



# JEWISH NEWS

Our Community, Our Responsibility

Volume XXVI, Number 3

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

April 2017 | Nissan 5777

## UJA Greenwich Gala 2017 to Honor Brian Neilinger

The Annuu Gala celebrates our impact over the year. **Brian Neilinger**, honoree of this year's Gala, quite appropriately represents the Federation's past, present and future. Brian is the outgoing president, but he enthusiastically pledges his continued commitment to our organization's initiatives and goals.

This year's theme, "Who is honored? One who honors everyone," is equally fitting. This maxim from 2nd-century Mishna scholar Ben-Zoma, cited in Pirke Avot, "captures Brian's credo beautifully," says UJA CEO Pam Ehrenkranz. "His talent for involving community is an ongoing reminder that the best way to receive honor is to give it to others." Brian is an accessible and engaged community leader. As president, he was highly visible, supportive of new initiatives, a skilled executive of the Board and a compelling, articulate spokesman for the UJA mission, along with Ellen Davis. He stewarded the merger of UJA with JCC Greenwich and a dynamic expansion of local programming and engagement in the Greenwich Jewish community. Adding new members to the board and always seeking partnerships, Brian helped to reframe the image of UJA Greenwich in the larger community.



Brian Neilinger

An accomplished and highly respected individual in the financial services sector, Brian served as Managing Director of Full Circle Advisors, LLC, the investment advisor to Full Circle Capital Corporation. Prior to that, he was Managing Director of Aladdin Capital Management, an investment and asset management firm focused

2017 UJA Greenwich  
ANNUAL GALA

SAVE THE DATE

WHO IS HONORED?

ONE WHO HONORS EVERYONE.

—BEN-ZOMA,  
PIRKE AVOT  
4:1

on structured debt products. In this role, he organized the firm's commercial real estate investment strategy. He has a B.S., Foreign Service (International Economics & Finance), from Georgetown University, and a J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School. Brian is also a member of the Bar of New York State.

In the spirit of honoring others, Brian will salute **Serena Baker**, recipient of this year's President's Award. (Please see p. 9.)

UJA Greenwich is honored to present the 2017 Weitzman Youth Award for Jewish Philanthropy to **Natalie Lilien**. (Please see p. 9.)

Gala festivities will take place on Thursday, May 11, at the Tamarack Country Club beginning with a 6:30 pm cocktail hour, followed by 7:30 pm dinner and presentations. Event co-chairs are **Bonnie and Manny Citron, Silvina and Jonas Knoll, Yael and Josh Rosen**. Donors giving at or above \$2,500 to UJA or JCC Greenwich are invited to attend.

## Come Celebrate Israel Independence Day!

Israel Independence Day (Yom Ha'Atzmaut) is coming up! In this annual celebration we raise the Israeli flag, and salute the creation of the Jewish State. This year Israel turns 69, and here in Greenwich the party is on! UJA/JCC Greenwich invites the entire community to a day of participatory activities, food, and entertainment set for Sunday, May 7, at Greenwich Town Hall (101 Field Point Road).

This celebration is bound to be colorful. That's because our 2017 theme is the "Colors of Israel," referring to five color-coded destinations attendees will visit as they tour the country in miniature. There's a reason for each local hue. The verdant Golan Heights will be demarcated in green; snowy Mount Hermon, in white; and



in a nod to the Mediterranean, coastal Tel Aviv will be bathed in blue. Jerusalem will, of course, shimmer with gold. And that leaves Eilat, where the Red Sea is the colorful association.

Event chairs are **Dassi and Noah Yechieli** and **Sarah and David Ryb**. Committee members are: **Elisa and Bruce Akrongold; Rita Edelston; Hadas and Isaac Kleshchelski; Silvina and Jonas Knoll; Carmel and Jeffrey Legault; Ilysa and Robert Mann; Joan and Bob Mann; Sheila and Brian Neilinger; Barbara and Evan Salop; Nethanel and Catherine Sherzer; Lisa Small and David Chass.**

The event is free and open to the community.





## Now Available to Greenwich

A free book of my choosing that is delivered to my mailbox each month? Sign me up! More than 300 Greenwich children are eligible for the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's newest program for independent readers – PJ Our Way. Building on the success of PJ Library, PJ Our Way is for 9-11 year olds. Just as PJ Library unites the community around activities steeped in Jewish traditions and values, PJ Our Way offers a forum for peer-centered Jewish engagement around award-winning literature and kid-powered activities.

PJ Our way is a fun and interactive Jewish program for kids by kids. Instead of receiving a pre-selected book, participants can visit [pjourway.org](http://pjourway.org) every month to cherry-pick one of four titles. They can post reviews and videos about the books and engage with fellow members in a safe space online. Kids can even apply to join the national PJ Our way design team to create content and materials for the website. Design Team members enjoy early access to PJ Our Way books.

Parents too play an active role. On the Parent Blog, parents are encouraged to explore each book and mine suggestions for family discussions. Such blog posts offer parents tools to help tweens make appropriate book choices.

Local PJ Our Way kids are invited to work with Tracy Daniels, Greenwich PJ Library program Director, and Leah Schechter, JCC Greenwich Director on coordinating events geared for their peer groups. For more information contact [Tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org](mailto:Tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org).



Sunday Funday TOTS families make Shabbat Boxes filled with hand-crafted Shabbat items

Preschoolers and TOTS are enjoying Story Time with Miss Daisy and friends at the Greenwich Library



Bitty City Players of NYC take Sunday Funday KIDS on a mask-making, storytelling, improv journey – just in time for Purim!



Queens, kings, firemen, ladybugs, superheroes and dragons gathered for the PJ Library Purim Shpiel! Special thanks to Co-Chairs Stephanie Esquenazi and Jody Lazlo



## WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES...

### *Your Gift Makes It Happen!*

## A Global Approach to Volunteering in Northern Israel

The Jewish Agency's Project TEN is all about bringing Jewish young adults from around the globe to volunteer in communities in need of assistance. Taking its name from the Hebrew word for "give," Project TEN stations volunteers at sites all over the world. The program offers participants a unique opportunity to build connections with people from different backgrounds

Faiz Sawa'id, a resident of a nearby Bedouin village, manages Project TEN's site at Kibbutz Harduf, together with Naama Tzur of Sha'ar LaAdam. They oversee the young volunteers' experience, helping build connections with both Jewish and Arab residents of the Galilee. "This is a project that fosters multicultural interaction

between young people from all over the world and both young and old people from the nearby Bedouin villages," Faiz says. "Their encounters encompass great cultural differences, and that creates fascinating personal interactions. The local Arab students benefit, while the participants from abroad undergo a new experience that they would never have had."

### *Getting to Know Israel – by Giving Back*

In the past four years, some 150 volunteers from Project TEN have spent time on Kibbutz Harduf – coming from all over the world and for a variety of reasons.

First and foremost, the volunteers are there to contribute to those in need – to teach, give their time, and improve lives, both on the kibbutz and in nearby villages. In



addition to their volunteer work, they attend seminars on ecology, theater, cooperation, and English-language education. But they also gain much more along the way – not only a profound feeling of satisfaction, but a hands-on experience in education and social work, as well as a unique look at Israeli society.

## They Never Would Have Known They Were Actually Family

After Kim and Jennifer met in Jerusalem, the two immigrants from Marseilles became close friends. When each planned a vacation to France, they began to piece together how similar their backgrounds were. But they never would have guessed how close their connection really was.

After making Aliyah separately, the two met while studying in an Ulpan (intensive Hebrew study program) for college-educated young adult olim. One afternoon, while talking about trips each had to make back to France for a bar



mitzvah, they realized they were talking about the same event. "We are cousins by marriage," Kim says. "It's a very Jewish story. But we never would have met if we hadn't made Aliyah."

### *Learning Hebrew – and Much More*

Kim and Jennifer are enjoying Ulpan as they prepare for the next phase of their lives. Kim plans to enroll in university as a fourth-year medical student next year. She would like to become an army doctor. "My dream is to be a surgeon, and to have a Jewish family," she says.

Jennifer is currently looking for a job in central Israel. While the road ahead has many unknowns, Kim and Jennifer are both glad to know that they will always have the support and friendship of a "cousin" nearby.

## Meeting Danya's Special Needs



Danya was born in Kiev, Ukraine, with microcephaly after a long and difficult labor. He also has extremely weak eyesight and severe cerebral palsy. It is not uncommon for visitors to Danya's home to find the five-and-a-half-year-old boy in his father Mikhail's arms as he bounces him up and down on an exercise ball. "We spend hours like this," Mikhail explains, "It calms him down." While Danya's mother, Olga, serves as his nurse and primary caregiver, Mikhail is unusually dedicated to his son. In Ukraine, where tremendous discrimination and stigma still surrounds children with disabilities, Mikhail stands out.

### *Addressing Financial Issues*

The family also struggles financially. Until a year ago, Mikhail worked as an instructor

at the local police academy, but last year, he was laid off. He has been unable to find work since. Olga often spends weeks at a time in the hospital with her son. But the hospitals are not equipped or considerate of individuals with disabilities. "The elevators often don't work and parents have to carry their children from one floor to another on their shoulders," Olga explains. "The nurses don't provide proper care."

Financial assistance through the JDC is critical to Danya's survival. Thanks to your support, Danya receives food packages and diapers. And last year Danya got new shoes and clothing, along with a birthday present of the exercise ball that Mikhail uses to calm him and a thermos that makes it easier for Danya to drink.

## COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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- Temple Shalom  
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## SHABBAT & HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

- Fri., Apr. 14..... 7:14 pm
- Sun., Apr. 16..... 8:20 pm  
*Eve of Seventh Day Passover*
- Mon., Apr. 17..... 8:20 pm  
*Eve of Last Day Passover*
- Fri., Apr. 21..... 7:21 pm
- Fri., Apr. 28..... 7:29 pm
- Fri., May 5..... 7:36 pm
- Fri., May 12..... 7:43 pm
- Fri., May 19..... 7:50 pm
- Fri., May 26..... 7:57 pm
- Tues., May 30..... 8:00 pm  
*Eve of Shavuot*
- Weds., May 31..... 9:08 pm  
*Shavuot*
- Fri., June 2..... 8:02 pm
- Fri., June 9..... 8:07 pm
- Fri., June 16..... 8:10 pm

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## Carmel Academy First Graders Explore Their Community

Who are the people in your neighborhood? Let Carmel Academy's first graders tell you! After months of learning about which institutions are integral to a vibrant community, The school's first graders culminated an integrated social studies unit by creating their own community – "Carmel Place." Throughout the school year, first graders visited important places as part of their social studies curriculum – from the

Greenwich Library and Police Station to the bakery and local Stop & Shop, to name a few. "Students took seven field trips where they learned about various institutions and interviewed people who work in them. To prepare for their visits, the students read non-fiction texts, watched videos, and brainstormed interview questions," said Carmel first-grade teacher Julie Rubin.



Albie Becher and Daniella Felsman serve pastries to their "customers" at their Carmel Place bakery.



Carmel Academy first graders Shaya Becher, Niv Hendin, Nate Young and Daniel Shteingart sing a song for their guests at "Carmel Place."

As part of a culminating program, the students created "Carmel Place." Dressed as bakers and bankers, police and firefighters, librarians and postal workers, the students went to work at their respective businesses and invited their parents to be the patrons. Using "Carmel Cash" parents and faculty purchased treats at the bakery, bought stationary at the general store, mailed letters at the post office, got fingerprinted at the police station, learned about fire safety at the firehouse, and checked out books at the library. Student writing about

what type of job they would want and why was on display, and artwork, inspired by artist James Rizzi, adorned the walls.

"This program truly represents the epitome of integrated learning," said Jennifer Gensior, Carmel Academy's Director of General Studies Curriculum. "The students read and wrote non-fiction texts, applied math and science skills, experienced each of the jobs through field trips, developed public speaking and interviewing skills, and applied their learning in an authentic environment."

## Greenwich Reform Remembers the Holocaust and Celebrates Israel

As the darkness of winter days heralds the new life of spring, so does the Yom Ha Shoah commemoration of the Holocaust precede the celebration of Israel's statehood with Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Greenwich Reform commemorates the tragedy of the Holocaust with

a Shabbat service on Friday, April 21. Members of GRS will share memories of the Shoah passed down by their parents and grandparents, while Rabbi Sklarz will discuss his visits to Auschwitz and Terezin, and his work with survivors. The GRS choir will uplift our spirits with

their beautiful voices and moving music. The focus of the service is a universal message for all times and all peoples—what can happen when hate prevails. GRS will also be participating in the town-wide Holocaust Memorial service on Sunday evening, April 23 at Temple Sholom. On

Yom Ha'Atzmaut, GRS will again participate in the community-wide celebration on Sunday, May 7 at Town Hall, as well as at two Shabbat services. On April 28, the adult-oriented GRS service takes us from the rise of the Zionist moment in the 18th and 19th centuries, to

the ashes of the Shoah, to the establishment of the state of Israel, to the challenges facing Israel today. The Israeli-themed GRS family service on May 5 covers similar ground with kid-friendly discussion and liturgy, plus dinner with Israeli foods.

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## Join our family for Passover




### Shir Ami Community Seder

#### Tuesday, April 11, 2017 6:00-9:30pm

all are welcome | young families • singles • interfaith • boomers • seniors • lgbtqt  
 to learn more | www.congregatonshirami.org | 203.274.5376



## Notes From Women's Philanthropy

2017 is here, and with it comes the promise of growth in UJA Women's Philanthropy. As part of our new initiatives, we're excited to launch our Monthly UJA WP Newsletter, with the objective to inspire a conversation at the family table or while having coffee with a friend or partner. The first issue is printed here in *Greenwich Jewish News*. We hope to plant a seed with a topic that moves you and invites you to make time for reflection. One of the ideas I am thinking about in the new year, which was spurred on by Thomas Friedman's book, *Thank You for Being Late*, is this: We all appear to be very, very busy – but are we engaged in meaningful pursuits? It may sound simple, but it's harder than you think to take more time for reflection about what is not only important, but also meaningful, and will strengthen us as individuals, as families and as a community. Taking time for deeper reflection feels like a luxury but may be one of the most valuable practices we can develop. I'd love to hear what's important and meaningful to you. The newsletter will also include contributions from people in our community who have traveled to Israel. This will give us the chance to explore Israel through different eyes. Thanks to Michele Stuart for providing the article below about her family's recent Israel trip! We want this to be interactive and valuable; so please, please share your comments and suggestions with me at [WomensPhilanthropy@ujafedgreenwich.org](mailto:WomensPhilanthropy@ujafedgreenwich.org).

### *The Stuart Family's Israel Experience*

One of the greatest things about visiting Israel is that the minute you step off the airplane, you feel right at home! Israel is like a human being that is full of life, energy and passion. It is a country that has a history like no other country in the world. Israel breathes adventures; Israel is truly magical and radiant; Israel is stunning and is filled with so much soul! Last year, our son Ethan had his Bar Mitzvah in Greenwich, led by our very special Rabbi Deren. Following this milestone in his and our lives, we continued celebrating by taking an unforgettable journey throughout Israel. We have so many amazing stories to share about our trip, but the one we chose to share is all because of UJA of Greenwich! First, we would like to thank UJA Greenwich for your Emissary program. One of the best experiences we have had as a family was hosting a young Israeli teenager, the year before he set off for the IDF. Itamar Wilf, was our guest for three months, and we kept in touch with him over the past four years. Luckily, during our visit to Israel, we had the opportunity to see Itamar and spend a full day with him in Tel Aviv. We had a whirlwind visit of this spectacular city with visits to the Palmach Museum, Nachalat Benjamin Market, Jaffa/Yafo, and we explored a very cool area on the Graffiti Street Tour. Spending the day with Itamar was one of the many highlights of our trip!



*Stuart family's unforgettable journey*

## Mazel Tov Bryanna Kallman!

We congratulate Bryanna Kallman on joining the National Women's Philanthropy Board of The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). Bryanna's commitment and service to the Jewish community has impacted thousands locally, regionally and globally. Whether helping to rescue Ethiopians in the Final Exodus Operation, chairing major events, traveling on JDC or Jewish Agency missions, or launching GALVANIZE – a movement to counter the anti-Semitism on college campuses – Bryanna's compassionate, inclusive advocacy for the Jewish people and the state of Israel is a source of pride and empowerment to us all.

NWP Board members are part of a national body that exists to serve local communities and plays a critical role on both national and local levels. The NWP Board is at the forefront of training local leaders, providing resources to communities, and providing inspirational leadership to advocate for programs and services around the world. NWP Board members serve as role models for other women (and men) in the community to get involved and become leaders in their own right.



PAST  
PRESENT  
FUTURE



## Lion of Judah Luncheon

HOSTED BY JANE WEITZMAN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2017

### *Jewish Resilience Past, Present and Future*

Please join us for a stirring, exclusive screening of unseen film clips and an insider update on the status of world Jewry today. The Lion of Judah symbol represents a commitment to strengthen Jewish life and the Jewish people—a commitment shown by the UJA Greenwich Women's Philanthropy leadership over the last twenty years. As we cast our vision to the next twenty years, we honor those who helped to build this dynamic community and inspire us to continue building a vibrant future.

### *Honoring Past Presidents*

MARLENE GILBERT • EVE GOLDBERG • SUZANNE KATZ • RANDYE KWAIT  
TAMMY LEVINE • BETTY STEINBERG • MICHELE STUART • CAROLYN SURGENT  
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DONORS GIVING AT OR ABOVE \$5,000 TO THE ANNUAL UJA CAMPAIGN  
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL TRACY DANIELS,  
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## Bret Stephens to Address The Jewish High School of Connecticut's April 30 Gala Champagne Brunch

*Dr. Andrew and Elizabeth Lustbader to Be Recognized As Leaders in Youth Advocacy*



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On Sunday, April 30, supporters of the Jewish High School of Connecticut will hear from Bret Stephens, a member of the *Wall Street Journal's* Editorial Board and writer of "Global View," the paper's popular foreign affairs column. "We are thrilled to have Bret join our school's annual Gala," commented Geff Erickson, Chairman of the Jewish High School Board of Trustees. "When not much older than our seniors, Bret became the Editor in Chief of the *Jerusalem Post*. Since then, he has won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary, served as the *Wall Street Journal's* deputy editorial page editor and has authored a

book on the dangerous tilt to isolationism in American foreign leadership policy," added Erickson. "Unabashed and direct, Bret Stephens calls out observations about the Middle East in simple and compelling words," added Erickson. "The talk on April 30 will blend his real life as a Jerusalem resident and his up to the minute 2017 insights." At the Gala champagne brunch, the school will also recognize two leaders in youth advocacy and the successful growth of young adults, Dr. Andrew and Elizabeth Lustbader. "Andy and Elizabeth were with us on day one, at the first parlor meetings in living rooms like

my own, when this school was just a dream," observed Randie Weseley, the co-chair of this year's Gala. "Their commitment to the growth and well-being of young adults is exemplified in Andy's long career in pediatrics and psychology and in Elizabeth's high school counseling career," added Weseley. "Andy was an active founder and serves on our Board of Trustees. Elizabeth has counseled our juniors and graduating seniors as they pursue next steps in their academic journey," said Weseley. "My own family learned first-hand of Elizabeth's empathy and insights as our daughter, Talia, was a student at JHSC."



Andrew and Elizabeth Lustbader, Keter Shem Tov awardees

The Jewish High School Gala brunch will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 30 at Temple Beth El in Stamford. Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available through the school website ([www.jhsct.org](http://www.jhsct.org)) or by contacting Sarah Rich (203-357-0850, [srich@jhsct.org](mailto:srich@jhsct.org)).

### The FABULOUS WIZARDS SEDER

#### Hebrew Wizards Interactive Potluck Passover Picnic

Join the fun for the second night of Passover to celebrate the 2nd Seder -April 11th at 6pm-All Invited to participate at Rabbi Deb's home. Address 130 Cummings Point Road, Stamford, CT. Children of all ages will get in the show as we make our Haggadah come to life! Please bring a Kosher for Passover dish to share and join our pot luck Passover Seder. All Wizards, Friends and Neighbors welcome.

Please RSVP at: [rabbiwizard@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiwizard@gmail.com)

### Congregation Shir Ami Celebrates Passover

"Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are needy, come and celebrate." These are the words Jews all over the world recite as they gather to eat the festive meal and recall the Exodus from Egypt at Passover Seders. "The text is not in Hebrew like most of the prayers of the Passover Seder," explained Rabbi Vicki L. Axe of Congregation Shir Ami. "It is in Aramaic, the street language of ancient times, designed to be heard and understood by all who needed a place of refuge during the Festival of Passover. Today, it resonates as a call to reach out to all people in need while inviting family, friends, and neighbors to share in the celebration of Passover."

Congregation Shir Ami, a Jewish Reform congregation based in downtown Greenwich, serving Lower Fairfield and Westchester Counties, will celebrate Passover with a second night Community Seder led by Rabbi Axe Saturday, April 11 at 6:00pm at First Presbyterian Church Greenwich. Always known for its family-friendly events where

all are welcome, more than one hundred children, parents, and grandparents will gather to share all of the traditional Passover customs and rituals with a pot luck festive meal provided by members of Shir Ami.

"For thousands of years, the history and beliefs, the customs and rituals have held generations across five continents together," noted Rabbi Axe. "Especially designed to hold the attention of children, and the child in all of us," she continued, "our Seder is rich with music, dancing, prizes, and fun for all."

Shir Ami is known for welcoming all people – families with young children, interfaith, singles, seniors, boomers, and the LGBTQ community. "Every time we get together," noted Riverside resident and co-president Dahni Nisinzweig, "there is a feeling of family – even with a hundred people,"

To learn more about Congregation Shir Ami events and programs visit [www.congregationshirami.org](http://www.congregationshirami.org) or call 203-274-5376.



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From the Rabbi

☆ Teaching Mitzvah Moments ☆

by Rabbi Deborah Salomon, Congregation Kehilat Shalom/Hebrew Wizards

As a Rabbi and educator my goal is to teach my students the lessons of our Torah. We highlight its 5 Books, the 613 Commandments and the 54 portions, filled with stories that our Matriarchs and Patriarchs have shared with us over the ages. We only hope that we have highlighted the true meaning of how to honor the sacred lives of those older and wiser.

But how do we teach our students to honor the elderly? The Concept of “הדרור וקנינים” *Hiddur Z'keinim*, “Honoring the Elders and teaching how to respect their experience.” – *Leviticus 19:32*. The hardest part for us is not in teaching these lessons but in modeling how to treat the older generation with real respect, compassion and love.

As we pass our Torah from generation to generation: great grandparent, to grandparent, and parent to child, we are reminded of the importance of our prayer, *le Dor V'Dor*. Our Torah is the voice of our ancestors. It shares the lessons we need to live by. Its stories act as blueprints for our lives. It teaches us how we must treat our neighbors and to value another person's life.

“The light of the past will illuminate the future.” This is the ethos of Hebrew Wizards' Better Together program and the doctrine of Judaism. We were fortunate to receive a grant to participate in the

Better Together program. As we broke away from the usual studies of our curriculum, we are embracing the uniqueness of our students and the elderly, creating a deep connection with one another through a two-year collaboration. Generously supported by the Legacy Heritage Foundation, this program focuses on building inter-generational relationships through monthly group meetings, prearranged activities, attentive note-taking and hours of curriculum writing to develop stimulating encounters for both senior citizens and students.

Our elderly need us. Some experience loneliness, helplessness and boredom. Other seniors may wear their wrinkles like a badge of glory. Their eyes are alert with passion, and their hearts filled with love. They long for a hug, a kiss and to be heard. Still others slouch in their chairs but are willing to play at a moments notice. Their invisible voices speak: “I am beautiful beyond my grey hair and deep-set eyes. My teeth may be yellowed and my skin sagging with age, but my heart beats like a drum longing to be part of the world. Where did the years go? Do you still love me? Will you sit next to me and be my friend?”

We watched the initial fear in our students' eyes as they sat frozen in front of their new partners. But as the music played, the gentle smiles appeared and

the awkwardness slowly melted away. Our students offered free hugs, shared approving glances, and we witnessed the beginnings of trusted friendships. Our congregation has always engaged in community service but never before have we implemented a program where students and elderly strangers would meet each month with an agenda of activities, songs to sing and lessons to learn.

Those same 21 students and their *Zikanim*, elderly companions, are encouraged to form an intergenerational bond that would span the many years that separate them. Students began collecting their precious words like jewels in a treasure chest. They exchanged smiles, tears and laughter, which circled around the room. The teen's ears perked up as they leaned in closely and patiently awaited the wise sayings of their elders. The teachers were filled with awe as they watched with pride as their students bonded with their new buddies. Friends, both old and young, once separated by decades of time, now joined in harmony. As Maya Angelou once said, “There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”

Right away we began documenting our meetings through pictures, videos and essays. Our goal is to honor our seniors by spending valuable time, listening attentively and passing on their stories.

Through our monthly visits we are showing our students how to honor one another and live with Jewish values. Some of the seniors may suffer from dementia as our *Zikaynim* scurry to remember their young friend's names. Some may be at a loss for what they did at the last visit. But our seniors will never forget the way that they made them feel.

The building of a relationship takes time and patience. More importantly it needs trust, compassion and love. We ARE better together. The invaluable lessons that we have learned through this program have spread the light of the Torah with every visit. In the decades that I have been teaching, I am most proud of what I witnessed during our Better Together Mitzvah Moments.

As the poet Maya Angelou also said, “My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style. If you have only one smile in

you, give it to the people you love. Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.”

*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.*



Steve and Hersh Batkin

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203.302.3880

www.lampebatkin.com

Students and Seniors Are Truly “Better Together”



Hebrew Wizards continues its work building community by forging everlasting relationships at River House. From challah baking to latke tasting to Purim hat creation, students and seniors bond through the creative arts. With each encounter, seniors share pearls of wisdom, and we end each meeting singing songs together. When asked what students loved most about Wizards' Better Together Program, they all agreed that making the seniors smile and bringing them happiness touched their hearts.

COMMUNITY  
*Passover*  
SEDER

Monday, April 10 and Tuesday, April 11  
8pm · 2 Maher Avenue, Greenwich  
CHABADGREENWICH.ORG

**Stay in the know about the happenings in 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, Emissary program, Women’s Philanthropy, Israel and other Greenwich Jewish organizations.



## New Bi-Cultural Program Speaks to the Heart

The notion that Judaism is a way of life that we carry in our hearts – that its core values and foundational concepts must become a part of us as children so that we may be guided by them as adults – is the catalyst behind a unique program introduced this year at Bi-Cultural Day School. “B’chol Levavecha” – “with all of your heart” – encourages students in grades 3 through 8 to commit to memory central pieces of Judaic knowledge that will serve them well throughout their lives.

For example, the brachot, the books of the Tanach, the pilgrimage festivals, the Hebrew months, as well as Judaic values and ideas, such as the three pillars of the world and what

it means to be created “b’tzelem elokim” – in the image of G-d. “These are the things that students carry in their hearts,” explains Michal Smart, Associate Principal for Judaic Studies. “These are things that we want everyone to know by the time they graduate – such as the concept that everyone is created in G-d’s image, that no one person is better than someone else.”

B’chol Levavecha incentivizes children to learn on their own by awarding them points for absorbing items included in booklets issued at the beginning of the year. Students who hit their targeted points will win the opportunity to join a day trip to somewhere special in April.

## Sotheby’s

INTERNATIONAL REALTY



**Suzanne Shemin Katz**

d: 203.618.3161

c: 917.902.4472

suzanne.katz@sothebyshomes.com

**GREENWICH BROKERAGE** | sothebyshomes.com/greenwich  
I PICKWICK PLAZA, GREENWICH, CT

Operated by Sotheby’s International Realty, Inc. Sotheby’s International Realty® is a registered trademark.

## No Chametz? No Problem!



*Greenwich Reform held a fabulous pre-Passover baking class! All in attendance learned how to make yummy desserts for that one week of the year when sweet edibles can be a challenge. For information on all we do at GRS, please reach out to Nancy at memberservices@grs.org.*



### Family Friendly Shabbat Services at Shir Ami

Known for attracting a diverse mix of young parents with preschoolers, families with school-age children, single parents, boomers, seniors, interfaith, and lgbtq.

Shir Ami services invite everyone to come together as a sacred community and participate fully in the music, the readings and the movement of worship.



ALL ARE WELCOME young families • interfaith • singles • boomers • seniors • lgbtq  
TO LEARN MORE [www.congregationshirami.org](http://www.congregationshirami.org) | 203-274-5376

## Songs to Celebrate New Beginnings

**A Kosher Gospel Concert**

**Sunday, May 7, 3:30 pm**  
**Temple Sholom**

300 East Putnam Avenue  
Greenwich, CT 06830

### Featuring

Cantor Asa Fradkin  
The Temple Sholom Teen Choir  
Choirs from 2nd Congregational Church & Trinity Church  
and Highlighted Soloists

**Suggested donation of \$10 per person.**

Please RSVP to Alice Schoen at 203-542-7165  
or [alice.schoen@templesholom.com](mailto:alice.schoen@templesholom.com).



## UJA Greenwich Congratulates Serena Baker and Natalie Lilien

### Serena Baker: President's Award Recipient

Serena Baker is a junior at Greenwich Academy. She is a dedicated volunteer for The Friendship Circle, working with children with special needs every Wednesday.



After numerous trips to Netanya, Israel, Serena decided to create a computer graphic design program for the Ethiopian girls at the Shapiro School as her mitzvah project. While visiting the school, Serena chose a former storage space in the basement to convert into a girl's computer center. After listening to the girls stories and hearing their struggles, Serena decided to add art therapy as another component to the program.

Serena's mitzvah project, which she is still involved in today, has inspired a matching program that connects children in the United States who are deciding on their mitzvah projects with the Netanya Foundation.

### Natalie Lilien: Weitzman Youth Award for Jewish Philanthropy Recipient

Natalie Lilien, a senior at Greenwich High School, will be a freshman this fall at Cornell University School of Industrial Relations. Natalie maintains an active profile in Jewish philanthropy, splitting her time as co-founding member of JCC Greenwich Teen Action Committee (JTAC), where she has completed more than 60 hours



of service, and as Mazkirah and Board Member of the Greenwich BBYO chapter.

Highlights of her three-year involvement with JTAC include raising funds to purchase a freezer at the Schoke Jewish Family Service Kosher Food Pantry, mentoring middle school students and co-leading a breakfast for the homeless and hungry in New York City. More recently, she helped JTAC spearhead a drive for victims of domestic violence in partnership with YWCA Greenwich and the Met Council on Jewish Poverty.

When not planning and executing community service activities, Natalie is an Israel advocate with the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee. In 2016 she attended the Summer Saban Leadership Seminar and AIPAC Policy Conference, and lobbied Congressman Jim Himes.

## Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School to Launch S.T.E.A.M. Program

Selma Maisel Nursery School is excited to launch a full S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) program to enhance its pre-school curriculum. The S.T.E.A.M. educational approach uses these specific areas of study to guide student inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking. This program will involve hands-on experiences and materials that engage young learners. Children will be exposed to prompts and safety instruction, but ultimately will have the freedom to learn and explore.

Beginning in September, the S.T.E.A.M. lab will be housed in a dedicated classroom outfitted with a wide



variety of hands-on project opportunities including woodworking, robotics, magnetics, weights and measures, and much more. A soft launch of the program has already been made available to the current Pre-K class. "Greenwich is fortunate to have public and private schools highlighting S.T.E.A.M. learning," said Sheera Prawer, Chair of the SMNS Education Committee, whose child is participating in the Pre-K soft launch. "Selma Maisel Nursery School is providing each student with the tools needed to excel in these new environments."

Registration for 2's, 3's and Pre-K for the 2017-2018 School Year is currently underway.

## A Magical Concert at Carmel

Magical. Amazing. Mystical. These were just some of the words used to describe a special *Tu B'Shvat* activity at Carmel Academy's Shorashim and Kindergarten students participated in. Special guest Laura Parisi visited the school's youngest students and brought along a unique synthesizer, invented by Italian researchers, that is able to perceive the electromagnetic variations from the surface of plant leaves to the root system and translates them into sound. Carmel's students were treated to beautiful songs created by plants and trees. The students listened to the music and then used hand-made instruments to play along with the plants.



Laura Parisi shows Carmel Academy's kindergarten and Shorashim transitional kindergarten students how a special synthesizer can translate electromagnetic variations from plants into musical sound. L-R Laura Parisi, Amalya Kontikoff, Noam Young, Miri Lebwobl and Zeev Schuck.

## Give Your Child the Gift of Time

### A Transitional Kindergarten Where Young Minds Take Root



Carmel Academy's Transitional Kindergarten Shorashim Program is designed to bridge the year between preschool and kindergarten, providing students with a strong foundation for success in elementary school and beyond.

- Reggio Emilia inspired classroom
- Child-centered, play-based curriculum
- Experienced early childhood educators
- Kindergarten preparedness
- Low student-teacher ratios
- Experiential, integrated Judaic learning
- Access to all specialists and afterschool programs

To learn more, please contact  
Ella Shteingart,  
Director of Admissions,  
at 203-983-3503 or  
ella.shteingart@carmelacademy.com

A private school for children of all Jewish affiliations serving students from Transitional Kindergarten through 8th Grade.



CARMEL  
ACADEMY

## ADULT EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS



Chabad of Greenwich

**Sunday Morning Torah Study**  
9:30-10:30 am, Email RabbiFeldman@ChabadGreenwich.org for info.

**Parsha with Classic Commentaries**  
Thursday, 9:45-10:45 am

**Chassidic Philosophy Class**  
Shabbat, 8:45-9:30 am

**Women's Torah Study Group**  
Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 am

Greenwich Reform Synagogue

**Torah Study**  
Sundays, 9:30 am with Rabbi Andrew R. Sklarz

**Ethical Issues in Judaism**  
Sundays, 10:30 am with Rabbi Robert Rothman  
To register for these free classes, call 203-629-0018 or email info@grs.org

JCC Greenwich

**Banter Over Breakfast – Wherever You Go, There They Are**  
With Annabelle Gurwitch  
Tuesday, May 9, 10 am, Back 40 Kitchen, 107 Greenwich Ave, Greenwich  
\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

**Balancing the Scale in a Selfie World**  
With Dr. Joanna Bronfman of Back Country Wellness  
Thursday, May 18, 10 am, Back Country Wellness, 7 Lincoln Ave, Greenwich, \$10

**Israel Is-Real Israeli Culture Series**

**TV Commercials and Media**  
Monday, May 22, 10:45 am (last of 3-part series), One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich

**You Don't Have to Be an Addict to Be in Recovery**  
With Rabbi Mark Borovitz and Harriet Rosseto of Beit T'Shuvah  
Thursday, June 15, 7:30 pm, One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, \$10

JCC Greenwich Cinema

**Yom Hashoah Screening**  
"Joe's Violin"  
Sunday, April 23, Temple Sholom, 5:30 pm

**A Special Film Screening**  
"Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on Campus"  
Sunday, April 30, Bow Tie Cinema Greenwich, 5 pm, \$10

Davis Film Festival

**May 10, "The Kind Words"**

**June 21, "A Tale of Love and Darkness"**  
*Bow Tie Cinema Greenwich, 7 pm, \$15 per film*  
Temple Sholom

**Shabbat Study**  
with Temple Sholom Clergy, Saturdays, 9-10 am

**Lunch & Learn**  
Tuesdays, 12-1 pm. Kosher lunch provided

**Family Feuds: Torah for When Having Family is Hard**  
Thursday, April 20, 7-8 pm  
Rabbinic Fellow Daniel Graber will use insight from Jewish tradition to address the topic, "Raising Children."

**Jewish Meditation**  
Tuesday, April 25 and May 9, 7:15-8:30 pm  
Contact Cantor Asa Fradkin at cantorasa@templesholom.com.

UCONN Center for Jewish Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life

**Annual Holocaust Convocation Fierberg Lecture in Judaic Studies**  
With Samuel Kassow, Guest Speaker  
Monday, April 24, 7 pm, Konover Auditorium

### Are you considering taking a class or attending a lecture this Spring?

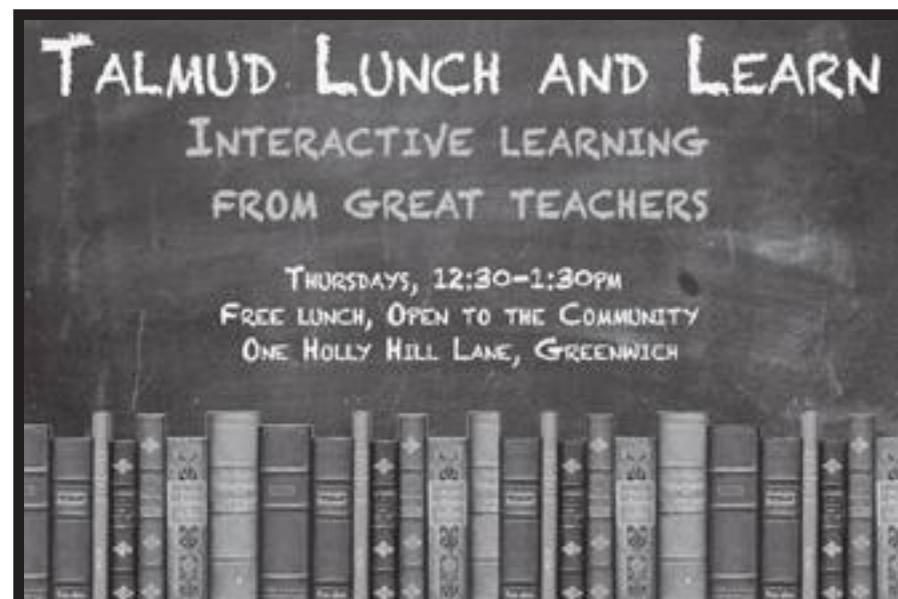
Look no further!

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

UJA Greenwich

**Fighting Anti-Semitism: The Power of Connection**  
With Dr. Charles Asher Small  
Tuesday, May 2, 7:30 pm, \$10, YWCA, 259 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich

**Footprint on History**  
**Israel: The Modern State on an Ancient Foundation**  
with Dr. Aaron Koller  
One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich  
Tuesday, April 25: "Before Modern Zionism"  
Tuesday, May 16: "The Creation of a State"  
Tuesday, June 13: "Contemporary Israel"  
7:30-9 pm  
\$45 per class per person, \$90 per person for the series



Sponsored by Rita Edelston

- April 13 .....Passover - No Class
- April 20..... Elisha Paul  
*Cycles of Seven in Judaism*  
*Shabbat, Shiva, Omer, Shmitah--why do periods of seven recur in the Jewish calendar, and are their meanings connected?*
- April 27..... Rabbi Irwin Huberman  
*Kaballah, the Zodiac and Free Will*
- May 4 ..... Rabbi Joe Schwartz  
*The Wicked Child*  
*What's with the rasha? This Pesach Sheni, discover what you never knew about the misguided son (or child) of Haggadah legend.*
- May 11 .....Rabbi Silverman
- May 18 .....Eleanor Ehrenkranz  
*The Bible and the Bard*  
*What did Shakespeare have to read in 1580? The Old and NewTestaments. There is a relationship between the Old Testament and Macbeth which will be shown using both books.*
- May 25 ..... Rabbi Stephen Roberts, MBA, BCC  
*Ethical Decision Making at the End*  
*How does Judaism guide us in making ethical decisions near end of life?*
- June 1 ..... Shavuot No class
- June 8 ..... Peter Cole  
*Hymns & Qualms: New and Selected Poems and Translations*
- June 15 ..... Ari Lieberman  
*Mishna*

Check JCC calendar for updated schedule



Dr. Moshe Avital, Holocaust survivor, is a writer, author and translator whose expertise includes the Holocaust, Israel, Jewish Education, the Bible and American Jewry. Born in the former Czechoslovakia, Avital survived Auschwitz and other Nazi camps before being liberated from Buchenwald in 1945.

Arriving in the United States in 1950, Avital earned a B.A., M.S. in Education at Yeshiva University and returned to Israel for doctoral studies in Hebrew Literature at Hebrew University. For 50 years, he served in various educational positions, the last 12 years as Director of Education and Culture at the Jewish Agency for Israel, American Section.

Dr. Avital is the recipient of the prestigious Abraham Friedman Memorial Prize in Hebrew Literature. Fluent in six languages, he has translated ten ancient Hebrew Kaballah books into English.



## 35th Annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration

with Guest Speaker  
Dr. Moshe Avital

*From the Depths of Despair to the Heights of Hope and Triumph*

Sunday, April 23, 2017 • 27 Nissan 5777  
6:00 pm  
Temple Sholom  
300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich

Please join our Jewish community in this moving Holocaust commemoration.  
For more information call 203-552-1818

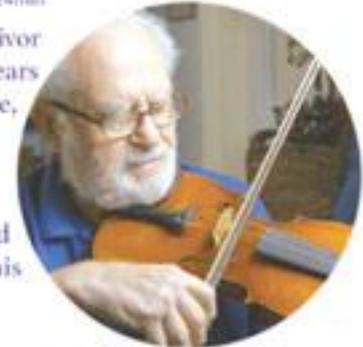
Preceding the commemoration  
Sunday, April 23 at 5:30 pm  
Temple Sholom, 300 E. Putnam Ave.



## JCC Cinema: Joe's Violin A Yom Hashoah - Holocaust Memorial Day Screening

Kahane Corn/Documentary/USA/24min

A 91-year-old Shoah survivor donates his violin of 70 years to a local instrument drive, changing the life of a 12-year-old girl from the nation's poorest congressional district, and unexpectedly, changing his own. A 2017 Oscar nominated film.



"A powerful testament to our potential as human beings." - Huffington Post

The 35th Annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration will begin at 6pm following the film.



G R E E N W I C H

JCC TEEN ACTION COMMITTEE  
Teens Doing Good Together

Educate  
Stimulate  
Motivate

Sunday, April 30 • 5 - 7 pm  
*JTAC Goes to the Movies*  
**Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance On Campus**

Avi Goldwasser / Documentary / USA / 70 min.

Anti-Semitism is being made fashionable at many American universities through delegitimization of Israel and normalization of hatred in the name of social justice. This incisive documentary exposes how and why. A must see for families with high school and college students.

\$8 per teen includes dinner and discussion following the film  
Bow Tie Cinema, 2 Railroad Ave.



June 4 • 10:15 am - 1 pm  
**Bowling with Friendship Circle**

Participate in the Friendship Circle of Fairfield County's bowling league and have fun helping with teens and kids who are differently abled.

\$18 per person • Transportation to and from One Holly Hill Lane to Bowlmore-Lanes, Norwalk



REGISTER FOR THESE PROGRAMS AND MORE AT  
[JCCGREENWICH.ORG](http://JCCGREENWICH.ORG)



## JCC Teens Aid Homeless

Thank you to all the local businesses who helped the JCC Teen Action Committee to feed the homeless through Midnight Run in NYC by donating food and goods.

- ACME Markets
- Dunkin' Donuts
- Garelick and Herbs
- Kings Food Market
- My Stop & Shop
- Rinaldi's Country Deli
- Sweet Pea's Baking Company

Thank you to all the community members who donated food, warm clothing and toiletries. Your contributions



help to teach the next generation that being part of a community makes it possible for all of us together to help those in need.

## Women's Philanthropy Education Symposium – March 8



## UJA Pearl Society's Couples Night Out with Jesse Itzler



## MISSION TO ISRAEL

Every other year, UJA Greenwich organizes a high-level learning trip to Israel for our Melton Adult Education students and their friends and family. It is open to the community as well.



At the Birthright Israel Innovations Center.



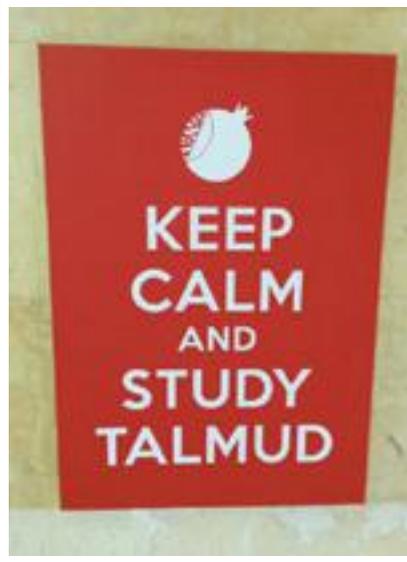
Farewell lunch at Gush Etzion winery.



Really getting into the museum of the Philistines.



At the Knesset before our meeting with MK Aliza Lavie.



We loved our study sessions at Pardes.





To register for any of these events, visit [JCCGreenwich.org](http://JCCGreenwich.org)

Educate  
Stimulate  
Motivate



Sunday, April 30 • 5 pm  
JCC Cinema presents  
**A Special Film Screening**  
**Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on Campus**

Avi Goldwasser / Documentary / USA / 70 min.

Anti-Semitism is being made fashionable at many American universities through delegitimization of Israel and normalization of hatred in the name of social justice. This incisive documentary exposes how and why. A must-see for families with high school and college students.

\$10 per person • Bow Tie Cinema, 2 Railroad Ave.

**CALVANIZE**



Tuesday, May 9 • 10 am  
**Banter Over Breakfast**  
**Wherever You Go, There They Are**  
With Annabelle Gurwitch

Ready for a good laugh? Don't miss round two with this bestselling author and the wild stories she'll tell about scam artists, hucksters and philanderers—who happen to be in her family.

\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

Back 40 Kitchen, 107 Greenwich Ave.

Thursday, May 18 • 10 am  
**Balancing the Scale in a Selfie World**  
With Dr. Joanna Bronfman of Backcountry Wellness

Dr. Bronfman heightens awareness about body image inside and out, and creating healthy relationships with food through family meal time and dialogue. Dr. Bronfman is a psychologist and social worker with 25-plus years of experience treating all ages for a wide range of eating disorders. Back Country Wellness is a customized eating disorder practice in Greenwich. Her outpatient programs and services for both women and men are aimed to help people work toward recovery while balancing their day-to-day life at home, work and school.

\$10 per person • Backcountry Wellness, 7 Lincoln Avenue, Greenwich



Wednesday, June 14 • 10:15 - 11:30 am  
**Private Tour**  
**Florine Stettheimer: Painting Poetry**  
With Associate Curator Stephen Brown

Delve into the colorful world of this painter, poet, playwright and set designer, and delight in her avant-garde whimsy.

\$50 per person, limited space available  
The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street, NYC



Thursday, June 15 • 7:30 pm  
**You Don't Have to Be an Addict to Be in Recovery**

With Rabbi Mark Borovitz & Harriet Rossetto of Beit T'Shuva!

All human beings have inclinations toward both good and evil. Integrating the dark parts with the light is critical to living a life of wholeness and integrity. Looking at addiction — both its roots and consequences — will help us examine the existential, emotional and spiritual challenges facing us all and enhance our capacity to find meaning, connection and healing.

\$10 per person • One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich



Monday, May 15 • 9:30 - 11:30 am  
**Taking Action Against Breast Cancer:**  
Important Trends in Genetic Testing, Screening, Lifestyle and Prevention

Panel Discussion with:  
Dr. Andy Dannenberg, Weill Cornell Medicine  
Dr. Ori Etinger, Weill Cornell Medicine  
Dr. Alexandra Heerdt, Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Dr. Linda LaTrenta, Greenwich Hospital  
Dr. Ken Obitz, Memorial Sloan Kettering

\$75 ticket • \$250 ticket and to sponsor breast health services for an underserved woman  
Breakfast included • Old Oaks Country Club, 3100 Purchase Street, Purchase, NY



Co-sponsored with:



Wednesdays, 7 pm at Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas, 2 Railroad Ave. \$15 each film

## Davis Film Festival



Wednesday, May 10  
**The Kind Words**

Family can make you do crazy things. Three Jerusalem siblings discover just how much when they take a life-changing trip to uncover the truth of their late mother.

Shiri Zefin / Drama / Israel / 118 min.



Wednesday, June 21  
**A Tale of Love and Darkness**

For her feature directorial debut, Natalie Portman brings Amos Oz's bestselling memoir to the big screen with this intimate family drama set on the eve and early years of Israel's independence.

Natalie Portman / Drama / Israel / 95 min.

Thursday, June 8 • 7 pm

## Dinner, Drinks & Comedy With Judy Gold

Brace yourself for an uproarious night with the comedian who *The New York Times* says "captures the audience from the moment she opens her mouth."

Event Chairs:  
Stephanie Esquenazi, Penny Goffman Vazquez and Ron Zate

Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich  
\$118 per person, \$318 to sponsor includes two tickets



## A Year Down the Road, Makerspace Is Changing the Face of Education at Bi-Cultural

A group of middle-schoolers at Bi-Cultural Day School are bringing their bright ideas to life in Bi-Cultural's unique Makerspace Lab. The big, bustling, colorful space has become a hub of student activity and creativity. On any

given day, students throughout the grades wander in and out of the lab space, working – sometimes individually, often collaboratively as part of a class or on their own – to transform a laundry list of innovative concepts into tangible products.

Bi-Cultural faculty give Makerspace an A+, and not only because of its effectiveness in developing STEAM skills. “The development of critical life skills is central to the Makerspace experience for younger students as well,” says second-grade teacher Kathryn Danner.

This spring, students will have the opportunity to showcase the fruits of their creative labor at Bi-Cultural's first-ever Makerspace Fair on May 18. The fair will include an exhibit by the students of the Jewish High School of Connecticut. Several Connecticut organizations will also participate in the fair, including Bridgeport's Discovery Museum, the University of Connecticut,



Bi-Cultural students in the Makerspace elective program work through Design Theory to fine tune prototypes of their products.



Bi-Cultural students Avi Gordon, Ben Weiner and Ben Cohen work on a prototype to develop engineering for a new trampoline.

Home Depot, and STEMfems, a program of the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. Inspired by their forward-thinking children, Bi-Cultural parents are also planning a side competition featuring their own 'grown-up' inventions. Perhaps, though, the real proof of Makerspace's success lies in the activities of students. There are even a few students who have now built mini Makerspaces in their homes.

### Hebrew Wizards Kindness Crusade

Hebrew Wizards welcomed back Orly Wahba, *Ted Talks* speaker and creator of Life Vest Inside. Wizard students created thoughtful notes, handed out kindness gift bags and introduced themselves to our Cos Cob neighbors. Delivering her heartfelt words on the importance of being kind, Orly passionately explained how one act of kindness can change the world.





**Tuesday, June 13 • 10 am**  
**PJ Library Party in the Park**

Live the Party - Love the Party - Be the Party - PJ Library Party in the Park that is!

Eat, play, sing, dance and schmooze with friends and family at this annual celebration! Mark your calendars and save the date!

Event Chairs:  
Jamie Kesmodel, Natalie Landres and Jessica Rickert

The PJ Library Party in the Park is a gift to the community from UJA/JCC Greenwich and the generosity of community sponsors.

Bruce Park Playground, Museum Drive, Greenwich



*Annual Parenting Conference*  
Chabad of Greenwich

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 27**  
6PM - AT CARMEL ACADEMY  
WITH SLOVIE JUNGREIS WOLFF  
[CHABADGREENWICH.ORG](http://CHABADGREENWICH.ORG)



# JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH

## Spring Programming

### **NEW! THE SEDER SURVIVAL GUIDE**

Are you raising children in an interfaith family and wondering...  
 How can I make a Passover Seder when I didn't grow up with one?  
 How can I teach my kids about Passover when I didn't celebrate it?  
 You can do it and here's how!

This engaging 90-minute interactive program prepares mothers from other backgrounds to celebrate Passover in their homes and to engage children at the seder. Participants will explore the meaning behind each item on the seder plate, examine the Haggadah (the written guide to the meal), and learn the virtues of Passover food and matzah ball soup! Greenwich Library, 101 West Putnam Avenue, 4/3, 7:00 pm

### **NEW! CARING FOR OUR AGING PARENTS:**

#### **Dilemmas and Difficulties – Suggestions and Solutions**

People are living longer today than ever before, bringing new challenges for both parents and their adult children. Issues can come up suddenly, with a medical crisis that causes a previously independent person to need help or in the case of dementia or chronic illness, goes unnoticed until a grown child visits and recognizes that assistance is desperately needed. This workshop will teach you to notice the warning signs when a parent is in trouble and help you navigate the stressors involved in trying to help. JFS Office, 1 Holly Hill Lane, 4/19; 7:00 pm

### **BETTER TOGETHER BOOK CLUB:**

#### **A MONTHLY INTERGENERATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

This unique initiative spearheaded by Carmel Academy 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 young people get to know generations that came before them. Carmel Academy. *Wednesdays, 4/19, 5/17, 6/14; 10:30-11:30 am*

### **JFS BOOKBEAT: FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ**

A thought-provoking book club with themes relevant to Jewish women of all ages. Facilitated by Judi Margolin

*Finding Rebecca* by Eoin Dempsey, 4/26; 7:30 pm at JFS

*Even in Darkness* by Barbara Stark-Nemon, 6/2; 10:00 am at a private home

### **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 75 in all patient rooms.

### **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, 4/10, 5/15, 6/12; 12:15-12:45 pm*

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Bikur 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!

**All program information is available at  
[www.JFSGreenwich.org](http://www.JFSGreenwich.org)  
 or call 203-622-1881 for more information.**

## Spring Counseling and Support Groups

### **NEW! Parents of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual or Questioning (LGBTQ) Children**

This group is for parents who are dealing with any stage of their family member's coming out process. Together, in a safe and confidential environment, we will explore the tumultuous process of accepting, understanding, and celebrating your children and their LGBTQ identities. Facilitated by Rob Romano, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 am*

### **Daytime Support Group for Separating and Divorcing Individuals (JFS office)**

For adults whose lives are impacted by divorce. Facilitated by Lisa Smith, LCSW. *Tuesdays, 11:30 am-12:45 pm*

### **Surviving and Succeeding as a Stepparent (JFS office)**

Being a stepparent is a unique role in family life. Adjustment takes a lot of time, and loving and caring for one another develops slowly. This group will help participants with the challenges and opportunities associated with being a stepparent. Facilitated by Mary Karlan, LCSW. *Mondays, 11:00 am-12 noon.*

### **Bereavement Support Group (JFS office)**

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

### **Nighttime Support Group for Separating and Divorcing Individuals (JFS office)**

For adults whose lives are impacted by divorce. Facilitated by Lisa 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 Barbara Lehrman, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 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 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 Barbara Lehrman, LCSW. *Thursdays, 2:30-3:45 pm*

### **Fractured Families, Healing Hearts (JFS office)**

This group will give 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 so painful to endure because family means so much to us. If you have 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 Lisa Smith, LCSW, and Rabbi Vicki Axe of Congregation Shir Ami. *Tuesdays, 1:00-2:00 pm*

### **Caregiver Support Group (ONLINE)**

Caring for a loved one can be rewarding, challenging, and often, emotionally draining. This group addresses issues in a non-judgmental environment and discusses the opportunities and challenges of caring for a loved one. Facilitated by Lisa Smith, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00 pm*

**For more information or to join a group, please call  
 Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW, at 203-622-1881 or email  
[lsmith@jfsgreenwich.org](mailto:lsmith@jfsgreenwich.org)**

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



# JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH

## JHHC Celebrates Purim and Looks Ahead to Pesach!

The Jewish Health and Healing Center of JFS is having quite a busy year. So far we've celebrated:

- **Shabbat** at Greenwich Woods and Greenwich Hospital
- **Tu B'Shevat** at Nathaniel Witherell
- **Purim** at all five senior residences
- **Better Together Intergenerational Book Clubs** each month with Carmel Academy

And, now we can't wait to celebrate **Pesach** in April!

Residents of Greenwich Greens, Greenwich Woods, River House, the Mews, Nathaniel Witherell and patients at Greenwich Hospital enjoyed Shabbat and Purim celebrations with services, songs and education. Thank you to all our area clergy as well as to our volunteers who once again gave their time and energy to make the holidays brighter for our community seniors. Please feel free to join us at any of our celebratory Seders listed on our website at [www.JFSGreenwich.org](http://www.JFSGreenwich.org).



Carmel Academy visits Greenwich Woods for Shabbat



Intergenerational Book Club discusses "To Kill a Mockingbird"



Rabbi Axe celebrates Purim with the residents of The Greens

### SPECIAL DONATIONS to JFS

For Bar/Bat Mitzvah "Bima Baskets":

In Honor of:

**Seliana Deborah Feldman**, by Pamela Rutt

In Memory of:

**Anita Waldman Shapiro**, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner

**Ristora Skalandunas**, by Susan and Jerry Davis

**Carol Lichtenfeld**, 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 acknowledgment to the person or family involved, informing them of your generosity in their honor/memory.

### Supermarketing for Seniors is Expanding Our Reach and Our Outreach

Supermarketing for Seniors, our free grocery shopping and case monitoring service for homebound seniors, is expanding our reach. Not only are we shopping for seniors who are homebound, but we are also now shopping for seniors who need temporary help. If you have broken your leg or are having a hip replacement, for example, Supermarketing for Seniors is here for you too. Recently, we expanded our outreach as well. We sent information about SFS to all 291 residents of the Greenwich Housing Authority apartments with their March rent bills, and Greenwich Senior Center included program information in the March edition of *The Lantern*, their monthly newsletter. We were also invited to speak about SFS with their members in April. Best of all, word of mouth is expanding our reach. Our clients in Hill House have been telling their neighbors about the program, and this month we've taken on quite a few new clients in that facility. If you, or anyone you know, could benefit from our services, either long-term or temporary, please call Program Director Elyse Brown, at 203-622-1881.

### JFS to Honor Its Many Volunteers

Our Jewish tradition teaches us: "Deeds of kindness are equal in weight to all the commandments." On May 4, from 4:00-5:30 pm, we are honoring all of our 150 volunteers who graciously and selflessly give of their time, spirit and energy. We could not do half of what we do without their support and dedication.

*Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.*—Marcel Proust

Our volunteers, age 8-88, help us grocery shop for homebound seniors, provide Bikur Cholim Spiritual Care counseling at Greenwich Hospital, facilitate Jewish Holiday programming in five local senior facilities, perform handy-man tasks for community members in need, and help us with administrative tasks in the JFS office. Thank you for all you do for others.

**Thank you, volunteers,  
for making a difference!**

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH

**A Magical Night  
with JFS!**

**ANNUAL BENEFIT**

THURSDAY APRIL 20, 2017 ★ 7:00pm

River House

125 River Road Ext. ★ Cos Cob

Sushi ★ Cocktails ★ Magic show

\*Dietary laws observed.

## Opening in May!

**A new home for Reform Judaism in Greenwich**



Let us know when it's convenient and a member of the building committee will take you on a hard hat tour. Contact Stephanie at [stephanieglaser@grs.org](mailto:stephanieglaser@grs.org)



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## JHSC Students Create a Banner for Shabbat Across Stamford

As the saying goes: "More than Jews keep Shabbat, Shabbat keeps the Jews." Last week, Stamford hosted its annual Shabbat Across Stamford which celebrates the unity of Jews through the observance of Shabbat and the communal enjoyment of a Friday night meal. This year, the students who participate in the art Tefillah class at The Jewish High School of Connecticut were honored with the task of creating a banner for the occasion.

The student-made banner encapsulates the true essence of Shabbat as characterized and envisioned by the students. The teenagers, with the guidance of their teacher Morah Chana Stein, cut, glittered, glued, and drew the setting of a Shabbat table, highlighting the traditional blessing of the children.

While the banner is a beautiful artifact, the truly special outcome of this project was the unity displayed by students from a variety of backgrounds expressing the theme of Shabbat together. These teenagers come from all parts of the community and reflect the idea of what Shabbat Across Stamford stands for. Conversations and connections about Shabbat are something that is very special about the Shabbat Across America experience, as people come together to break bread as a unified community celebrating Shabbat.



JHSC students Sarah Hanna, Zane Rosbe, Zoe Jaffe-Berkowitz, Natalie Shclover, Gabriella Lieberman, Celia Rosen, Kovi Bodek.

SAVE THE DATE  
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**Lag B'omer  
Mothers Day  
Walk**

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## Behind The Camera Lens

### Carmel Academy Students Embrace Inspiring Photo Challenge

At Carmel Academy there is a special community within a community—a small cadre of student photographers who are participating in a creative endeavor called Carmel Framers. Carmel Framers is a Middle School elective course, which introduces students to the art of photography. Each week, Carmel Framers are given a theme and then have seven days to create a photograph based on that theme. During class, the students view photographs and learn photography techniques related to the

theme before heading out into the world to capture their image.

Carmel Framers is based on the 52Frames project, an international photo challenge where amateur and professional photographers are given a new assignment each week and have seven days to take a photo and share it with the community. “Together, the community gives feedback and guidance to help each member grow as photographers,” said Carmel Middle School teacher Ronit Zaks, who was

so inspired by her own experience participating in the 52Frames project that she created the elective course based on the concept. A highlight for the students was the opportunity to video conference with the founder of 52Frames, Yoef Adest, and to ask him questions.

Sixth grader Francesca Margolius said of participating in the class, “I now have a photographer’s eye. I am always looking to box an image out and take picture.”

Throughout the year, students have created photography surrounding themes such as: abstract, black & white, silhouette, light, emotion and behind-



Members of the Carmel Framers pose for their own photo.



A photograph on the theme “through a child’s eyes” taken by Sophie Citron.

the-scenes, to name a few.

When the students complete their weekly photo they upload their creation to a private photo-sharing website where the other Carmel Framers can view the collection and comment. An important aspect of the course is learning how to give and accept constructive criticism – a significant concept to learn during the middle school years as it helps children communicate in positive ways, Zaks said. “You can see the growth from the first challenge through the present,” Zaks said. “They are push-

ing themselves and are more confident. They are learning to experiment. We actually created a very nice community of peer learners. They feel comfortable posting photos, giving constructive criticism and receiving it.”

“It’s been such a great class,” said sixth grader Annie Mozer. “Every day I check to see if I have received any feedback or if anyone posted a picture that I can comment on. I will definitely continue taking photographs and giving myself photo challenges even when the class is over.”

### Prizmah Presents Premiere Day School Conference

Prizmah is a recently formed umbrella organization made up of formerly denominational-specific Jewish education organizations. The Jewish High School of Connecticut’s educational and lay leaders attended the first annual Prizmah Day School Conference held in Chicago in February. This unique gathering of educators brought together schools of all sizes, denominations and flavors.

“In the beginning of the 21st century Jewish community schools were the exception, but now many more are becoming the norm,” said Rabbi Elisha Paul, JHSC Head of School. Especially in mid-size communities where philanthropic resources are often

stretched thin, the idea of having one school where students from all backgrounds can have their Jewish educational needs met is attractive to both consumers and donors.

The sense of community focused on Klal Yisrael, the Jewish people as a whole, resonates with 21st century Jewish families that have varying degrees of Jewish educational backgrounds and cultural literacy.

Ari Lieberman, a Judaic studies teacher at JHSC who attended the Prizmah conference commented that “some of the biggest names in Jewish education gathered under one roof, and the quality of presentations was excellent.”



## Greenwich Reform Religious School Students Provide Food, Toiletries, and Love



*Tikkun Olam* is a key element of the religious school curriculum at Greenwich Reform. Students learn the joy and fulfillment of helping others by doing good deeds – acts of loving kindness – *gemilut chasadim*. During the spring, students prepared lasagna for the kosher food pantry at JFS in Stamford, and they also collected toiletries and household items for families in need.



## Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School Holds Drive for Mothers for Others



*In February, the Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School held a week-long Diapers and Wipes Drive in support of Mothers for Others, a local non-profit that provides mothers and their families with basic necessities.*

## Bi-Cultural Opens the Door to a Love of Literature

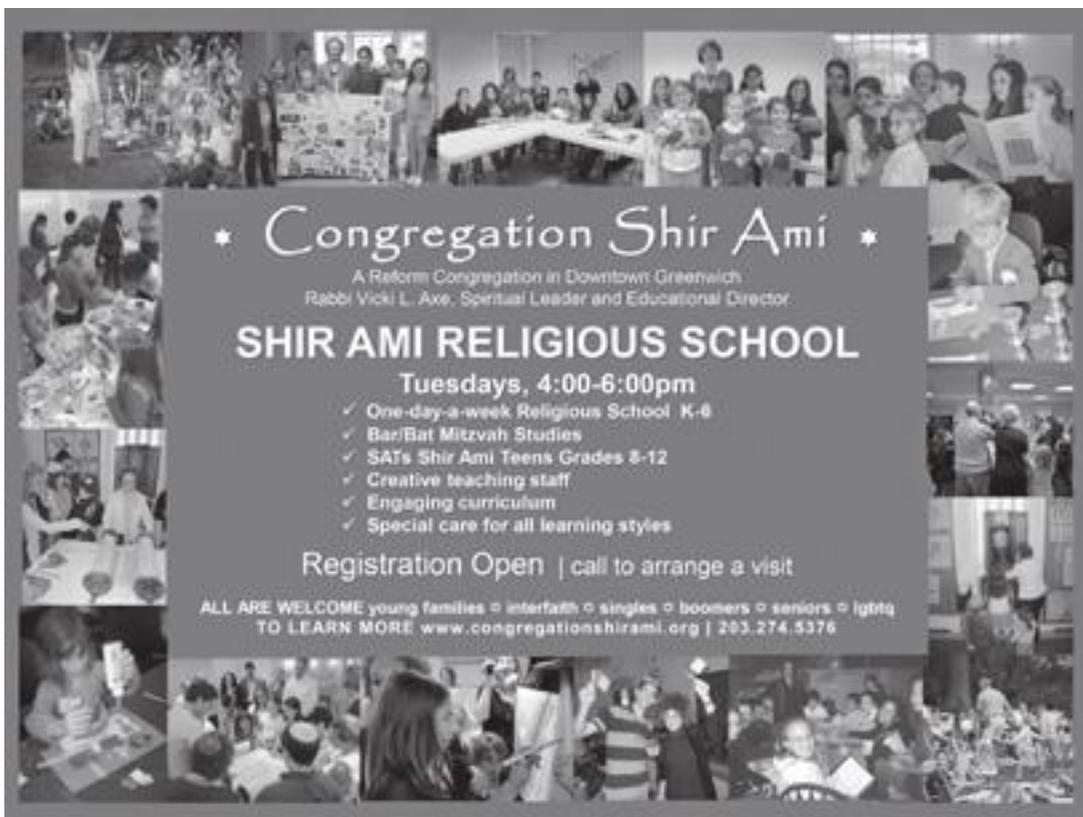
Educators agree that reading is one of the primary building blocks of life. It enables children to discover new worlds. It sets fire to their imagination, boosts their learning potential and gives voice to their ideas. It helps develop language skills and strengthens self-image. It isn't surprising then, that teachers at Bi-Cultural Day School jumped on the opportunity to further encourage reading among students and nurture their love of learning by making the most of Read Across America Day – a nationwide celebration of the joy of reading. Launched in 1997 by the National Education Association, Read Across America Day takes place annually on March 2, the birthday of one of the world's most influential and beloved children's authors, Dr. Seuss.

But for Bi-Cultural students in grades pre-k through 8th grade, one day of celebration simply wasn't enough. "Our students were fully immersed in Read Across America all week with literature activities abounding in both general and Judaic studies," reports Bi-Cultural middle school teacher Adrienne Robinson. While younger students focused on Dr. Seuss, older students opted for more advance literary works. "We wanted students of all ages to see the importance of a love of literature and literally curling up with a good book," she said.

The celebration began on Monday morning, February 27, when students arrived at school to find each classroom door magically transformed by the teacher into the cover of a Dr. Seuss book. Later in the week students 'buddied'-up for an activity in which older students read books to younger students and discussed their favorite books. "These opportunities truly warm my heart and show the incredible care that our students have for each other," said Head of School Jackie Herman. "We are truly a community school that prides itself on academic excellence and nurturing the soul in a warm and encouraging way."



*Bi-Cultural students buddied-up to enjoy a good book.*



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## Temple Sholom Presents Four Awards at Annual Celebration

Temple Sholom's black and white-themed Annual Celebration was held on January 28, 2017. The event attracted more than 150 guests, featured an acoustic performance by Javier Colon, Season 1 Winner of NBC's *The Voice*, and honored four individuals who have exhibited outstanding commitment and devotion to Temple Sholom.

### *HaTikvah Award*

This award was presented to the family of Amy Lipton z'l, who sadly passed away on January 9, 2015. Amy was an advocate for Israel and worked very closely with Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz to establish Temple Sholom's Israel Action Committee. She was also a member of the Temple's Board of Trustees and served as a liaison to UJA and AIPAC. Amy's husband Richard and her two children, Lianna and Justin remain an active part of the Temple Sholom community.

### *Keter Shem Tov Award*

Brian Cohen of Rye Brook was selected as the recipient of this honor for his previous leadership roles as a six-year member of the Temple's Board of Trustees and as Vice President and Chair of the Programming, Social Action and Ritual Committees. Brian has been instrumental in helping to grow Temple Sholom's presence in Westchester County, and has two daughters, Reese and Drew, with his wife, Dayna.

### *Nasi Award*

Translated to the "Presidential" Award, this honor was given to Greenwich's Dan Green for his efforts as Temple Sholom's President from 2013-2016. During his term, Temple Sholom launched a re-imagined religious school program,

wrote a Centennial Torah, and overhauled and re-designed the Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School playground. Dan and his wife, Shannon, have three children, Maya, Owen and Clara.

### *Tikkun Olam Award*

Jean Goldstein of Greenwich received this award for her work as the Vice Chair of Temple's Social Action Committee. She was directly responsible for the success of many community service programs, including the Project Ezra Senior Luncheon and Senior Bingo. Most recently, Jean retired from a 14-year teaching position in the Temple Sholom Learning Center.

To view more pictures from Temple Sholom's Annual Celebration, visit [www.templesholom.com/gallery](http://www.templesholom.com/gallery).



## Carmel Academy's Middle School Band "Angels & Prophets" Spreads Its Wings

If you haven't yet heard of Angels & Prophets, you may be downloading one of their songs to your music library in the near future. What began as a musical outlet for a group of Carmel Academy's students has turned into perhaps one of the first-ever Middle School Jewish rock bands. Angels & Prophets entertains guests at the school's largest events, played their first live venue in December, and is gearing up to record several original tracks at a studio.

"I feel proud of all of us. When we first started this last year many of us couldn't do what we do now. In the time we have been together we have learned so much," said drummer Adam Israel. The band, comprised of fourteen Middle School students, has truly bonded over their shared purpose. "Music is our cornerstone, and spreading joy and *ruach* (spirit) is our mission," said Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein, Carmel Academy's Madrich Ruchani (Spiritual Leader), who created the band with the students. "The name Angels & Prophets is drawn from biblical references,"

Rothstein said. "Angels comes from the Talmud, which mentions in several places that Angels sing songs to God daily. Prophets is drawn from the *TaNakH* (scripture), which says that when musicians would play, the prophets would be able to 'see.'"

The members of Angels & Prophets, who play a mix of cover and original Jewish rock songs, decide on their musical selections together. "We really want the audience to feel engaged and to get into the music," said guitarist

Talia Orbach. And it's that engagement with the audience that has given the band confidence to spread its wings beyond Carmel's walls. The group played at the Community Chanukah Concert in Stamford, opening up for the group, Shlock Rock, and most recently for more than 300 people at the school's Erev Tov Celebration.

The band's next goal is to record a demo track of original musical co-written by Rothstein and the students. In order to book studio time, the band will be launching a fundraiser.



Carmel Academy Middle School Jewish rock band, *Angels & Prophets*. (L-R) Gabi Stern, Jonah Weinstock, Tzvi Kalb, Adam Israel, Lily Famwick, Yadid Orlow, Matan Coll, Aaron Eben, Seth Brown, Matan Kramer-Richard, Joshua Ament, Daniel Kesler, Brian Jablowsky and Talia Orbach.

No matter what the future holds for Carmel's Angels & Prophets, the band's members say their experience playing music with each other has been an important part of their

Middle School years. "It really feels like we are a family," said guitarist Talia Orbach. "We all have different skill levels and we are all different, but we can all connect through music."

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## Comedy Night at Temple Sholom



On Saturday, March 12, Temple Sholom held a special Comedy Night in celebration of Purim. The sold-out event attracted 180 guests and featured headliner Josh Gondelman, writer for HBO's "Last Week Tonight" with John Oliver.

### Greenwich Reform: Shavuot at the New Shul!

Greenwich Reform is opening our new synagogue building. Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime experience and share in putting up the *mezuzot*! On Sunday morning, May 21, to celebrate Shavuot and the last day of religious school, the congregation, led by Rabbi Andrew Sklarz, will attach the *mezuzah* to the doorpost of the main entrance of our new home at 92 Orchard Street in Cos Cob. Then, with many interior doorposts needing *mezuzot*, the congregation will separate to install them throughout the building. The community will then celebrate the holiday of Shavuot with activities for children and adults, capped off by an ice cream social – in honor of the dairy foods traditional for this beautiful holiday. For details, please contact Stephanie Glaser@GRS.org or call 203-629-0018, ext. 1001.

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## SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, April 20

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

**Annual Benefit:**

**A Magical Night with JFS**

River House, Cos Cob, 7 pm

Sunday, April 23

**35th Yom Hashoah Commemoration**

With guest speaker Dr. Moshe Avital

Temple Sholom, 6 pm

Sunday, May 7

**Kosher Gospel Concert:**

**"Songs to Celebrate New Beginnings"**

Temple Sholom, 3:30 pm

Suggested donation of \$10 per person.

RSVP to Alice Schoen at 203-542-7165 or

alice.schoen@templesholom.com.

Sunday, May 7

**Yom Ha'Atzmaut–**

**Israel Independence Day Celebration**

Town Hall Greenwich, 11:45-1:30 pm

Thursday, May 11

**UJA Greenwich 2017 Annual Gala**

Honoring Brian Neilinger

Tamarack Country Club, 7 pm

Monday, May 15

JCC Greenwich

**Taking Action Against Breast Cancer:**

**Important Trends in Genetic Testing**

**Screening and Lifestyle Prevention**

Old Oaks Country Club, 3100 Purchase St,

Purchase, New York, 9:30-11:30 am

\$75 per ticket, \$250 for ticket and sponsor

breast health services for an underserved

woman. Breakfast included.

Thursday, June 8

JCC Greenwich

**Dinner, Drinks & Comedy**

With Judy Gold

Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive

7 pm, \$118 per person

Wednesday, June 14

JCC Greenwich: Private Tour

**Florine Stettheimer: Painting Poetry**

With Associate Curator Stephen Brown

The Jewish Museum

1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street, NYC

10:15-11:30 am

\$50 per person, limited space available

## Passover to Yom Ha'Atzmaut: Slavery to Freedom in Our Homeland

*by Racheli Ben Shimol*

"Where are you for the Seder?" is a question that I was typically asked during the stretch leading up to Passover. Two weeks before the holiday, when all Israeli students are off from school, at my home we would swing into high gear. The whole family would get busy shopping, cooking and cleaning the house. For me, growing up in Israel, Passover was a time of family reunion.

When we read in the *Hagaddah*, "In every generation one must see oneself as if one came out of Egypt," it makes me wonder why we need to think of ourselves this way. After all, thousands of years have passed since our ancestors embarked on their Exodus. Telling the story of Passover recalls how we were once slaves in Egypt and today are free people in our own country. The *Hagaddah* reminds us of our difficult birth in a foreign land – a birth accompanied by the suffering of drudgery but ending with the beginning of our freedom as a nation.

The period starting on the first night of Pesach and ending 49 full days later with the Festival of Shavuot is called a time of "Ruin and Renewal" for the Jewish people. This period includes a series of national holidays – Yom HaShoah, (Holocaust Day), Yom HaZikaron, (Israel's Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'Atzmaut, (Israel's Independence Day). These holidays tell the story of our life as a nation.

A week after the last day of Passover, we mark Yom HaShoah. In Israel, the day begins with a siren that's heard throughout the country. Cars on the highway stop on the shoulders of the road. The Holocaust is formative in our Jewish identity, and in the story of our becoming a free nation.

Following Yom HaShoah comes Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers. This day is intended to honor those who gave their lives in defense of the State of Israel. On Yom HaZikaron, there are two sirens, one in the evening and one in the morning. The songs played on the radio are quiet songs, and throughout the day, war songs or poems written in memory of Soldiers are aired. An atmosphere of sadness and mourning is felt throughout the country.

When the sun goes down on Yom HaZikaron, a quick transition is made to the celebrations of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. From mourning and remembrance of the fallen we switch to joy and celebration of a free people in our own state. Our existence as a Jewish people in our own nation has not always been evident, but on this day we celebrate an independence that began thousands of years ago in Egypt and has finally brought us home.

Every year we remember our transition from slavery to freedom. We remember those murdered and those fallen on our journey "to be a free people in our land." This year, when I am asked where I will be for the Seder, I'll be far away from my own family, but with my Greenwich "family" instead.

## A Lot Going On at GHS Israel Club

### Students welcome Standwithus and do some Israeli Cooking

Israel Club members of GHS learn and experience Israel. In recent months, Paul Friedman from StandWithUs came to talk about anti-Israel media bias. Through this activity the students gained knowledge of how and why Israel is often misrepresented in a variety of media sources and learned what they can do about it.

Israel Club also learned to cook an Israeli dish called Sabich, a pita stuffed with fried eggplant, salad, potato and hard boiled eggs. We learned that this typical Israeli dish originates from the Jewish-Iraqi community. Today in Israel it is one of the best street foods you can find, besides Falafel.

### Diversity Week with IDF soldiers

During Diversity Week, Israel Club with the support of UJA Greenwich, partnered with CAMERA, The Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting, to bring two active-duty Israeli Defense Force officers to speak to over 300 GHS students. An openly gay female medic and a Druze combat officer shared their diverse experiences and pride in serving and protecting the state of Israel.



## Hands on Community Service at JCC Sunday Funday



*Sunday Funday TOTS families gathered for a special storytime and assembled 28 soup jars for the Schoke JFS Kosher Food Pantry.*

*Sunday Funday KIDS made more than 100 sandwiches for the Bronx Jewish Community Council Food Pantry.*

We helped to build Israel. Today we help keep it strong.



## OUR PLEDGE

For more than six decades, we've helped strengthen the State of the Israel. And our commitment continues. Unwavering.

## HOW WE HELP

Despite Israel's economic success, one in five Israeli families lives in poverty. We provide a safety net for most vulnerable, and we advocate for those in distress.

## OUR IMPACT

The money we raise helps keep Israelis safe during conflicts, and we've helped thousands of young Jews forge a personal connection to Israel.

**We stand by Israel's side. Always.**

Want to get involved? Please donate to UJA Greenwich today.