergeant in the Golani Brigade as part of the Yeshivat Hesder (Israeli yeshiva program which combines Talmudic studies with military service in the Israel Defense Forces). He has taught computer science, math and Judaic studies.

Originally placed in a Jewish day school in Springfield, Mass., where they taught for two years, Chaim and Lior then decided to seek a school located in a larger Jewish community. Lior said, "We found out about the

opening at BCDS and decided that it was a great fit for us." At Bi-Cultural, Chaim is teaching middle school Judaic Studies and Lior is teaching fourth-grade Judaic Studies. They both hope to help students connect with Israel in a personal and spiritual way, and focus on teaching Hebrew language skills, holidays and Jewish core values. "We want to teach Jewish history and explain about real life in Israel today. Israel has a strong tradition and we also have a future," said Chaim.

Joining the Helmans are two, newly-appointed *B'not Sherut* (young women in the service) fulfilling their Israel National Service at the school this year.

Noam Bloch, 18, grew up in Kfar Tapuach in Northern Israel. She served her first year of Israel National Service at Garin Katzrin



Noam Bloch and Lior Shimon
(Photo by Dora Salm)

and the Centre for Jewish Identity, where she taught Judaism and Israeli culture. Lior Shimon, 19,

grew up in Petach Tikvah, close to Tel Aviv. She served her first year of Israel National Service at Kfar Hasidim Religious Youth Village with at-risk children, serving as a mentor and planning social and cultural programs. Lior also guided teens in a B'nai Akiva youth chapter.

"We are fortunate to have such a talented group of faculty members joining us directly from Israel," said Rabbi David Israel, Bi-Cultural's Rabbinic Dean. "They have many exciting programs planned this year, and what they bring to the school is beyond measure."

Fridays
6:00-6:45pm

November 6

December 4

January 8

February 5

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

TORAH TOTS

at Shir Ami

Congregation Shir Ami
Shabbat Songs and Stories
with Rabbi Axe

To learn more ★ www.congregationshirami.org ★ 203.274.5376

JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE

REKINDLE
THE ROMANCE

EVEN AFTER HAVING CHILDREN,
BEING BUSY WITH JOBS, AND
THE DISTRACTIONS OF
DAY-TO-DAY LIFE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14 - 7:00PM

WITH RIVKAH SLONIM
TEACHER, LECTURER,
ACTIVIST, EDUCATION
DIRECTOR, CHABAD AT
BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

AT THE HOME OF IRIT TRAT
WINE & SUSHI WILL BE SERVED
FEE: \$25 (\$10 for all 5 and over)

CHAIR: Rebecca Cooper, Jennifer
Shuker, Rachel Blank, Madeline Simon,
Stephanie Eisenstat & Lisa Abrams

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Carmel Academy Students Enjoy Edible Science Lesson

Organic Garden Created By CA Alum Inspires Combined Science & Health

Carmel Academy's fifth grade has come full circle. Last spring, as 4th graders, the students planted a plethora of vegetables, herbs and flowers in Carmel Academy's organic garden as part of their life sciences curriculum. Now, as



Carmel Academy 5th graders Evan Roth and Ela Dynner with their teacher Darren Bahar. The students are picking vegetables, fruits and herbs that they grew last spring as part of a science life cycle unit and are now using them as part of their health curriculum about eating healthy.

fifth graders, the same students are harvesting the fruits of their labor. Their autumn garden is bursting with more than 20 different fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Not only are the students continuing the life cycle learning, they

are also using the organic produce as part of their health curriculum. "It's been an amazing learning experience for my students," said Carmel's fifth grade teacher Darren Bahar. "They are seeing firsthand how the small seeds they planted have grown, and now that the vegetables and fruits are ready for harvest, the students are incorporating these organic healthy foods into their diets."

"I was so surprised when I saw how big they grew," said 5th grader Ela Dynner. "Trying the new vegetables has been fun. This is first time I tried eggplant right from the garden. It was really amazing. I had never tried radishes before, and now I love them." The organic garden, which sits between the school's lower and upper



Carmel Academy 5th graders Liam Yechiely and Elijah Gilbert pick vegetables from the school's organic garden

school campuses, was created two summers ago by Carmel Academy alumnus and current Greenwich High School senior Elias Boyer for his Eagle Scout service project. Over the course of many days, Elias cleared the site's overgrown vegetation and debris. He and other volunteers then built garden beds, lay

down weed tarp and top soil, and created wood chip paths.

"The garden has been a wonderful addition to our campus," Anderson said. "Students of all ages now have an opportunity to tend a garden, learn first-hand about ecosystems, life cycles and nature."

Temple Sholom Celebrates the High Holidays, Sukkot and Simchat Torah



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Greenwich Reform Synagogue Celebrates Sukkot at its New Home

To celebrate the end of Sukkot, Greenwich Reform Synagogue (GRS) held a brief service at its future home at 92 Orchard Street in Cos Cob. Rabbi Andrew Sklarz led the



Construction is under way for the new home of GRS.

service, and Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei spoke, saying: "I'm happy to be with you today to consecrate this very special land and recognize your perseverance and dedication to the establishment of a permanent home for your congregation – a long, hard-fought cause. Your achievement speaks to the strength of the Greenwich community, embracing and supporting our multi-cultural society, with its reputation for inclusion. Thanks for being a part of the Greenwich community, contributing to its rich-

ness, and fulfilling our goals to serve each other and those who are less fortunate."

Ground-breaking for the new home of GRS began in October, and it is hoped that the new building will be ready in time for the 2016 High Holy Days, marking the 40th anniversary of the synagogue's founding. Hard-hat tours will be available to interested members of the community as the construction proceeds.

This will be only the second purpose-built synagogue in Greenwich's 375-year history. It



First Selectman Peter Tesei with GRS Co-Presidents Wendy Schreiber and Marc Abrams.

will include a sanctuary, social hall, classrooms, and offices in just over 12,000 square feet of

space. The architectural firm of Mark B. Thompson Associates LLC created the design.

Shabbat at Congregation Shir Ami Torah TOTs and Shabbat Dinners

"Shabbat is for families at Shir Ami where everyone feels welcome," said Rabbi Vicki L. Axe, Spiritual Leader of Congregation Shir Ami. "Families in the 21st century come in a variety of forms, and in just thirteen years since we were founded in 2003, we are known for attracting families representing a diverse mix of young parents with preschoolers, families with school-age children, single parents, boomers, seniors, interfaith, and LGBT. Our services invite everyone to come together as a sacred community and participate fully in the music, the readings, and the movement of worship."

In keeping with the synagogue trend to open the tent wide, Congregation Shir Ami is introducing two new Shabbat initiatives. First, all Shabbat services will begin at 7:00pm, followed immediately by a fully catered Shabbat dinner. This will be hosted by the Shir Ami Board with Sara Meiri, current secretary, and Susan Nisinzweig, a past secretary making all the arrangements.

The second Shabbat initiative is a monthly "Torah TOTs," Shabbat services designed for families with preschoolers. Beginning at 6:00pm prior to the regular 7:00pm service, Rabbi Axe will share Shabbat stories

and songs with tots followed by their very own oneg.

Both Torah TOTs and Shabbat Dinners premiered on Friday, November 6, in Shir Ami's home for worship, First Presbyterian

Church in downtown Greenwich. For more information about worship, education, and all Shir Ami events and programs, visit www.congregationshirami.org or call 203-274-5376.



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Welcome to Greenwich!

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



We are delighted to welcome and introduce you to Greenwich. If you know of newcomers in town who would like to learn more about our vibrant and exciting Jewish community, please contact us at 203-552-1818.

We will extend a hearty "Welcome!"
Bonnie Citron, Chair, UJA Greenwich Newcomer Committee



On Sunday, October 18, despite the cold weather, 97 bikers raised just shy of \$10,000 for the Solomon Schechter school's annual fund at the "Tour de Schechter."

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SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, November 21

Hebrew Wizards

Multi-Faith Family Concert

United Methodist Church, Greenwich, 7:30pm

Tuesday, December 1

UJA Greenwich

Annual Meeting

An Evening with Alan Dershowitz

Greenwich Library Cole Auditorium, 7:30-9pm

Sunday, December 6

Temple Shalom

Chanukah "Mock Mitzvah"

Temple Shalom, 11:30am-1pm

Friday, December 11

Temple Shalom

Latkes and Pajamas

5:30pm

Sunday, December 13

PJ Library

Hanukkah Party with Bash the Trash

Carmel Academy, 3-5pm

Friday, December 17

Chabad of Greenwich

Mega Challah Bake 500

Hyatt Regency, Old Greenwich, 7pm

Friday, January 8

Temple Shalom

Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Nostra Aetate With Bishop Frank J. Caggiano

Dinner \$15 per adult. RSVP to Alice Schoen at 203-542-7165 or alice.schoen@templesholom

Sunday, January 10

Temple Shalom

Party Planning Showcase

11am-1pm

Thursday, January 14

Chabad of Greenwich Women's Circle

Rekindle the Romance With Rivka Slonim

Private home, 7pm

Saturday, January 23

Chabad of Greenwich

Annual Gala

Belle Haven Country Club

Sunday, January 24

JCC Greenwich

Big Day Out

Fenom Fitness, 67 Grant Ave., Harrison, NY, 3-5pm

Sunday, February 21

JCC Greenwich

Curiosity Concerts

Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Ave., 2-3pm and 4-5pm



Members of Greenwich Reform Synagogue march in the Parade celebrating the 375th Anniversary of the Town of Greenwich. They are wearing GRS hard hats to mark the start of the construction of their new building.

New Focus On Innovation in the North and South of Israel Making an Impact

A few words from JCC Israeli Shaliach, Avihu Rachamim

While the media coverage of Israel is not always positive, Israel continues to show that a small middle-east country has a lot to contribute to the world. The new "Silicon Valley" is emerging in the Negev Desert in the south of Israel. In his 1955 book called, *The Meaning of the Negev*, David Ben Gurion wrote: "If the country doesn't eliminate the desert, the desert will eliminate the country." With this, he was calling for the people of Israel to make something out of the desert wasteland. Today, after more than 60 years of independence, the desert and the people are fulfilling Ben Gurion's vision by creating amidst the desert

the new Israeli hi-tech industry. This development and that of the Negev and the area around Ber Sheva are the result of a combined effort by Ben Gurion University, the Mayor of Ber Sheva, Rovik Danielovich and the Ministry of Development of the Negev and Galil regions. Previously many IDF bases had already moved to the Negev, but now they will be neighbors of the new building park for major tech companies, such as Deutsche Telekom, EMC, Jerusalem Venture Partners, Oracle, Lockheed Martin, IBM, ElbitSystems, NessTechnologies, and the list goes on.

At the same time that the Negev is blooming, in the

North, Israel is flourishing. A new partnership between Rutgers University in New Jersey and Tel Hay Academy (that I can proudly say is my alma mater), has recently been formed. This collaboration will focus on formulating and producing advanced edibles used to tackle obesity and to manage diabetes, food allergies and other nutrition-related issues, which have spiked to epidemic proportions in developed countries. These two initiatives taking place now are turning Israel's desert into a blossoming garden by literally creating jobs, building a stable and strong economy, and encouraging investments

in areas of Israel that were formerly out of the mainstream world when it came to development. And most importantly, these projects are showing the major impact on the world.

projects are showing the major impact on the world.

Your New Emissary Out in the Community



Avihu and the JCC Teen Action Committee while serving breakfast on Midnight Run.



Working with teens in the community!



Teens and Avihu volunteering with Supermarketing for Seniors on Grandparent's Day.

GHS Israel Club Bake Sale Raises Money for Shanti House

Members of the Greenwich High School Israel Club have chosen to support Shanti House. Shanti House was founded in 1984 and serves both as a temporary home and long-term support resource for runaway, homeless youth at risk aged 14-21 from all population strata and sectors, regardless of religion, race, sex or gender. The Shanti House Association operates two separate homes: Shanti House in Tel Aviv and the Desert Shanti Youth Village. Altogether 75-105 youth stay in both homes on any given day.

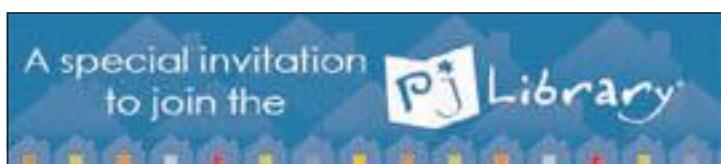
The GHS Israel Club meets on Thursdays after school. Members plan to continue to raise money for and awareness about the work Shanti House does for at risk youth in Israel throughout the rest of the school year. For more information about Israel Club, contact Avihu Rachamim, JCC Greenwich Israeli Emissary at avihu@jccgreenwich.org.



Members of the Israel Club pose for a picture during their bake sale to raise money for Shanti House in Israel.



Lunch on October 27 with Miriam Peretz, bestselling author of "Miriam's Song," who tragically lost two sons in two different wars, and has become a symbol of Israel's strength and resilience.



Grandparents Circle 2016

Bubbies, Books and Beyond:

How we influence the Jewish future of our Grandchildren

Did you know...

Greenwich is a leader in the PJ Library community and the gift of award-winning PJ Library books has more impact than you might think

We invite you...

to become a part of the Greenwich Grandparents Circle and join with others who are influencing the Jewish future in a significant way by building community and sparking imagination through books and music whether your grandchildren live near or far

Want to learn more, share ideas or help plan the inaugural breakfast event in May?

Contact:

Nancy Zisson (nszisson@gmail.com) or Tracy Daniels (Tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org)

"Through PJ Library, Jewish values, goals, traditions and connections are preserved for current and future generations."

Grandparents Circle Chairs

Rita Edelston, Deborah Simon and Nancy Zisson

With deepest appreciation to Rita & Marty Edelston, (z"l), the first and founding Greenwich Grandparent PJ Library Partners.

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GERALYN LUCAS
author of WHY I WORE LIPSTICK TO MY MASTECTOMY

February 3, 10 am
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The author of *Why I Wore Lipstick to My Mastectomy* celebrates her new book, *Then Came Life*, showing us – and not just cancer survivors – what it takes to reinvent ourselves.



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