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JEWISH NEWS

Our Community, Our Responsibility

Volume XXVI, Number 3

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

February 2017 | Sh'vat 5777

Hot Topics at the 2017 Women's Philanthropy Education Symposium

Jacob Baime, Executive Director of Israel On Campus Coalition, is headed to town. An expert on pro-Israel campus affairs, the former AIPAC National Field Director will keynote this year's Education Symposium on Wednesday, March 8 beginning at 9:45am.

His talk, entitled **"Team of Teams: Working Together to Defeat the Anti-Israel Movement on College Campuses,"** will explore strategies to empower our students to stand up for Israel, and help make an impact on U.S.-Israel relations for the future. "For anyone following the rise of anti-Israel activity at universities around the nation and the world, this is a conversation that's not to be missed," according to Symposium co-chair **Christine Toback**.

Baime's keynote will be preceded by a buffet breakfast beginning at 9:15 am, and breakout sessions will take place from 11 am to noon.

Participants are invited to sign up for the breakout topic of their choice. Pop culture mavens may gravitate to **"Seinfeldia: How a Show about Nothing Changed Everything,"** with bestselling author **Jennifer Keishin Armstrong**. The acclaimed TV historian and entertainment writer will take participants behind the scenes of the iconic NBC sitcom that turned New York Jewish culture into a national phenomenon.

For fans of social biography and legal courage, there's **Marlene Tresman's** session, **"Before There Was a 'Notorious RBG,' There Was an 'Audacious Bessie M.'"** Here Tresman will discuss her book *Fair Labor Lawyer: The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Margolin*. Those about to discover this pioneering lawmaker will wonder how her justice work at Nuremberg, her founding of NOW, and her groundbreaking hand in the Equal Pay Act, among other remarkable achievements, have not (yet) made her a household name.

"The Annual Education Symposium brings transformative adult Jewish learning to Greenwich, and this year's program delivers another variation of that mandate," said Honorary Chair **Joan Mann**.

Wednesday, March 8 • 9:15 am - Noon
Annual Education Symposium

Team of Teams: Working Together to Defeat BDS on Campus
Keynote Speaker: Jacob Baime, Executive Director, Israel on Campus Coalition

Breakout sessions:

- **Seinfeldia: How A Show About Nothing Changed Everything**
with Author Jennifer Keishin Armstrong
- **Before There Was A "Notorious RBG" There Was An "Audacious Bessie M."**
with Author Marlene Tresman
The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Margolin

Event Chair: Christine Toback, Honorary Chair: Joan Mann
Tomes-Higgins House, 216 E. Putnam Ave., \$60 in advance, \$72 at the door, \$136 sponsorship (includes a book)

Check out breakout session speakers and information at JCCGreenwich.org

Sponsored by: JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL, ISRAEL ON CAMPUS COALITION, UJA GREENWICH, JCC SERENDIPITY

New to Greenwich in the last 12 months? Be our guest! Call to let us know you will join us!

Jointly sponsored by JCC Greenwich and UJA Greenwich Women's Philanthropy, in collaboration with the Jewish Book Council, the Symposium will take place at the Tomes-Higgins House, 216 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich. Tickets are \$60 if purchased in advance, and \$72 at the door. Sponsorship opportunities (and a free book) are also available, beginning at \$136. Newcomers to the Greenwich community within the past 12 months are invited to attend as our guest. Please call 203-552-1818 to let us know you'll be joining us.

ISRAEL BREAKFAST FORUM

Thursday, March 30, 2017 • 8 a.m.

Leading Change: How Entrepreneurs Influence Society

Guest speaker **Alon Futterman** in conversation with **Tom Appleby**

Forum Chairman **Jordan Yarett**

Alon Futterman is a dynamic social entrepreneur who has founded and directed some of the most innovative initiatives in Israel. Alon's accomplishments span the worlds of entrepreneurship, government and politics, public education, international partnerships, aviation, and non-profits. In 2014, Alon was appointed to be the founding CEO of TALMA, a joint endeavor of the Israeli government, the Schusterman Foundation, and the Steinhardt Foundation.

In the 32 years that **Tom Appleby** has been News Director and co-anchor of News12 Connecticut, the network has won more than 800 major awards, including 46 Emmy Awards and 104 Associated Press Awards, including 5 Mark Twain Awards for Station Excellence.

At YWCA Greenwich, 259 E. Putnam Ave. \$60 per person.
Register at ujafedgreenwich.org or call 203-552-1818

Save the Date

The Threat of Radical Islam

With **Khaled Abu Toameh**

Toameh is a veteran award-winning Arab Muslim journalist who has been covering Palestinian affairs for nearly three decades

Thursday, April 6, 2017 • 7:00 pm
at the home of Richard Lipton

A thank-you to 2017 donors of \$10,000 or more to UJA or JCC

Event Chair: Randy Kwait

See Insert for UJA Greenwich 2016 Impact Report.

PJ Library **Sunday FUNDAY**
Sundays 3:45 - 5 pm
YWCA Greenwich
259 E. Putnam Ave. **New Location!**

Sunday Fundays in Greenwich

“Sunday Funday gets kids off the couch and out the door, where they’re suddenly learning, celebrating Jewish tradition, serving people in need and engaging in physical exercise,” said JCC Assistant Director **Leah Schechter**. Seconding that sentiment, PJ Director **Tracy Daniels** added, “The Tots program brings families together for social and learning enrichment. Moms and Dads enjoy visiting with friends, and we encourage drop-ins for a flexible and stimulating hour of activity.”

The meet-ups are divided into two tracks: Tots and Kids. Sunday Funday for Tots brings together preschoolers for age-appropriate story-time and crafts. Baby siblings (and, of course, parents)

are welcome. The Tots group is a gift to families, free of charge, co-sponsored with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and generous local families. The next level of Sunday Funday is targeted to K-2nd graders and costs \$15 per session in advance, \$25 at the door. Both tracks take place on Sundays from 3:45-5 pm at YWCA Greenwich, 259 East Putnam Avenue. Next up for Tots is a storytime with arts-and-crafts called The Shabbat Box on February 26th and is followed on March 26th by an omnibus workout at Fenom Fitness. Sunday Funday events come with sponsorship opportunities, and this sporty extravaganza is sponsored by **Romy and Joe Cohen** in honor of their son **Jonah**’s third birthday.

February 26
The Shabbat Box
Make your own decorative items to help celebrate Shabbat at home.



March 26
Multi-sport Mashup
with Fenom Fitness
Stretch, balance, run, jump, throw, catch at this multi-sport mashup to get little bodies moving.
Sponsored by Romy & Joe Cohen in honor of Jonah's third birthday.



Tots Pre-school tots play & learn with pre-school educators & friends. Baby siblings welcome!
This program is a gift to the community in partnership with

Kids For K-2nd graders
\$15 per session in advance, \$25 at the door

February 26
Masquerade!!
With Dirty City Players of NYC. We will use our imaginations, bodies & voices at an improv, mask-making, storytelling workshop.



March 26
Chocolate Seder
If God had made milk chocolate, "Doyenu," it would have been enough. But we have milk, dark, white chocolate and more at this model Chocolate Seder!



Would you like to sponsor a Sunday Funday in honor of a child or special occasion? Email Leah@jccgreenwich.org or call 203-552-1818

Register at JCCGreenwich.org or 203-552-1818

PJ Library Holiday Programs

Purim Adventure

All hail the queen! Grab your costume, come out and get set for an afternoon of storytelling, craftmaking, games and the Purim costume parade. Brought back by popular demand, this year’s PJ Library/JCC Greenwich partners, **Leah Schechter** and **Tracy Daniels**, will lead an animated journey through the ancient Shushan tale. And of course, no Purim party would be complete without hamentashen prep, snacks and noisemaking.

Event chairs **Stephanie Esquenazi** and **Jody Siegartel Lazlo** envision a fun-filled gathering for the entire community. “At a time when parties are over-the-top, we wanted to present a welcoming, hands-on celebration with a warm and ‘hamish’ spirit,” said Esquenazi. Lazlo chimed in, “We’ll have a variety of activities-something to engage every child- and the Garden Education Center, with its neighborhood feel and ample space will be accommodate a large group of merrymakers!” PJ Library Chair, **Cori SaNogueira** adds, “Our PJ Planners really strive to present memorable programs that are accessible and fun. We encourage everyone to come and invite family and friends.”

Admission is \$25 per family; \$30 at the door.

Mini-Seder

“In every generation, each person must feel as if he personally had come out of Egypt...” So goes the Passover Haggadah, and so goes PJ Library’s tradition of enacting the Exodus at a Mini-Seder. The Pesach story will be guided by costumed UJA/JCC staff, who will lead an animated Passover story time complete with Seder foods, songs, props and miracles.

“The Seder is one of the most participatory ritual observances in the Jewish calendar. But it can be challenging for young kids to sit through. Here the kids are mesmerized by the story and action,” says event Co-chair **Anne Akyuz**. Fellow Co-chair **Rebecca Tipermas** agrees, noting that “the PJ Mini-Seder has become a favorite for many in the community. It’s a perfect event for grandparents and friends to share with the children.”

This year’s mini-seder will be held on Tuesday, April 4th, 3:45-5 pm at One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich. (Seder begins at 4 pm.) Tickets are \$10 per family in advance; \$15 at the door. Registration is available at jccgreenwich.org.

For additional details about either program, contact Tracy Daniels at tracy@ujafedgreenwich or 203-552-1818.

Wednesday, March 1 • 3:45 - 5 pm
Purim Party

Meet brave Queen Esther, her uncle Mordechai, her husband King Achashverosh, and evil Haman at the PJ Library Purim Party! PJ Library friends will gather for Purim crafts as we don costumes and jump into the Purim story together!
Event Chairs Stephanie Esquenazi and Jody Lazlo

Garden Education Center of Greenwich, 130 Bible Street
\$25 per family in advance, \$30 at the door
Register at JCCGreenwich.org or 203-552-1818



Tuesday, April 4 • 3:45 - 5 pm
Passover Mini-Seder

It’s the PJ Library Annual Mini-Seder just for kids! We’ll exodus from Egypt, experience the plagues and journey together through the Passover story. Laughter, learning, songs and spirit!! Appropriate for children of all ages!
Event Chairs Anne Akyuz & Rebecca Tipermas

One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, \$10 per family in advance, \$15 at the door
Register at JCCGreenwich.org or 203-552-1818



Thursdays • 3:30 - 4:30 pm
February 9 • May 4
Story Time with Miss Daisy

This year’s special guest Story Time leader, Miss Daisy, will take children ages 5 and under on PJ Library story adventures!

Daisy Florin has a master’s degree in early childhood and elementary education from Bank Street College. She is a writer whose essays about parenting have appeared in *Byline*, *Child Magazine* and *Wellie*, among other publications. Story Times are a gift to the community from PJ Library and UJA/JCC Greenwich.

Special thanks to **Daisy Florin** (Miss Daisy) and the Greenwich Library for hosting PJ Library Story Time.
Greenwich Library, 101 West Putnam Ave.

Miss Daisy

RSVP online at JCCGreenwich.org or 203-552-1818



UJA Greenwich Welcomes New Board President Scott Simon

Scott Simon grew up in Northern New Jersey, where he met his wife Madeline (a JCC and UJA Women's Philanthropy board member) during their first year of Hebrew school at Temple Sinai in Tenafly, New Jersey. After attending The Horace Mann School, he received his BA in Political Science at Emory University in Atlanta and then his Masters in Public Health at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory. Desiring more hands-on involvement with healthcare he made the decision to attend Medical School. While attending Rutgers

Medical School he developed an interest in Neuroscience and ultimately Neurosurgery and was accepted into and completed his Surgical and Neurosurgery Residencies at the University of Pennsylvania as well as a fellowship in Pediatric Spinal Deformity Surgery at the Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Scott is a partner at Orthopedic & Neurosurgery Specialists in Greenwich.



He and his wife Madeline, an illustrator, and his three children: Ben, Sasha, and Leo, have been active members of the Greenwich Jewish community since their arrival in 2005.

In accepting his nomination, Dr. Simon spoke warmly of his predecessor Brian Nelinger and all that he accomplished. Scott says he is looking forward to his upcoming journey as President of UJA Greenwich.

A Night Out with @100mileman Jesse Itzler

On Thursday, March 2, 7:30 pm, Greenwich women, spouses and friends will get their blood pumping when bestselling author and mega-entrepreneur Jesse Itzler anchors a couples nights out. Can't come as a couple? Come on your own or bring a friend. Mr. Itzler will recount his astounding and inspiring story of living and training with a Navy Seal for 31 days in his family home in Manhattan. Not to give anything away, but suffice it to say that by month's end, Itzler had built up far more than bulging body mass. He'll share his lessons learned about the unexpected and life-changing rewards of stepping out of your comfort zone and daring to embrace risk. As much as we admire fitness nuts, they may not be our first choice of whom to hang out with for an entire evening. But Jesse Itzler is no ordinary jock: he's current owner of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks, co-founder of Marquis Jet (acquired by Berkshire Hathaway/NetJets) and a pioneer of the coconut water craze with Zico coconut water (acquired by the Coca-Cola Company). Then there's his former rap act on MTV and producer stints for both the NBA's Emmy Award-winning "I Love This Game" music campaign and the New York Knicks anthem "Go NY Go." And now he's written the bestselling book *Living with a SEAL* about the grueling month he spent with the "toughest man on the planet" in order to get radical results. This event is sponsored by UJA Greenwich Pearl Society for families who pledge \$180 or more toward the Federation's Annual Campaign, payable by December 2017. **The Pearl Society is an initiative of UJA Women's Philanthropy to provide families the opportunity to join UJA in the mission of enriching Jewish life.** A \$36 per person ticket price includes light bites and wine. For additional details and registration, contact tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org or 203.552.1818 ext. 17.



Introducing New Women's Philanthropy President Silvina Knoll

Ask Silvina Knoll what she's most proud of in her philanthropic work to date, and you'll hear about her chairing a UJA Greenwich mission to her native Buenos Aires in November 2015. Contemplating the profound connection that she and her fellow mission goers forged with the Argentinian Jewish community, Knoll returned to Greenwich with a renewed sense of purpose.



Asked about her vision as Women's Philanthropy's new president, she said: "It's about bringing people together through inclusive and inspiring initiatives." In addition to traditional events such as the Gala and Brunch, Knoll is advocating enrichment programming that will engage the community around shared heritage and *tikkun olam* concerns, among other new initiatives.

Knoll and her husband Jonas – who was a schoolmate back in Argentina – are active in passing down Jewish and Zionist values to their 8-year-old son, Toby, and 11-year-old daughter, Sabrina. Knoll is an active volunteer at both children's public schools, and has taught Spanish to Greenwich youth. Now that she is no longer a stay-at-home mom, the CPA plans to launch a private consultancy as a financial advisor and business coach. Her previous position, was as CFO of WingLatino, the Hispanic agency of advertising conglomerate WPP. Prior to that, she worked with multinational companies both in Argentina and the U.S., including Arthur Andersen, Baxter Immuno and WPP.

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
- Congregation Kehilat Shalom/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., Feb. 17 5:14 pm
- Fri., Feb. 24 5:22 pm
- Fri., Mar. 3 5:30 pm
- Fri., Mar. 10 5:38 pm
- Fri., Mar. 17 6:46 pm
- Fri., Mar. 24 6:53 pm
- Fri., Mar. 31 7:01 pm
- Fri., Apr. 7 7:08 pm
- Mon., Apr. 10 7:11 pm
Eve of First Day Passover
- Tues., Apr. 11 8:13 pm
Eve of Second Day Passover
- 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

Greenwich Jewish News

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- SILVINA KNOLL
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WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY
- PAMELA EHRENKRANZ
CEO
- TRACY DANIELS
WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY &
PJ LIBRARY DIRECTOR
- NANCY ZISSON
EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN
- JUDITH MARGOLIN
EDITOR

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Save the Date

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE NEW YORK APARTMENT OF JANE & STUART WEITZMAN FOR THE

Lion of Judah Luncheon

WHY LEADERSHIP MATTERS:
CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP OF THE PAST TWENTY YEARS AND LOOKING TOWARDS THE NEXT TWENTY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2017
11:00 AM

Honoring Past Presidents

MARLENE GILBERT | EVE GOLDBERG
SUZANNE KATZ | RANDYE KWAIT
TAMMY LEVINE | BETTY STEINBERG
MICHELE STUART | CAROLYN SURGENT
FAITH TORABY | HOLLY BROWN WEISSMAN

The Lion of Judah represents strength in Jewish life and a minimum family gift of \$5,000 to the annual UJA campaign. This commitment fortifies the Jewish people locally and globally.

*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 26, November 16, December 14
January 11, March 8, April 5, May 3

10/26, 11/16, 1/11 | Rabbi Vicki Axe doctor of ministry in pastoral counseling
December 14 | Nancy Collamer second act career coach
January 11 | Jerome Kerner certified "Sage-ing" leader
March 8 | Rabbi MJ Newman palliative care chaplain Greenwich Hospital
April 5 | Jeff Graham founder Transplant Support Organization

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Eat, Pray, Love with GRS Member Services

GRS Member Services works to bring the Jewish calendar to life, creating meaning through ritual, shared experience, and memory – finding a happy, comfortable place in which to be Jewish. Our activities include:

Holiday cooking workshops: Learn to prepare yummy fare along with wonderful traditions that only shared time in the kitchen can impart. Upcoming events include a Passover recipe workshop, challah baking, and more.




Progressive dinners for Selichot: A wonderful night for the community to share small dinners in private homes and come together at the synagogue for dessert and a beautiful service designed to prepare us for the High Holy Days.

Sukkot – a chance to revisit life with less: Join us to build our simple hut just days after Yom Kippur. Then, enjoy the stars through the latticed roof for meals, meetings, and more during this week-long harvest festival.

Casual Fridays – Shabbat in shorts for everyone! Monthly during the summer we celebrate this most special of holidays in backyards and at the beach. Kids play while adults catch up. Truly a relaxed, fun family fun way to end the week.

We meet one Friday morning a month throughout the year to learn, brainstorm, plan, and enjoy good coffee with good people. It's just 90 minutes, so let us know if you're interested; contact Nancy at membrservice@grs.org.

Celebrate Purim!




Friday, March 10
6:30 pm • GRS Offices

- Creative megillah reading
- All those in costume receive a prize!
- Bring mac 'n cheese boxes to use as groggers; we'll donate them to Neighbor to Neighbor

Sunday, March 12
10:30 am • North Street School

- Megillah reading
- Mitzvah project
- Music and dancing

All are welcome!
For more information, contact the GRS office at 203-629-0018 or info@grs.org



Temple Shalom and J-Teen Leadership Teens Complete "Weekend of Service" in South Carolina

During Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, teens from Temple Shalom and J-Teen Leadership of Westchester participated in an immersive community service trip to Charleston, SC. Highlights of the trip included preparing move-

in baskets for those transitioning out of shelter housing, restoring tombstones at one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in the country, creating oyster bags for reef construction and building frames for a house with Habitat for Humanity.



Why Carmel Academy?

By Elisa Akrongold

Going to a Jewish Day School was not in the plans when we decided to move to Greenwich from New York City, with one child who was 9 months old at the time. For us, it was Greenwich public schools all the way. That is, until we took a tour of Carmel Academy.

Like every parent, we wanted our children to have a stellar education. Like every Jewish parent, we wanted our children to have Jewish values and be proud of their Jewish identity. We quickly saw that at Carmel Academy, we could unequivocally have both. It was the obvious choice for us.

What we love most about Carmel is that it teaches our kids how to be proud, knowledgeable Jews in an ever diverse and assimilated world. We were extremely pleased when our oldest son, who attended Carmel from kindergarten through eighth grade, graduated with an excellent bi-lingual (Hebrew/English) educational foundation that prepared him to tackle a challenging high school. He is currently thriving as a sophomore at Brunswick. Our youngest is in first grade at Carmel, and the school continues its standards of excellence.



What a gift Carmel is to the Greenwich community! We love this school – it's teachers, curriculum, campus, friends, and community.

Carmel Academy on Lake Avenue is a private school for children of all Jewish affiliations serving students from transitional kindergarten through 8th grade.

UJA/JCC Greenwich Welcomes New Staff Members



Rosie Rodriguez
Administrative Assistant

Rosie lived in Texas until she was 18, when she moved to Connecticut. Rosie is a professional, hard-working and determined young woman who has worked in several fields, but her strength and extensive 12-year experience has been with a non-profit organization, Bethany Ministries CT, where she was in charge of all administration and bookkeeping. Rosie says "I am excited to take on new endeavors with UJA/ JCC Greenwich."



Gracia Fields
Controller

Gracia is the new controller at UJA/JCC Greenwich. With 20 years of accounting experience, she most recently worked at William Pastor, Inc. and is, in her words, "honored to be working in the non-profit sector, especially being part of an organization which is responsible for the improving the lives of others." Gracia added that, "I am thrilled to be part of a team that is so very dedicated and passionate about what they do." Gracia grew up in Dobbs Ferry and lives in New Rochelle.

JCC Greenwich Exploring the Arts, Culture and History in NYC



A visit to the First Jewish Americans exhibit at the NY Historical Society in January.



A look at Judaica and Israeli art at Sotheby's in December.



JCC members enjoy an exclusive tour of the American Ballet Theater in September.

SAVE THE DATE

UJA Annual Gala

Honoring
Brian Neilinger

President's Award:
Serena Baker

Thursday, May 11

Tamarack Country Club

Co-chairs:

Bonnie and Manny Citron

Yael and Josh Rosen

Silvina and Jonas Knoll

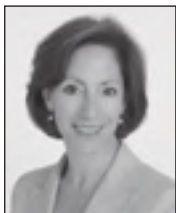
Stay in the know about the happenings in our Greenwich Jewish Community.

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.



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SAVE THE DATE

PURIM in Israel

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 · 10:30 AM

ARCH STREET THE GREENWICH TEEN CENTER
100 Arch Street, Greenwich
Megillah Reading 10:30 AM

- LIVE BAND
- SHUK CARNIVAL
- ISRAELI FOOD
- MULTI MEDIA MEGILA
- ENTERTAINMENT FOR OLDER AND YOUNGER CHILDREN

CHABADGREENWICH.ORG

Bi-Cultural Student and Mom Co-Author Two Children’s Books

Aaron Liebskind, a 7th grader at Bi-Cultural Day School, and his mother Illana Barran, have taken the adage “like mother, like son” to a new and literary level as they recently teamed up together to publish two children’s books, each with a unique focus, meaning and audience.

Aaron’s book, *The Yellow Star* is a fictionalized account of his grandfather’s struggle and perseverance during the Holocaust. Paul Liebskind, Aaron’s grandfather who passed away seven years ago, was a young child in Nazi Germany who later escaped with his family to Belgium, where he lived in hiding until the end of the war. “I was always interested in my grandfather’s story – my parents began to tell me about his life at a young age,” said Aaron. “As I got older, they would add more details about what really had happened, until I had a full picture of everything that he had been through. The older I got, the more questions I asked.”

Aaron’s questions and the depth of his grandfather’s journey inspired him to write his book, culled from his grandfather’s actual life events; a story which he crafted on his own over a period of a two years. Aaron worked with the editors of FriesenPress for editorial revision and collaborated with his mother, who provided the illustrations for the 40-page paperback. According to Barran, “The illustrations were so specific to the story. Aaron identified the number of people in each illustration and what the scene and illustration should entail. He also wanted a light on each page to signify hope. He wanted the illustrations to be black and white, and it was a challenge to make them childlike enough to fit



Author Aaron Liebskind (writing under the nom de plume of Aaron Seth) and his book “The Yellow Star.” (Photo by Alison Mandel)

the story theme, but we were all pleased with the end result.”

Aaron hopes that *The Yellow Star* will eventually be used in elementary and high schools as a teaching tool not only for Holocaust education, but also for kindness and tolerance.

Like Aaron, Barran drew inspiration for her book, *The Survival of the Gingerbread Girl: a Lullaby* from a family member – her own daughter Isabelle, a kindergartner at Bi-Cultural. “I used to sing nursery rhymes to Isabelle when she was a baby. I took the classic Gingerbread Man story and changed it to relate to a little girl, developed a tune to go along with the story, and went with it.” Barran hopes that the book, with its story and accompanying recipes, will appeal to both children and adults. She is currently working on three other children’s books.

Carmel Academy 8th Grade Delves into Afro-Caribbean Music

On a recent afternoon Carmel Academy’s music room came alive as a group of 8th graders drummed on the congas, shook maracas, strummed guiros, struck clavas and joyously danced the Cuban-born Cha-Cha-Cha.

The students were bringing together their new knowledge about Afro-Caribbean music, a genre that they studied throughout the fall with Carmel’s Musician-in-Residence, Dassi Rosenkrantz-Cabo. The unit combined geography, social studies, percussion instruments, film, dance and song, as Rosenkrantz-Cabo guided her students through the origins, history and transformation of Afro-Caribbean music and its influence on American music

and culture through the 1950s to the modern day.

Carmel Academy’s 8th graders will continue their music studies with a new genre

– Jazz. They will learn about the origins of Jazz and research artists from the various periods of Jazz music as part of a culminating creative project.



Carmel Academy 8th graders Gabriella Frankel Mordecai and Aaron Rosenberg dance with maracas, as the school’s Musician-In-Residence Dassi Rosenkrantz-Cabo leads a class in Afro-Caribbean music.

From the Rabbi

☆ *Let Us Choose Hope* ☆

by Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz, Temple Sholom

Emily Dickinson wrote:
*“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
 That perches in the soul -
 And sings the tune without the words -
 And never stops - at all -*

“Hope”— the “thing with feathers” – always linked with God. And, it’s hope, as it flutters in and out of our lives, which gives us comfort, and helps us persevere when all else seems hopeless.

The Prophet Jerimiah proclaimed: “God has plans for your welfare and not for harm. God will give you a future with hope, and then when you call upon God, and come and pray; God will hear you.”

As Jews, we train our body, mind and soul to assure a hopeful outlook. We know that life is full of blessings and curses; life and death; but we always choose life; we choose hope. Hope is to life, what oxygen is to the lungs, and the real problem for us is that people are not hopeful enough.

We all know that things are not perfect; there is war, poverty, hunger, sorrow, and violence. Things are broken, and it is not as God would want it. But, we Jews are told by God to be a “Light unto the Nations”. We are called to help to bring God’s hope to the world and to help to repair that which is broken. Not, because we are afraid, but because of the hope that stirs our souls when we think of what could be.

The English painter George Frederic Watts created a painting called “Hope.” In the background of the painting we can make out the outlines of the continents and the oceans that surround them, and in the foreground is a woman seated at a harp. Most of the harp strings are broken, dangling loosely from the top of the harp, or lying uselessly across her lap. Yet, the harp has one string still tautly strung, and Hope is plucking that one string and letting the tune without the words stir our souls.

We Jews have a choice: Hope is plucking that one string. Will we focus on despair, or will we focus on hope? Will we take every opportunity to deliver moments of joy, kindness and love?

It is this sharing of hope – this sharing of love – that is what Judaism is all about. Tikkun Olam, Repairing the World, in every situation that arises. Our challenge is

to manifest our hope by praying for something that’s better, and trusting that it will be better. And, in confidence, to go out and with concrete actions, manifesting our confidence in the future. We need to actively seek out the opportunities by which we can enjoy useful, joyful, and purposeful lives.

It has been said that hope is like baking powder; it effectively helps us to rise up. Let’s look at the future with unlimited possibility, anticipation and expectancy; with the feeling of being on the edge of our seats, filled with a vision of tomorrow in which all are welcomed at the bountiful table of existence. Let’s assume the best about people, and their innate abilities, goodness, and potential. God placed within each of us a small piece of Divinity and Wholeness. This small piece goes by many different names: “Love,” “Compassion,” “Joy,” and “Hope.” Let’s better explore the areas where love, compassion, joy and hope, may be hiding in plain sight, and may each and every one of us bring hope out of the darkness and into the light.

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.

Bi-Cultural to Perform Fairytale Retelling in March

The Bi-Cultural Day School Players will be performing the musical, *Once Upon a Mattress* on Thursday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, March 5th at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Bi-Cultural. *Once Upon a Mattress*, a musical comedy retelling of the classic fairytale “The Princess and the Pea,” is the school’s annual spring musical and features such all-time favorite songs as “Many Moons Ago” and “Goodnight Sweet Princess.” The cast and stage crew for the show is comprised of more than 40 Bi-Cultural students in grades 4 through 8, who have been rehearsing since the beginning of the school year. Stamford theater performing artist and director Janice Chaikelson Steinberg will be directing the two-act show, and New York-based composer and pianist Assaf Gleizner is the show’s Musical Director. Please contact Bi-Cultural at 203-329-2186 for more information and for tickets.

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.

270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830 • (203) 863-9663 • www.carmelacademy.com

Newish and Jewish?

Please join us for a special morning of coffee and conversation.

Even if you have been here a while - let us welcome and invite YOU to meet the women of UJA Greenwich.



Guest Speaker: Dr. Dale V. Atkins, PhD

Licensed psychologist, popular commentator in the media and renowned lecturer.

Monday, February 27 at 9:30 am

At the home of Yael Rosen

(address will be provided upon RSVP)

Event Chairs: Yael Rosen and Michele Stuart

Silvina Knoll, President Women’s Philanthropy & Bonnie Citron, Chair of Newcomer Outreach

Kindly RSVP online

www.ujafedgreenwich.org/events/newcomers

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



“Galvanize” Alerts Future College Students to New Culture of Hate

Right about now high school seniors are constantly checking their in-boxes as they await word on college admissions. But for many that acceptance and their first footsteps on campus will bring them face to face with a new form of hate.

Incidents of bias, intolerance and intimidation have become increasingly common at universities across the nation, where individuals who don't conform to a specific ideology can experience the suppression of free speech. They also risk getting caught up in the going buzzword, “intersectionality,” a tool used to enlist well-intentioned, human rights-minded individuals into a narrative that is misleading.

There is a new form of hatred on the college campus, and a new initiative called Galvanize aims to counter this trend. Its co-founders, Greenwich's **Bryanna Kallman** and Stamford's **Michele Stuart** were traveling home on the train from an Anti-Defamation League Summit about its “No Place for Hate” campaign when they decided that: “We're not going to just sit back and be passive – we need to do something right now!” And the idea to establish Galvanize was born. According to Kallman “it's just not on this generation's radar yet – nor on their parents' – but it will be.” Narrowing this awareness gap looms large on the Galvanize agenda.

There's the story of Lauren Rogers, who as a member of the UCLA student government was subjected to a judicial board hearing. Her crime? Taking a sponsored educational trip to Israel that a campus group deemed a “conflict of interest.” Or transgender activist Janet Mock, who was pressured into cancelling her speaking engagement at Brown University, not by deniers of LGBTQ rights, but by student forces who opposed the endorsements from other campus groups. These examples, and hundreds like them, are a growing cause for concern, say Galvanize's creators. They come at a time when universities have been documenting an increase in hate and anti-Semitic incidents. “It's precisely this environment that makes familiarity with real cases like Rogers' and Mock's crucial for incoming students,” says Stuart.

Yet as important as news access is, the ability to parse the news takes greater precedence. The Galvanize team cites the research of *BuzzFeed* media editor Craig Silverman, revealing that Americans believed three-quarters of false news headlines circulated during the 2016 U.S. elections. Deciding what's true and



just is a challenge for everyone, but for today's college students who grew up with social media, the pace is especially fast and furious. As Kallman puts it, “They are definitely the most technically savvy and informed generation ever. But

who has time to confirm all news stories, especially if you feel they do not pertain to you?” Galvanize's first goal is to rally awareness. “I have tremendous faith in the next generation of college student's social conscience to take action against bigotry and ideologies that are not at the core of their own values,” Kallman continues. “Galvanize does not tell anyone what to think, but to think.” A cornerstone of this strategy is to invite students to ask themselves five seminal questions: “Is the truth being told on campus? Are some groups being marginalized and their free speech suppressed? What is fact? What is fair? What role can I play?”

Galvanize brings together the Greenwich community around a shared urgency in readying their children for hostility they might encounter on campus. At this nascent stage, Galvanize is positioning itself as a bridge to the many remarkable organizations promoting understanding, discourse and advocacy. The “bridge” image also figures in the diversity of its founders and supporters, cutting across political viewpoints and religious affiliations.

On January 29th, Galvanize held its inaugural event – at Central Middle School – a location secured by UJA Greenwich. With Rachel Klein from Hillel moderating, speakers included: Grace Rubin, a student activist at Wesleyan University; Luke Moon, Deputy Director of the Philos Project; and Anthony Berteaux, an aspiring journalist from San Diego State University, who appears in **Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on Campus**. Having faced his share of bullying as a gay Asian student, Berteaux comments onscreen about his brush with anti-Israel and anti-Jewish activists on the quad: “If you don't agree with them, you're against them, so they have to shut you down.” (On April 30th, JCC Greenwich will present this new documentary at the Greenwich Bow-Tie Criterion Cinemas. See page 14.)

Galvanize members include: Kim Athan, Susan Cohen, Marla Felton, Joui Hessel, Laurie Josephs, Silvina Knoll, Randy Kwait, Yael Rosen, Debbie Rosmarin, Kim Sands, Alisa Savitz, Wendy Schreiber, Madeline Simon and Jane Wolansky.



Michele Stuart, Avi Posnik with StandWithUs, and Bryanna Kallman.



A packed crowd at the Galvanize inaugural event.

JCC Greenwich Welcomed Lewis Bernstein of Sesame Street at the Bruce Museum in January



Beth Richman introduces former colleague Lewis Bernstein at the Bruce Museum.

Applications Available for the 2017 Weitzman Youth Award for Jewish Philanthropy

The Weitzman Youth Award for Jewish Philanthropy was founded by Jane and Stuart Weitzman, whose hope it is to ensure that the next generation is inspired to become involved with helping their fellow Jews in need. This award will be presented by the Weitzmans at the annual UJA Greenwich Gala.

The award will be given to those who exhibit the most creativity and personal commitment to Jewish philanthropy. UJA Greenwich is available to advise potential applicants on suitable projects. Applicants must be in the fifth through twelfth grades and residents of Greenwich or children of families active with UJA Greenwich. All funds raised from the projects must be donated through the UJA Federation. Projects may not be political in nature. The award committee will make all final decisions regarding recipients of the award.

For more information, contact Pam Ehrenkranz at 203-552-1818 or pam@ujafedgreenwich.org.



Former Greenwich resident, Norma Perlstein, surprised Greenwich UJA board member Jane Weitzman recently when Weitzman was the speaker at the San Francisco Lion of Judah luncheon. Both Perlstein and Weitzman were founding members of the Greenwich Women's Philanthropy Board, as well as being among the first Lion of Judah women in Greenwich.

Temple Sholom's Annual Party Planning Showcase and Mitzvah Project Fair a Success



On Sunday, January 8, Temple Sholom hosted its Annual Party Planning Showcase and Mitzvah Project Fair. This free event, which featured a total of 30 vendors and community service organizations, attracted many b'nai mitzvah families in search of ideas for their upcoming celebrations.

Hebrew Wizards Better Together Mitzvah Moments Give Students a Community Service Experience They Will Never Forget.

Our students worked with the seniors at River House, the Atria in Rye Brook and the Mews Senior Home. We made challahs and brought the taste of Judaism to residents. Our intergenerational projects have been a success for all ages.



Thank you to Legacy Heritage for helping us fund our programming.

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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

“The Dilemma: Modern Dilemmas. Talmudic Debates. Your Solutions”

Instructor: Rabbi Menachem Feldman

6 Tuesdays, began January 31, 2017, 10-11 am or 7:30-8:30 pm

Women’s Torah Study Group

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 am

Fairfield University Carl & Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies

“Is the Movement to Boycott Israel Anti-Semitic?”

Dr. Gabriel Noah Brahm, Professor of English, Northern Michigan University

Monday, February 27, 7:30 pm, Dolan School of Business Dining Room

The Samuel and Bettie Roberts Lecture in Jewish Art:

“Blue Like Me: The Art of Siona Benjamin”

Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 pm, Dolan School of Business Dining Room

“Flight for Life: Jewish Heroism and the Creation of the Israeli Air Force”

Nancy Spielberg, documentary film maker

Tuesday, April 4, 7:30 pm, Quick Center for the Arts, Kelley Theatre

Greenwich Reform Synagogue

Adult 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

Painted Ladies Series

“Queen Esther in Art,” Thursday, March 2

One Holly Hill Lane, 10-11:30 am

Ike’s Gamble: America’s Rise to Dominance in the Middle East

With Michael Doran

Monday, March 13, One Holly Hill Lane, 7 pm

A Girl Walks Out of a Bar

With Author Lisa Smith

Wednesday, March 29, YWCA, 259 East Putnam Ave., Greenwich, 10 am

Temple Shalom

Shabbat Study

with Temple Shalom Clergy, Saturdays, 9-10 am

Lunch & Learn

Tuesdays, 12-1 pm. Kosher lunch provided

Adult Learning with Rabbi Mitch

Sunday, March 5, 10:15-11:15 am

Topic: “Miracles”

UCONN Center for Jewish Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life

“Trouble in the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict Over Israel”

Dov Waxman

March 9, 7:00 pm, Konover Auditorium

UJA Greenwich

Israel Breakfast Forum

“Leading Change: How Entrepreneurs Influence Society”

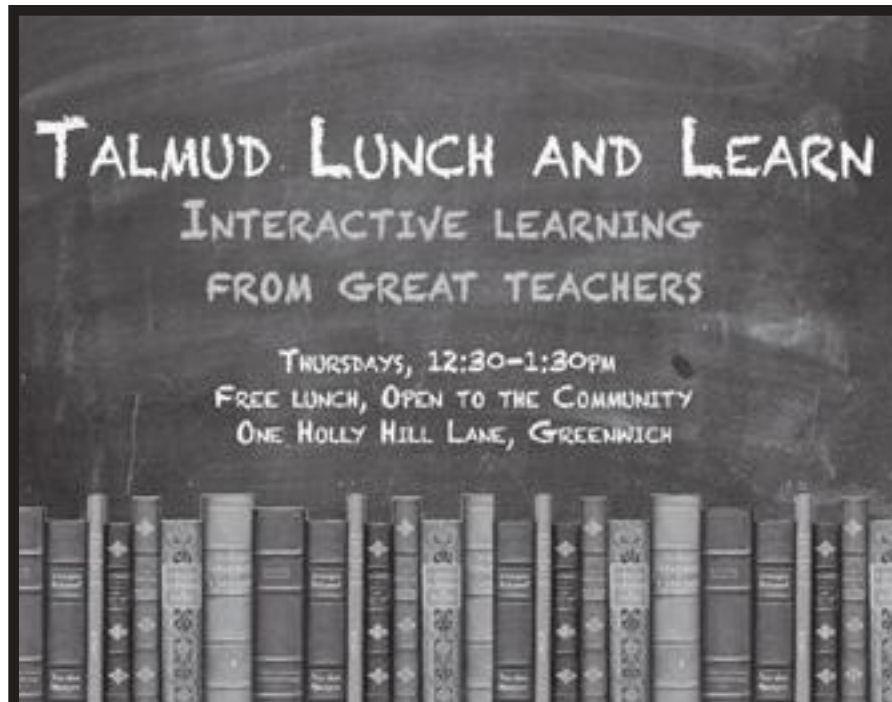
Guest Speaker Alan Futterman in Conversation with Thomas Appleby

Thursday, March 30, 8 am, YWCA, 259 East Putnam Ave., Greenwich

Are you considering taking a class or attending a lecture this 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

February 16 Rabbi Eric Hoffman
The Power of the Majority

February 23 Rabbi Yossi Deren
Curious Tales of the Talmud: Finding Personal Meaning in the Legends of Our Sages

March 2..... Chava Evans
Women and Prophecy in Masechet Megillah
What do rabbinic stories tell us about prophetesses in ancient Israel?

March 9..... Dr. Aaron Koller
Esther, Mordechai and the Story of the Diaspora Jewry
Unmask recurrent themes in Jewish political culture with the author of “Esther In Ancient Jewish Thought”

March 16..... Rabbi Ysoscher Katz
Art As Prayer and Prayer As Art
Could art appreciation be a form of prayer?

March 23..... William S. Liss-Levinson
In Search of Theological Modesty: Biblical Lessons
Explore biblical models for humility and tolerance.

March 30..... Rabbi Menachem Leibtag
Did Pharaoh Change His Mind, or Did God Change His Plan?
The Exodus story revisited, just in time for another seder.

April 6..... Rabbi Moshe Edelman
Who Is Serach Bat Asher?
Discover this mysterious girl who never died and midrashim that surround her.

Check JCC calendar for updated schedule



Educate
Stimulate
Motivate

UJA/JCC Families and JCC Teen Action Committee Making a Difference

On Nov 20th UJA/JCC participants were making a difference for those in need in two special ways. Five families came together to make 20 apples pies for Thanksgiving for clients of the Kosher Food Pantry of the Schoke JFS. Later that day JCC Teen Action

Committee members participated in the Met Council SNAP Food Challenge by shopping for a week's worth of healthy groceries based on the budget given to those living on federal food assistance programs. Lessons were learned throughout the day about

helping those in need in our own community and taking time around the holidays to do a little extra for others. All the food purchased and made was donated to the Kosher Food Pantry.



JCC Teen Action Committee is a group of Greenwich middle and high school students who come together to learn about issues and perform community service projects. For more information visit jccgreenwich.org or call 203-552-1818.



Saturday, March 11 • 7 pm
Midnight Run

You can make a difference! Help to clothe and feed the homeless of NYC.

Meet at One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich. We will return to Greenwich at approximately 1:30 am.

\$25 includes dinner

Sign up at JCCGreenwich.org or call 203-552-1818

JCC Teen Action Committee Members Hard at Work

In October members of JCC Greenwich Teen Action Committee (JTAC) collected toiletry items as part of a drive to raise awareness of domestic abuse. Pictured here are Joey Canoro of the Crisis Intervention Team and Kathryn Harter, Program Coordinator of Volunteer Services of Met Council, and Vanessa Williams with staff member of the YWCA Greenwich Domestic Abuse Services accepting the Emergency Shelter Toiletry bags packed by JTAC.






Natalie Lilien and Shira Mann welcome teens and parents to the JCC Greenwich Teen Film Screening of "Once in A Lifetime" on Sunday, January 22. Thanks to UJA Greenwich and to Sheila Romanowitz for making the event possible in observance of International Holocaust Memorial Day.

Women's Philanthropy Brunch, November 2016 with Guest Speaker Linda Sherzer



Photos by Asher Sergé Photography

PJ Library/JCC Greenwich Hanukkah Party with Mr. G on Sunday, December 4



Photos by Asher Sergé Photography

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT...

After the Fires, You Were Here to Help

The Gift of Family

Just a few months ago, Odelia and Ohad Brat celebrated one of the happiest occasions of their lives: their son's bar mitzvah. They'll never forget when he received his brand-new *tefillin*—special leather boxes worn during prayer—from his beloved grandparents. Everyone was filled with pride.

And they'll never forget grabbing that same *tefillin* at the last minute as they and their six children—ranging in age from six to 20—quickly fled their home in Talmon. A raging fire was only minutes away. So they took what was most precious to them.

It was a smart split-second decision. Flames destroyed much of the Brat family house. The entire upstairs was charred. When the family returned, they could barely even recognize what used to be their home.

The Brats did make one unlikely discovery, though. A bank tin, badly burned. Inside was the money one of their sons had earned mowing lawns for neighbors. It was dirty and damp, but it was there.

That tin is a symbol for what it'll take to rebuild their home and their lives. It's not going to happen overnight. But they have each other. And UJA Greenwich partner The Jewish Agency for Israel, which is delivering grants of \$1,000 to families across Israel who lost everything in the fires.

With the grant, the Brats are able to buy clothing, medicine and other essentials



for their large family. Odelia says that the care, concern and support they've received has left her speechless.



Finding Heart Amid Tragedy

Oshra Levy was relieved. Her husband's open heart surgery had gone well. After four weeks in the hospital, he was starting to regain his strength at their quiet home in Beit Meir, in the hills just west of Jerusalem.

Their peace didn't last long. In the middle of the night, Oshra woke up to loud banging and evacuation orders shouted over a megaphone. When she opened the window, smoke and sparks from a raging fire flew up and engulfed their bedroom. Despite the terrifying darkness and choking smoke, Oshra woke her husband, then her son. They fled the house quickly, with nothing but the clothes on their backs and a bag of life-saving medication.

When the blaze was finally extinguished, they returned to a ruined home. The front hall was completely charred, and a firefighter's axe had chopped through the front door. Only then did the Levys realize their good fortune: If Oshra hadn't heard that megaphone, they would not have made it out alive.

Their son has no school to go to now. It burned down, along with much of the town. Smoke hangs in the air amid ruins of destroyed homes. And her husband has been in and out of the hospital since that fateful night. It will take a while to rebuild their home—and their lives. Meanwhile, a \$1,000 grant from our partner The Jewish Agency for Israel—is helping the Levys—and other families in Beit Meir who have

lost everything—slowly get back on their feet.

Oshra is optimistic, and deeply thankful. Fighting back tears, she says, "Your help is truly needed. This is a blessing."



JDC Brings Winter Relief to Those Suffering from the Cold

An unprecedented cold snap descended on the people of Europe and the former Soviet Union in January, resulting in the deaths of more than 60 people. But JDC's Winter Relief program was already well underway.

Now in its 25th year, this critical aid program ensures that thousands of poor Jews, including home-bound elderly — who do not have the resources or ability to secure appropriate supplies — get the critical support they need to survive frigid temperatures in places with little local support to help them.

Take the Vasiliev-Klochkovs, a family from the remote city of Prishaktinsk in Kazakhstan, where the temperature currently has hovered near 1 degree Fahrenheit. The family of four live in a dilapidated house without indoor plumbing or central heating. Their only source of heat is

a furnace that burns charcoal. Last month, the JDC-supported Hesed social welfare center provided a

large supply of coal to the family. If it wasn't for this delivery, which will yield up to four months of heat, it is highly unlikely the Vasiliev-Klochkovs would have been able to afford this basic necessity on their monthly income of just \$176.

For needy Jews from the Baltics to Hungary to Kazakhstan, winter relief comes in the form of warm blankets and jackets, wood, coal, electric heaters, and utility subsidies that are desperately needed. In Poland, also experiencing frigid temperatures, dozens of families received winter aid, from warm clothes, to flu shots, to heaters.

A generation after JDC began its efforts to help Jews in need stave off winter's cold, the annual program is not only saving lives, its providing community for those with no one else in the world to turn to.





To register for any of these events, visit JCCGreenwich.org

Educate
Stimulate
Motivate

Thursday, March 2 • 10 - 11:30 am

Painted Ladies: Queen Esther in Art

With Art Historian Beth S. Gersh-Nešić, Ph.D

Purim celebrates the grit and gumption of a young Jewess tapped to save her co-religionists from annihilation. Savor the Feast of Esther through some of art history's most evocative and haunting images.

One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, \$30 in advance, \$36 at the door

Register at JCCGreenwich.org or 203-552-1818



Monday, March 13 • 7 pm

Ike's Gamble: America's Rise to Dominance in the Middle East

With Michael Doran

How did the Suez Crisis shape America's outsized regional role from 1956 on? Retrace President Eisenhower's fateful moves of six decades ago, with a senior fellow of the Hudson Institute who served as a Middle East advisor to the George W. Bush administration.

One Holly Hill Lane, \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

Register online at JCCGreenwich.org or 203-552-1818



Wednesday, March 29 • 10 am Girl Walks Out of A Bar with author Lisa Smith

Author Lisa Smith was a bright young lawyer at a prestigious law firm in NYC when alcoholism and drug addiction took over her life. What was once a way she escaped her insecurity and negativity as a teenager became a means of coping with anxiety and stress of an impossible workload. Her book, *Girl Walks Out of a Bar*, a darkly comic and wrenchingly honest story explores her formative years, decade of alcohol and drug abuse and her road to recovery. Sober for ten years, Lisa Smith is passionate about breaking the stigma of drug and alcohol addiction.

YWCA Greenwich, 259 E. Putnam Ave. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door



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.

Tickets are available at jccgreenwich.org or call 203-552-1818 • \$10 per person

BowTie Cinema, 2 Railroad Ave



Wednesdays, 7pm at Bow Tie Criterion Cinema, 2 Railroad Ave. \$15 each film, \$118 series

JCC Davis Film Festival



Wednesday, March 8

The Kindergarten Teacher

A Tel Aviv teacher becomes obsessed with a 5-year-old prodigy whose inexplicable bursts of poetry awaken in her a protective and ultimately extreme impulse. *New York Times Critics' Pick!*

Nadav Lapid / Drama / Israel / 119 min.



Wednesday, April 5

Laugh Lines

Dana, 24, bears the load of her family on her frail shoulders. When her grandmother becomes a lonely widow, Dana grants her one last chance for happiness. Funny how sad it is. This comedy straddles the line between laughter and tenderness.

Pivi Edin / Comedy, Drama / Israel

SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING MOVIES 2017
May 10 June 21

Israel Is-Real

Israeli culture through a new lens



Influenced by politics, current events, social issues and daily life the way Israeli culture is expressed through graffiti art, commercial media and music reveals the voices of the real Israel



Mondays at 10:45am at JCC Greenwich
1 Holly Hill Lane
with the Israeli Embassy,
Rachel Ben Shimol



Temple Sholom Continues a Thanksgiving Tzedakah Tradition

On Thanksgiving morning, Temple Sholom families of all ages came together to deliver a holiday meal and a smile to residents at McKinney Terrace in Greenwich. Most of the volunteers were recruited via social media, prompted by a call-to-action Facebook post by Cantor Asa Fradkin. “It began with an impromptu conversation about lending our efforts to better serving our community and to teaching our children that it is our responsibility to make society a place we are proud of,” said Fradkin. “We had more than ten families participate. They were so enthusiastic and excited to be a part of it.”



through 12th graders as part of the temple’s ongoing commitment to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). This Thanksgiving cooking program has become an annual tradition at Temple Sholom and supports the core value of giving back to those who are less fortunate. “Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on all we are thankful for,” said Temple Sholom President Ben Kriegl, who served as a kitchen supervisor for the teens. “It provides a lead-by-example opportunity for me and a rewarding and fulfilling experience for all the participants who show their appreciation by volunteering.”

The meals, consisting of holiday favorites like turkey, mashed potatoes and green beans, were prepared, cooked and plated on Tuesday, November 22 by 8th For more information about Temple Sholom’s upcoming Social Action opportunities, visit www.templesholom.com.

A Memorable Mitzvah

Carmel Academy Third Graders Purchase More Than 100 Toys for Sick Children

Imagine being a child in a toy store with the go-ahead to purchase more than \$1000 worth of toys! Carmel Academy’s third graders did just that. Yet not even one toy for themselves. Instead, the students walked away with a different gift: the knowledge that they were part of a memorable and meaningful mitzvah.

The toys were for children fighting cancer, and the Carmel students spent a month raising the money to purchase the gifts, said third-grade teacher Gina Perl. It all began with a read-a-thon. The students committed to reading 20 minutes for 20 nights, asking their parents to sponsor them with a dollar for each night

they read. Many students also contributed money from their own allowances and asked other relatives for support. With additional contributions from Carmel teachers and community members, the students raised \$1050, according to third grade teacher Robin Shainberg.

The third graders counted the money – much of it in coins – and the next day went to shop at Learning Express Toys in Rye Brook, NY. In pairs, each with a \$95 budget, they chose toys for boys and girls of varying ages. After careful consideration they purchased 101 toys, which were given to Sunrise Day Camp, a free summer camp for children with cancer and their siblings. Each child who

attended the camp’s December reunion received a surprise gift. “Anything we can do to bring the real world into the classroom extends learning,” said Shainberg, who created this integrated *chesed* project with Carmel’s Lower School Math Specialist Hilary Machlis six years ago.

“Children buying presents for other children is the purest form of giving,” Shainberg said. “The students put aside their own wants and desires, and they worked hard in the toy store to shop with a purpose.” “I really thought about what would kids my age and other ages like, and I also had to think about toys that girls would like,” said third-grader



Carmel Academy 3rd grade students Eden Citron and Neveh Yechiely, shop for toys at Learning Express Toys in Rye Brook, NY.

Daniel Margolius. Third-grader Max MacDonald said he and his classmates felt proud to provide a surprise for kids and families going through challenging times. “I felt very

excited because I was doing a good deed for kids who are sick. We bought toys for them so they could have some fun and I also felt very grateful that my family is healthy,” Max said.

Bi-Cultural Hosts Super Hero Purim Palooza for Young Families

On Sunday, February 26th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Bi-Cultural Day School will host its first-ever Super Hero-themed Purim Palooza. The event is free of charge and open to all families with children ages birth to 6 years old (siblings are welcome). Children are encouraged to come dressed in costume as their favorite hero or heroine.

The two-hour program will take place in the Bi-Cultural Day School gymnasium, and will feature an exciting line-up of holiday-themed activities and performers, including a special puppet show, arts n’ crafts mask-making, mishlach manot bag creations, hamentaschen making, a super hero bounce house, soft-play and games, face-painting and character balloon artistry. In addition, popular children’s book author Tracey Newman, whose works include *Hanukkah Is Coming* and *Shabbat Hiccups*, will be back again to read her holiday book *Purim Is Coming*, and sign a copy for each family to take away, free of charge.

Holiday refreshments, snacks and drinks will be served.

Please contact Denise Rafailov, Bi-Cultural’s Director of Admissions for more information, or register for this event at 203-329-2186, extension 1310 or drafailov@bcds.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
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JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH

Winter Programming

Back By Popular Demand: DIVORCE MYTHBUSTERS (JFS office)

For divorce professionals, therapists, and people you know who may be contemplating divorce. This free informative seminar will debunk commonly held myths about the divorce process. Maurice K. Segall of Mediation Solutions, is an experienced attorney mediator who has successfully helped many divorcing couples through the mediation process in a cost-effective and non-adversarial way. Lili Vasileff is the founder of Divorce and Money Matters LLC and is a nationally recognized financial expert in divorce and financial planning. *2/22; 7:00 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 generations that came before them. To join, contact Lisa Goldberg at JFS. *Wednesdays, 2/15; 3/15; 5/10; 10:30-11:30 am*

JFS BOOKBEAT: FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ (JFS office)

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

Wednesdays, 3/22; 4/26; 6/28; 7:30 pm

Our next book is *The Little Bride*, by Anna Solomon.

JFS MOVIEGOER'S SERIES

An inter-generational, afternoon film series for members of our Jewish community, screening feature films and documentaries with themes relevant to today's Jewish families, and pertaining to important world issues. Movies are shown at The Mews, and refreshments are served. The series is facilitated by Lolly Raphael, an experienced film moderator. *See JFS website for dates.*

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. *Joan Mann, Spiritual Care Counselor at JFS; Lisa Goldberg, Director Jewish Health and Healing Center of JFS; and Rabbi MJ Newman, Jewish Chaplain of Greenwich Hospital, lead the service.*

INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS

This Wednesday-evening series gives people a way to explore the opportunities and challenges associated with interfaith living. *3/1; 5/24; 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, 2/13; 3/13; 4/10; 12-12:45 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
 or call 203-622-1881 for more information.**

Winter Counseling and Support Groups

NEW! Daytime Support Group for Separating and Divorcing Individuals (JFS office)

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

NEW! Surviving and Succeeding As a Stepmother (JFS office)

Being a stepmother is a unique role in family life. Adjustment takes a lot of time, and loving and caring for one another develops slowly. This group helps participants with the challenges and opportunities associated with being a stepmother. Facilitated by Mary Karlan, LCSW. *Six Mondays, 11 am-noon, beginning 2/13*

NEW! Mothers and Daughters, Friends and Foes (JFS office)

By the time a woman realizes her mother was right, she has a daughter of her own who thinks she's wrong. There are few relationships fraught with as much push and pull as the mother-daughter relationship. Often these feelings are complicated, and unresolved issues are carried into adulthood. The goal of this six-week group is to explore the multifaceted relationships adult daughters have with their mothers and to find ways to improve communication and really enjoy your time together. Facilitated by Linda Schlapfer, LMFT. *Six Wednesdays, noon-1 pm, beginning 3/1*

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*

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 provides a confidential space to reflect on the life you are living and the life you would like to live. It is an opportunity to grow, develop, and learn from others. Facilitated by Barbara Lehrman, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 5:15-6:30 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 gives 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 family 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-Lorraine Smith, LCSW, and Rabbi Vicki Axe of Congregation Shir Ami. *Tuesdays, 1-2 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-Lorraine Smith, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 2-3 pm*

**For more information or to join a group, please call
 Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW, at 203-622-1881 or email
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 Brings Jewish Holiday Celebrations to Greenwich Senior Facilities All Year Long

"Thank you. Thank you for coming and celebrating Chanukah. I'm Jewish. I celebrate Chanukah, or at least I did. You brought it all back and made me feel so good: the song, the lights, and the children. I don't know how to thank you."

These are words that remind us here at the Jewish Health and Healing Center that our holiday songs, candle lighting, and outreach to area facilities do not go unnoticed. Those words were uttered, while choking back tears, to Lisa M. Goldberg, Director of

the Jewish Health and Healing Center, after a Chanukah celebration with volunteers at River House. Those words are why the Jewish Health and Healing Center continues to provide Jewish holiday programming to Greenwich Hospital and The Mews, The Greens at Greenwich, Greenwich Woods Health Care Center, Nathaniel Witherell, and River House Adult Day Center. With the High Holidays and Chanukah behind us, we are preparing for our upcoming Purim and Pesach celebrations. Our goal is to reach as many

seniors as we can and to continue touching lives, one person at a time.

Together with our partners, Chabad of Greenwich, Congregation Shir Ami, Greenwich Chaplaincy, Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, Greenwich Reform Synagogue, and Temple Sholom of Greenwich, we are able to provide some entertaining and enlightening celebrations. Please see our website for a detailed list of when and where this year's celebrations will be!



Chanukah at Greenwich Woods.



Lisa Goldberg, JHHC Director and area volunteers bring Chanukah to River House.

SPECIAL DONATIONS to Jewish Family Services

In Honor of:

- Barbara Salop**, by Sandy and Stephen Soule
- Arlene Franklin**, by Stephen Corman
- Evan Salop**, by Darcy McCusker

In Memory of:

- Clare Lee Bierman**, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
- Elaine Wendorf**, by Jan and Roni Kaplowitz
- Hannah Weidler**, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
- Valerie and Frank Furth**, by Rhoda Pappenheimer

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 or in memory of their loved one. 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.

At Supermarketing for Seniors, Our Reach Extends Beyond the Lives of Our Clients

In October a shopping client called us, concerned that she couldn't reach her shopper, who she knew had been in hospital a few weeks earlier. Besides needing groceries, she was concerned for her diabetic shopper's wellbeing.

After arranging a substitute for our client's immediate shopping needs, we began making inquiries. The shopper's emergency contact agreed to check in, but then the shopper's property manager reassured us that he had seen her that day.

The shopper eventually called us, and told us she was glad to know we were looking out for her. Our client was grateful to know that her beloved shopper was well, and that we care about our shoppers as much as we care about our clients.

All in a day's work at Supermarketing for Seniors!

If you or someone you know could benefit from our free grocery shopping and case monitoring service, please call Program Director Elyse Brown, at 203-622-1881 or email her at ebrown@jfsgrw.org.

A Magical Night with JFS

Magician ★ Sushi ★ Cocktails ★ Auction

Save the date:

April 20, 2017

River House ★ Cos Cob

Hebrew Wizards to Take a Virtual Trip to Morocco to Study the Jews of Africa

This year the students at Hebrew Wizards will take a virtual trip to Morocco to learn about the past, present and future of being Jewish in Africa. Drawing from Rabbi Deb's trips to Egypt, Ethiopia and Morocco along with the help of Racheli, our Israeli Emissary, whose parents came from Morocco, the Wizards will learn about assimilation, culture, customs and food. Being Jewish in Africa is unique and we want to experience and learn together. Please join us on Sunday, April 30th at the new Wizards building at 118 River Road, Cos Cob from 9:30 am-12 pm. Crafts, customs, music and food.



GRS: Construction Home Stretch!

The roof is up, the windows are in, and a host of electricians, plumbers, carpenters and more are working hard to complete the new home of GRS by May 2017. The building is centrally located at 92 Orchard Street in Cos Cob, just a half mile from Putnam Avenue, about halfway between Cos Cob School and Central Middle School. The 12,300 square foot building will include a sanctuary with a glass wall overlooking a dramatic rock formation, an adjacent outdoor courtyard, a spacious social hall, a first-floor suite of office and conference rooms, and a second floor with four classrooms and a spacious multi-purpose room. For a personal hard-hat tour of the building, please contact the GRS office at 203-629-0018 or info@GRS.org.



Carmel Academy Fifth Graders Lead a Greek Symposium

Wearing Greek togas and laurel head wreaths, Carmel Academy's fifth graders took their parents back in time to Ancient Greece as they led an exciting Greek Symposium.

The symposium was the culmination of the student's integrated study of ancient Greek civilization – a time period considered to be the foundation of modern Western culture. Carmel's students delved into topics such as architecture, geography, drama, myths, government and sports, and provided their parents with a window into their child's learning.

Prior to the symposium, students furthered their learning by incorporating research into their studies. In collaborative research groups they studied different aspects that defined ancient Greek civilization. Through their studies they created questions for an interactive trivia game show, which they played with their parents during the symposium. Hints



Carmel Academy 5th graders Lily Braun and Alex Young work together to answer a question about Greek culture.

to the trivia game's answers were provided to the audience through entertaining rap songs and skits that the students created and videotaped.

"The students really created everything – from the questions for the game show to the musical raps, which gave them so much pride when they shared it with their parents," said fifth-grade teacher Toby Ring. "It felt amazing teaching my parents something new," said fifth-grader Yishama Orlow. On display were Greek myths that the students wrote and illustrated, and beautiful red clay amphoras (Greek vases) that the students created in art class. "It was like being in Ancient Greece, but better, because we were there with our family and friends," said Carmel fifth-grader Lily Braun.

Rounding out their learning, the students connected their studies about ancient Greek civilization to the story of Chanukah, and performed a beautiful rendition of Maoz Tzur, a traditional Chanukah song whose lyrics talk about the interaction between the Jews and Greeks.



Carmel Academy 5th grader Atara Loewenberg gives her parents a thumbs-up when they answered a trivia question about Greek culture correctly.

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

SHIR AMI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00pm

- ✓ One-day-a-week Religious School K-6
- ✓ Bar/Bat Mitzvah Studies
- ✓ SATs Shir Ami Teens Grades 8-12
- ✓ Creative teaching staff
- ✓ Engaging curriculum
- ✓ Special care for all learning styles

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Bi-Cultural Parents Crack the Code in Computing Class

At Bi-Cultural Day School, computer coding is an integral part of the digital literacy curriculum throughout the entire year. This year for Computer Science Education Week, Director of Technology Sarah Hochman wanted to try something different – teach coding to the parents.

“I planned a course for the parents because I really wanted to make sure that they got a glimpse into the exciting world of computers. This year

I thought the adults might want to get a taste of what their kids are learning and how to do some basic coding,” explained Hochman. “As it turns out, I was right – they wanted to learn even more than I ever imagined.”

A group of parents met in the school computer lab during the week to learn basic coding and programming with the task of making their own website using basic HTML and CSS (cascading style sheets)

commands. Exclamations of “I can’t believe it worked!” “This is truly amazing!” and “I feel so empowered!” popped up often as parents picked up the concepts of coding.

Hochman, who teaches more than 40 computer and digital literacy-related classes throughout the week to all students, from Pre-K to 8th grade, indicated that teaching adults is somewhat different than teaching young learners in that “parents are willing to try things and make mistakes, and students are sometimes more cautious and want to get everything right the first time.” “Part of coding is debugging, which is a hard concept for students to learn. On the other hand, students have grown up with computers and are not afraid to click; parents need to be shown where to click,” Hochman said. Enhancing the coding curriculum, Hochman integrated lessons on digital citizenship, successful online searching strategies, and

Internet safety and etiquette into her computer classes for her students.

For the parents, the introduction to coding proved to be eye-opening. Said parent Marilyn Terr, “The whole session was so astonishing and empowering to me, and I learned so much in such a short timeframe – I programmed my own web site in two languages.” Hochman believes that her first foray into teaching coding to parents was a success and hopes to offer more classes for adults. “A sure sign that the class really hit home was that by the end of the class, all the parents took out their calendars and started planning our next session.”



Bi-Cultural's Director of Technology (standing) helps parents Monica Becker and Marilyn Terr build their own websites. (Photo by Dora Salm)

Developing Future Philanthropists at JHSC

The Jewish High School of Connecticut ran its first social media-based fundraising campaign in December 2016. In 24 hours, the students, faculty, parents, trustees and friends of JHSC raised almost \$400,000. Some of the funds will be used to support scholarship programs and some for new initiatives.

“What made this campaign unique was how involved and enthusiastic our students were in this event,” said Rabbi Elisha Paul, JHSC Head of School. “Of course, social media is their milieu. But, there was something greater going on – it was the sense that we are all in this together.”

Many students developed and actualized their latent potential for communal service as the campaign progressed. “I loved being able to help in my own way. I am so appreciative of this school and this community – and it was a great way to give back,” said freshman Jakob Okun. “We had fun with it. But the campaign gave us an opportunity to share with others what is happening at JHSC. In a small way we were able to give back to the school and show our appreciation for everything that is done for us,” said Alex Frenzel, Student Council President and JHSC senior.

“Every private school has the need to raise funds – as tuition, especially in a small school, does not cover all of the costs.” said Rabbi Paul. “Yet, I was amazed by how our students jumped in and helped out in this very short, but effective campaign.”

To learn more about JHSC, or the annual campaign, call 203-357-0850 or go to www.jhsct.org.



JHSC students as they discussed the fundraising campaign (pictured from left to right): Zoe Jaffe-Berkowitz, Matt Zweibel, Kovi Bodek, Maxx Sproehle, Ami Fogel, Jakob Okun, Nate Herman, Andrew Yakubovich, Doug Herman, Jonathan Agabs, Celia Rosen, Noam Haron, Jake Sigman, Daniel Hanna, Zane Rosbe, Alex Frenzel, Natalie Shlover, Ella Feuerstein, Sarah Bernstein, Kayla Rosovsky, and Rabbi Elisha Paul.



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Happy Passover



Friday, March 31
9:30 am

Sharing Passover Secrets

Learn about Haggadah choices, Passover recipes, and making your Seder fun for the kids!

Sunday, April 2
10:30 am

Chocolate Seder

Enjoy chocolate deliciousness, and participate in a musical seder with instruments and story props!

RSVP Required

Contact the GRS office at 203-629-0018 or info@grs.org

 Greenwich Reform
A Synagogue For Generations

FIND YOUR SOUL
AT **CAMP GAN ISRAEL SUMMER 2017**

- Mini Gan (2 - 3 yr olds)
- Juniors (4 - 5 yr olds)
- Sports Camp (1st - 6th grade)
- All Activity Camp (1st - 6th grade)
- Theatre Arts Camp (1st - 6th grade)
- Intensive Tennis Camp (1st - 6th grade)
- CIT Program (7th - 8th grade)

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Hebrew Wizards Cheers as New Wizards Building at 118 River Road, Cos Cob, Opens for Classes



Laugh. Drink. Nosh...It's Purim!
Comedy Night
Saturday, March 11
at Temple Sholom
300 East Putnam Ave., Greenwich CT
7:00 pm Cocktails & Nosh
7:30 pm Cabaret-style Show

Featuring
Josh Gondelman,
Writer for HBO's
Last Week Tonight
with John Oliver

Tickets: \$25/adult
Purchase tickets now at:
www.templesholom.com/comedy-night-reservation
or contact Gina, 203-542-7169, gina.pernicano@templesholom.com

Temple Sholom
Celebrating 100 Years

Bi-Cultural's Michal Smart Selected to Participate in Innovation in Education Project

Michal Smart, Bi-Cultural Day School's Associate Principal for Judaic Studies, has been selected as one of a select group of Jewish education leaders nationally and internationally to collaborate in creating a new vision for Jewish day school education as part of a recently-announced initiative by The Jewish Education Innovation Challenge (JEIC), based in Bar Harbour, Florida. As a member of this inaugural team, Smart is one of ten Jewish studies curriculum designers from a variety of backgrounds in education, Judaism and psychology.



Michal Smart

As part of the new effort, called HaKaveret: JEIC Team Challenge, this group of education experts will assemble over an eight-month period, with the aim of creating methods for innovating Jewish education. Ultimately they will create three to six new curriculum models, which Jewish day schools can implement. The team will identify schools to serve as testing sites for these new models, adapting lessons as necessary for each location.

Smart, who was nominated for this role by her colleagues in the field, "has demonstrated a passionate commitment to day school education," JEIC noted. She will participate in the new initiative concurrent with her role at Bi-Cultural.

Thoughts from Israel Club Officer Sam Ryb

“The Holocaust, what’s the big deal?” asked a student in my Spanish class following the football incident in Trumbull, when a “Hitler” move and gesture was used by the GHS football coaches and team. Having spent the last decade living in Israel, I can tell you, in response to my classmate that the Holocaust is a big deal. Coming from a country where when a siren is sounds, traffic grinds to a halt, and people stand in silence for 2 minutes during the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day, I am sensitive to the memories that words such as “Hitler” or “the Holocaust” evoke.

On this day, survivors visited my school to relay their personal experiences. My friend’s grandmother, hidden from the Nazis, by a farmer in rural Poland with her sibling and parents, spent six years underground in a barrel. They paid the farmer, to hide them, and bring them food, however sparse the portions. Her “barrel years” were from age five to eleven. As a result she could neither read nor write when she was released. Subsequently, she moved to the U.S., then Israel, and made education her priority, with her family ultimately founding schools in the town where I lived in Israel. As a survivor, hers is a happy, yet humbling story. I can’t help but think about how everything we take for granted was absent during her childhood.

My own great grandfather’s story was similarly poignant. He and his brother were the sole survivors of a family of ten. They have incredibly painful memories of their mother and baby sister freezing to death in the Alps, while crossing from Germany, attempting to seek safe haven in neutral Switzerland. These are only two stories out of millions. Every friend at my school in

Israel, whether they originated from Argentina, Colombia, France, Venezuela, Russia, Turkey, England and even the U.S., had similar stories of their families’ survival amid catastrophic trauma and loss.

Nothing should be taken for granted, even here in Greenwich. Referencing Hitler as a sports’ directive is unacceptable. Greenwich High School has started the process of educating all students about the Holocaust, and continues to promote diversity and tolerance. GHS students should stand up against Holocaust deniers and challenge far right extremists, on college campuses and cities across the U.S. and worldwide. Let us ensure that we are educated and informed, as we all have a responsibility to herald a new era of solidarity at GHS and beyond.

Sam Ryb is a senior at Greenwich High School and an officer of the Israel Club.

Greenwich High School Israel Club is a student run club, with support from UJA/JCC Greenwich, which aims to educate and inspire students about everything Israel. The club meets every Thursday after school for presentations projects and activities. Club members help to bring guest speakers for special assemblies and do community service projects to benefit organizations and people in Israel.

Kids at the Emunah Children’s Center in Afula, Israel receive tie-dye shirts made and sent to them by the GHS Israel Club this fall.



The Emunah Children’s Center, a residential and after school therapeutic day care facility serving 180 children at risk aged 5-18, was established in 1949 to provide a haven for young Holocaust survivors.

For over 60 years the Emunah Children’s Center has worked to realize the worthy goals of providing shelter for children at risk, restoring childhood, enabling children to overcome past traumas and achieve their academic potential, and offering them hope for a better future. The Emunah Center offers children and their families a wide range of activities and therapies, educational support, parental guidance, and the provision of high standard physical and medical treatment. These children suffer from learning disabilities, emotional problems, and challenging behavior. For many, the Sarah Herzog Children’s Center is the only stable and safe home they have ever known.

Along with its close ties with UJA Greenwich, over recent years the Center has enjoyed a strong and meaningful relationship with many other warm communities, federations, synagogues, schools, and many wonderful families and individuals in Israel and overseas.

GHS Israel Club Does Good While Having Fun

There’s been a lot going on this fall. Employing their arts and crafts skills, members of the GHS Israel Club recycled t-shirts and transformed them into tote bags to be used by Leket Israel, the largest food bank in Israel. Through their *Sayeret Tapuz* (Orange Unit) Project, Israeli teenagers will use the decorated bags to rescue fresh delicious produce, that otherwise would go to waste, from private backyards and gardens in Israel. The collected produce will be distributed to Leket Israel non-profit partners,

providing nutritious fruits and vegetables to those in need throughout Israel. When Racheli Ben Shimol, UJA/JCC Greenwich Israeli Emissary, visited Israel in November, she volunteered at Leket Israel’s Shiller fields near Rehovot. Racheli picked fresh clementines in the fields for families in need, using the t-shirt tote bags that had been constructed and decorated by the GHS Israel Club. To learn more about Leket Israel visit <https://www.leket.org/en>.

On November 22, a wave of wild fires began in various regions in Israel, mainly in and around Haifa. Some of the fires occurred naturally; others were arson attacks. The fires displaced nearly 100,000 people. Israel’s Nature and Parks Authority reported that more than 4,900 acres of forest were burned. The Israel Club members could not just stand by. So they decided to take action to raise

funds for the victims of the fires. They baked cakes and cookies, and hosted a bake sale at Greenwich High School. All of the funds raised will go directly to the victims in Israel. For more information or to contribute to the Israel Fire Emergency Fund, go to <https://www.ujafedgreenwich.org/emergency-funds/israel-fire-emergency-fund>.



JCC Cinema Davis Film Festival

The Kindergarten Teacher

March 8

Laugh Lines

April 5

Bow-Tie Criterion Cinema
2 Railroad Ave, Greenwich

Wednesday evenings, 7 pm, \$15



Baking for Friends at Shir Ami

The men and women of Shir Ami gather each year for a social action project to bake for friends in need with member and professional chef Karen Brand. Rabbi Axe opens with a prayer and a suggestion that “as we prepare our ingredients with our hands and our hearts, think about someone in need or someone who is celebrating a special event who will receive your baked goods. It can brighten up someone’s day.”

Karen’s careful explanations and demonstrations always bring the most delicious results with past years devoted to baking challah in a variety of shapes and mandel bread in a variety of flavors. The beautiful baked goods are only surpassed by the beautiful stories each participant shares about the person who will receive the gift of baked goods. Over the past few years, these gifts have gone to a congregant’s 80-something year-old mother who was in rehab after suffering a stroke, a friend who was struggling with the inability to bring a pregnancy to completion, grandparents celebrating a golden wedding anniversary, a congregant who was a brand new first-time mom, a high school junior who was undergoing treatment for leukemia, adults with developmental disabilities who were living in Abilis residences, and seniors at the Atria in Stamford.

This year the focus will be on Kosher for Passover desserts. All are welcome to join with members of Shir Ami when they gather at the home of Karen Brand Sunday, March 19 to bake Kosher for Passover desserts and bring them to friends in need to brighten their day. To learn more, visit www.congregationshirami.org.

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, February 21

Temple Sholom

Jewish Meditation

Contact Cantor Asa Fradkin at cantorasa@templesholom.com.
March 7 & 21 also, 7:15-8:30 pm

Sunday, February 26

Bi-Cultural Day School

Super Hero-themed Purim Palooza

10:30 am-12:30 pm

Thursday, March 2

UJA Greenwich Women’s Philanthropy

A Pearl Society’s Couples Night Out

With Jesse Itzler, Author of *Living with a Seal* at the home of Yael and Josh Rosen, 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 11

Temple Sholom

Comedy Night

Featuring Josh Gondelman, 7 pm

Thursday, March 16

Temple Sholom

“Israel: Living in a Tough Neighborhood That Just Got Tougher.”

With Dr. Matthew Levitt, Expert in Counterterrorism and Intelligence
Co-sponsored with Israel Bonds

7:30 pm

Sunday, March 19

Temple Sholom

Project Ezra Senior Luncheon

Temple Sholom, 11:30 am-3 pm

Sunday, March 26

Fairfield University Carl & Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies

Annual Jewish-Christian Engagement Event

“Annelies: A Choral Setting of the Diary of Anne Frank”

Performed by Soprano, Arianna Zukerman and the Mendelssohn Choir of Connecticut Quick Center for the Arts, Kelley Theatre, 3 pm

Thursday, April 6

The Threat of Radical Islam and Implications for the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

With Khaled Abu Toameh

A Benefit for UJA/JCC Greenwich

Private home, address given upon RSVP
7 pm

Sunday, April 23

UJA/JCC Greenwich

Community-wide Observance of Yom Hashoah

Temple Sholom, 6 pm

Tikkun Olam and Bikur Cholim at GRS

Reform Judaism affirms the central tenets of Judaism – God, Torah and Israel – while acknowledging the diversity of Reform Jewish beliefs and practices. *Tikkun olam* – repairing the world – is a hallmark of Reform Judaism, as we work to bring peace, freedom, and justice to all people. Another way to help repair the world is to bring comfort to those who are sick or incapacitated, known as *bikur cholim*.

We invite all to join us in bringing *tikkun olam* to our community by sharing in the work of the Greenwich Reform Social Action Committee, including the following projects:

Inspirica, Stamford: Please join us in preparing and/or serving dinner at the Inspirica emergency shelter on the first Saturday of each month. Inspirica works to bring people from “homeless to home,” by providing both housing and support services.

Neighbor’s Link Stamford (NLS): Please join us in preparing and/or serving dinner planned for the third Sunday of each month. The goal of NLS is to strengthen the whole



community by actively enhancing the healthy integration of immigrants through education, empowerment, and employment.

Jewish Family Services (JFS): The children of Greenwich Reform bring smiles of joy to residents of community nursing homes with holiday visits, treats and songs, working in cooperation with JFS of Greenwich.

For more information, please contact GRS at 203-629-0018 or info@GRS.org.



Israel National Trail

by Israeli Emissary
Racheli Ben Shimol

Blue, white and orange. Every time I trek the trails of Israel, I see these three colors. But what do they represent?



Inspired by the Appalachian Trail in the United States, the Israel National Trail is the brainchild of journalist Avraham Tamir, who hiked its U.S. counterpart back in the late 70's. The Israel National Trail spans the State of Israel. It moves from north to south, and stretches for 1000 km (620 miles). The Trail is renowned for its mixture of unique desert landscapes, rich culture, and ancient history. Its paths are marked with the three colors noted above, which tell the story of this small country.

The Israel National Trail was inaugurated by the Society for the Protection of Nature in 1994. Beginning at Kibbutz Dan, near the Lebanese border in the far north of the country, it extends south to Eilat at the southernmost tip of Israel on the Red Sea. *National Geographic* has dubbed it one of the "World's Best Hikes," because it offers a little bit of everything. The

trail transverses a variety of landscapes, from the mountains and valleys of the Galilee and Carmel (near Haifa), to the Mediterranean coast, including the beaches of Tel Aviv. It covers large areas

of the Negev Desert and the mountains of Eilat in the south. Demonstrating the diversity of Israel's population, hikers are able to walk through Jewish and Arab villages, Druze settlements and Christian holy sites. The Trail even overlaps with the Gospel Trail (a path that some believe Jesus walked) in the Galilee along the Kineret (Sea of Galilee).

But the Israel National Trail is not immune to political pressure. In fact, the Trail serves as a mirror of the changing political situation of Israel. It does not pass through the Golan Heights, Jerusalem or the West Bank, because, for some, these are politically controversial locales. In the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel fought for its existence with its neighbors on three separate fronts. By the end of the war, these areas became part of the State of Israel. To some, however, all three

are still called "occupied territories." In order to avoid controversy from all sides and due to security issues, the Israel Trails Committee chose a path to avoid these areas completely.

The Israel National Trail is divided into 46 sections. You can hike parts of it or walk its entirety over a month or two. In my hikes in Israel, I've completed quite a few sections of the trail. Each time I meet other travelers: a husband and wife who walk together to mark their 50th birthdays, or a couple who are hiking on their honeymoon. I've encountered young families with children who do segments on weekends and holidays, completing the whole trail within a few years, and young people before and after their army service, even a father and a daughter hiking for more than 52 days together. The Trail introduces you to a mixture of Israeli society.

Many hikers camp on the road itself, whenever it is possible. However, a shortage of accommodations, lack of water all along the route, mostly in the Negev Desert, and access to food for travelers, gave birth

to the unique phenomenon called "Trail Angels". Beginning with individuals living near the trail, and growing to dozens of places along the trail, "Trail Angels" are volunteers who offer the hikers a room, a bed and a shower. Sometimes it's just a place to rest to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. All are offered free of charge. This is just one example of the generous solidarity of Israel's population. And it is yet another benefit of hiking the Israel National Trail.

Passing through harsh but beautiful desert landscapes, green hills and lush valleys, kibbutz farms and Arab Bedouin communities, remote wilderness and international cities is what makes walking the Israel National Trail a unique adventure. Not to mention the chance to meet local people from varying faiths and backgrounds who are willing to share their homes and hospitality. Next time you are in Israel, go hiking and look for the blue, white and orange colors of the trail markings. I am sure you will be welcomed with open arms.



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In recent decades, Jewish life in Greenwich has flourished, and with PJ Library it gained a vibrant hub through which to pass down valued traditions. A promising new initiative is Grandparents Circle, connecting grandparents socially and giving them a framework for funding PJ Library subscriptions, regardless of where their own grandchildren may live.

Whether at an evening of musical theater, a chat with Sesame Street Workshop's Lewis Bernstein or a PJ Hanukkah party with Mister G, the initiative brings together Jewish families *l'dor vador*—from generation to generation. Eight community builders have been especially instrumental in making Grandparents Circle an opportunity for community engagement, bequeathing the foundation of who we are and where we come from.

PJ LIBRARY GRANDPARENTS CIRCLE GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT



RITA EDELSTON

What took me to PJ Grandparents Circle was the question, "Could they meet at my house?" I no longer have young grandchildren, but I was thrilled to help launch PJ Library in Greenwich. I think Grandparents Circle is a great idea because it lets me support PJ Library and grow the Greenwich Jewish community. That idea builds on the beginning intent: to have Jewish books available for all families raising Jewish children, including interfaith families who were not necessarily exposed to the culture and traditions of Judaism.

The Greenwich community thanks Rita and her late husband Marty Edelston for providing the seed money to launch the Greenwich PJ Library and this esteemed group for founding and stewarding the Grandparents Circle.



WENDY & JIM SCHREIBER

Several years ago, our rabbi told a group of grandparents, "Just because you have interfaith grandchildren, don't think you have to tiptoe about being Jewish and don't think you can't have an influence on these children." It's true that grandparents sometimes tiptoe. We don't want to offend. But in some cases we're their only connection to Judaism. PJ Library books and programs are a wonderful early entry into the Jewish world.



PHYLLIS SHAPIRO

When my children were young, we only had access to religious storybooks filled with words like, "the marching armies of HaShem." Later PJ Library came along with books that espoused Jewish ethics, while remaining accessible to all denominations. It's part of our mission to pass along our traditions to younger generations. So I am happy to support Grandparents Circle—not for my own grandchildren, who live in Israel—but for grandchildren in the community.



DEBRA SHORE

I always take my granddaughter to PJ Library events, which are so terrific. Everything in life is about relationships, which is what PJ Library teaches. It's also life changing because it encourages a lifelong love for reading, which helps you develop empathy for cultures around the world and makes you a smarter, better person. People who are only getting their information online are missing so much. Books give literacy, but they give emotional literacy as well.



DEBORAH SIMON

How wonderful that young Jewish children can have these books of their very own to learn about their heritage. I have a 6-year-old grandchild in California. I love the idea that she receives books every month. It's Jewish education. I believe in the PJ Library cause and feel fortunate to be a part of it. Why support Grandparents Circle? Why not?! Especially in these times, with all the hate, isn't it wonderful to have something positive?



JANE WEITZMAN

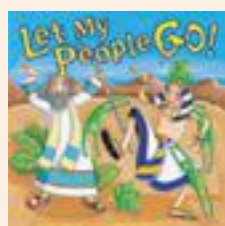
As a grandmother, I can't think of a better gift to give to my granddaughter than PJ Library. I still remember reading the Deborah Pessin and K'ton Ton books as a child. As president of the Jewish Book Council, I am thrilled that the Harold Grinspoon Foundation is creating a new generation of Jewish readers who will be our future members. PJ Library is one of the most influential Jewish achievements of our time.



NANCY ZISSON

Our PJ Library program, and the events for young children that have grown out of it, are the basis for making our families part of Jewish life in Greenwich. That is why I have been working to involve grandparents of PJ Library, whether or not their grandchildren live locally. Our PJ Grandparents Circle gives us a dedicated funding channel to ensure that more books are sent to families, and invites us to participate in grandparent programming going forward.

Previously published in PROOF, a PJ Library magazine. To read more PROOF, visit pjlibrary.org/PROOF.



The Greenwich PJ Library Program is made possible through the support of generous Grandparent Partners, event sponsors and gifts to the UJA Annual Campaign. There are many ways to support your Greenwich PJ Library and provide a gift that brings children and families together in the community. If you would like to join the Grandparents Circle, please contact Nancy Zisson: nszisson@gmail.com. If you would like to sponsor a PJ Library event in honor of a child's birthday or family simcha, contact Tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org. THANK YOU for your support!