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.

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.

**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: Randye Kwait
“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 storyline 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.

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 hamantaschen prep, snacks and noisemaking.

Event chairs Stephanie Esquenazi and Jody Siegertel 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 Tipernas 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.
Medical School. While attending Rutgers healthcare he made the decision to attend Rollins School of Public Health at Emory. School, he received his BA in Political Jersey. After attending The Horace Mann school at Temple Sinai in Tenafly, New member) during their first year of Hebrew JCC and UJA Women’s Philanthropy board Jersey, where he met his wife Madeline (a

programming that will engage the community around shared heritage and profound connection that she and her fellow mission Buenos Aires in November 2015. Contemplating the philanthropic work to date, and you’ll hear 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 and the New York Knicks anthem “Go NY Go.” And now he’s written the bestselling book: 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.
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 memebrservice@grs.org.

Temple Sholom and J-Teen Leadership Teens Complete “Weekend of Service” in South Carolina

During Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, teens from Temple Sholom 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.
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 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.

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.

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 Judica 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
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.

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.
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 fluctuates 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. 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, 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 the Greenwich Jewish News.

Let us choose hope.

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
- Integrated, holistic learning
- Access to all specialists and after-school programs

A private school for children of all Jewish affiliations serving students from Transitional Kindergarten through 12th Grade.

270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830 • 203-388-9683 • 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 numerous lecturers.

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
Silvia Knoll, President Women’s Philanthropy & Bonnie Citron, Chair of Women’s Philanthropy

Kindly RSVP online
www.sjfedgreenwich.org/events/newcomers
Questions? Call Dr. Atkins at 203-352-1184 or tracy@ujagreenwich.com

Bi-Cultural to Perform Fairy Tale 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.
“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 Bryant 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 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.

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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 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 from 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 politics of intolerance on campus.

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.

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@ujajrgreenwich.org.

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.
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.

**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, 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 Power of the Majority”
February 16 ................................. Rabbi Eric Hoffman

**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

**UCONN Center for Jewish Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life**

“Trouble in the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict Over Israel”
Dow Waxman
March 9 ..................................................... Dr. Aaron Koller

“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

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“A Girl Walks Out of a Bar”
With Author Lisa Smith
Wednesday, March 29, YWCA, 259 East Putnam Ave., Greenwich, 10 am

**Temple Sholom**

**Shabbat Study**
with Temple Sholom 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”

**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

**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

**Talmud Lunch and Learn**
Interactive Learning from Great Teachers

**Check JCC calendar for updated schedule**

Sponsored by Rita Edelston
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 apple 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.
Women’s Philanthropy Brunch, November 2016 with Guest Speaker Linda Sherzer

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

Photos by Asher Sergé Photography
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 is helping the Brats—and other families in Beit Meir who have 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 door 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—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 Prishakhinsk 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.
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 guile 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

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.

JCC Greenwich • 1 Holly Hill Lane • (203) 862-1818 • www.jccgreenwich.org

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

Save the Dates for Upcoming Movies 2017
May 10
June 21
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.”

The meals, consisting of holiday favorites like turkey, mashed potatoes and green beans, were prepared, cooked and plated on Tuesday, November 22 by 8th graders for more than 200 residents. 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 were given to Sunrise Day Camp, a free summer camp for children with cancer and their siblings. Each child who 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,” Sharinberg 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 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 Pals. 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, mishloach 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.
**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, 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, 2/22; 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 interfait 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.

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**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-Loraine 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 Schlapper, 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-Loraine 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-Loraine 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. Tuesdays, 5:15-6:30 pm

**Living Well in Later Life (JFS office)**
For adults whose lives are impacted by divorce. Facilitated by Lisa-Loraine Smith, 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-Loraine 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-Loraine Smith, LCSW. Wednesdays, 2-3 pm

For more information or to join a group, please call Lisa-Loraine Smith, LCSW, at 203-622-1881 or email Ilsmith@jfsgreenwich.org

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

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@jfsgreenwich.org.

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.

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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 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.
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.”

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.
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

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

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 areas 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.

TASTING ISRAEL
LOOKING TO SPICE UP YOUR TABLE?
INVITE OUR ISRAELI EMISSARY
RACHELI BEN SHIMO
FOR AN ISRAELI COOKING NIGHT AT YOUR HOME

chose from 5 different menus
modern israeli meal
traditional falafel meal
international israeli meal

for more details on numbers of guests and costs, visit jccgreenwich.org

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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 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.

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 Grandparent’s Circle.