It’s been an exciting year and much has happened since UJA Greenwich’s last annual Women’s Philanthropy Brunch. On Wednesday, November 16, 9:30 am, tikun olam devotees will once again celebrate Women’s Philanthropy and the generous giving that empowers good work in the Jewish world.

This year’s event, chaired by Bonnie Citron and Joui Hessel, celebrates the generous spirit of Women’s Philanthropy and a commitment to our local and global Jewish community. Held at The Milbrook Club, the WP brunch typically draws about 120 women, all of whom make a minimum gift to UJA Greenwich in support of the Federation mission. “Honoring the impact of these dollars is at the crux of the get-together, where donors enjoy a progress report about how Federation is at work restoring and recharging Jewish community,” said Dina.

Coming a week after the US presidential election, this year’s brunch will also spotlight the nation’s future relations with Israel and world Jewry. Linda Scherzer, former Mideast correspondent for CNN and Israel Television, will keynote the event. Scherzer brings extensive experience covering the Arab-Israeli conflict, from the first intifada to the Gulf War. Her groundbreaking reports from Damascus shone light on Syrian attitudes toward the Mideast peace process and culminated in a revealing documentary, Through the Eyes of Enemies: Is the Middle East Ready for Peace?

Today Linda is a media consultant and director of a program called “Write On For Israel,” which trains top high school students to become defenders of Israel. She also advises Jewish communities on how to engage in constructive dialogue with the press. “With the complex situation in the Middle East and with so much controversy surrounding our Presidential election, having Linda speak will give us a timely insider view of issues that matter greatly to Jews worldwide,” said Event Co-Chair Joui Hessel.

Women’s Philanthropy President Carolyn Surgent remarks, “The 2016 Women’s Philanthropy Brunch is apt to resonate with all who share an interest in current affairs and the collective empowerment of Jewish community.”

The take-away? That WP is present and accountable for generous support of life-saving programs. Toda Raba!

Registration is available at ujafedgreenwich.org or by contacting Tracy Daniels at tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org or 203-552-1818, x 17.

Shana Tova

The UJA & JCC Greenwich
Wish You and Your Family a Good New Year
Filled with Peace, Health & Happiness
Kudos to JBabies Co-Chair, Jessica Rickert, for arranging to have the lovable and talented Bobby Doowah lead a summer enrichment music program for JBabies. Everyone, especially the groovin’ babies, had a wonderful time! This program was generously hosted by Katie Farro and our friends at Classic Kids Photography on Greenwich Avenue.

“Being a mom is hard and great…and hard! With humor and strength, Elizabeth Isadora Gold embraces and honors what it means for a woman to become a mother. The strange dichotomy that is losing yourself while simultaneously finding who you are. If motherhood is the deep awe inspiring ocean, the ‘mommy group’ is the women who pull up to you on the rescue boat with an extended hand and a glass of wine. Every mom, from the first-timer to the ‘experienced’ can recognize a piece of her journey in the Mommy Group.”

–Jessica Maiman Rickert, JBabies Co-Chair

Families had a great time at the Annual PJ Library/JCC Party in the Park in June – See page 4

Cori SaNogueira, Chair, Talks PJ Library – See page 4

PJ Library® Books Coming Your Way…
Women’s Philanthropy Highlights

Meet Crazy Jewish Mom

Pearl Society to Host Dynamic Mother-Daughter Duo

If you are on Instagram, you know Crazy Jewish Mom. On Thursday, September 29, Pearl Society will host the hilarious mother-daughter duo, Kate Siegel and Kim Friedman, for an unforgettable ladies’ night out. Kate Siegel’s New York Times’ bestseller, Mother Can You NOT?, is based upon her wildly popular Instagram account @CrazyJewishMom, which has hundreds of thousands of followers. Mother Can You NOT? lovingly lampoons the lengths to which our mothers will go to better our lives and pays tribute to the woman who invented the concept of drone parenting and redefined “helicopter mom.” Kate and her mother Kim, who is an Emmy-nominated director of primetime television and distinguished theatre director with two OBIE awards and two Los Angeles Drama Critics Awards, will visit Greenwich Pearl Society women for a social evening of raucous fun. Pearl Society tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org.

What’s Cooking? The Chicken Soup Project

Leave it to the women of UJA Federation Greenwich to set aside “me” time to help others. On Wednesday, November 2, Women’s Philanthropy members will spend the evening making chicken soup for those in need in our community. This event, to be held at YWCA Greenwich (259 E. Putnam Ave.), is spearheaded by WP’s Pearl Society, whose members give an annual gift of $180 and above. It’s the first cook-in of its sort for the philanthropic organization.

The gallons of soup our women prepare will go to restock both the JFS Stamford Kosher Food Pantry and the UJA Chicken Soup Project, which provides “free soup to Greenwich residents when they’re sick or bereaved or recovering from surgery,” explained JCC/UJA Assistant Director Leah Schechter. “The event brings together women sick or bereaved or recovering from surgery,” explained JCC/UJA Assistant Director Leah Schechter. “The event brings together women who have pledged a gift of $180 to the 2016 UJA campaign in support of socially responsible Federation programs that help to rescue and restore Jewish lives. An additional $362 cover includes light-nosh, wine, laughter, and a signed copy of the book. For more information or to RSVP contact Tracy Daniels at 203-552-1818 or tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org.

Best Hanukkah Party Ever!

Fiesta! Get into the Hanukkah spirit with national rock star Mister G as he performs tunes from his smash hit multilingual album The Miztvaz Bus. On Sunday, December 4, from 3 to 5 pm, the critically acclaimed Latin Grammy winner will serenade children and parents alike at PJ Library/JCC Greenwich’s annual holiday blowout, chaired by PJ Library Parent Planners Natalie Landres and Lisa Small.

Judging by his headline performances at The MET, SummerStage, JazzFest and Hard Rock Café, you can expect the bash to be a rollicking good time. But don’t plan to just sit there! Mister G (aka Ben Gundersheimer) and his irrepressible Latin rhythms invite the whole house to sing along and sway to the beat before diving into fresh sufganiot and latkes. The Miztvaz Bus is his third Parents’ Choice Gold-winning album of original music. Its live-wire stylings, infused with a storyteller’s flair, will leave you jazzed for eight days and counting. A shining name in the world of family music, this former school teacher and indie rocker whose repertoire includes English, Spanish, Yiddish and Hebrew, is not to be missed live.

Co-Chairs Natalie and Lisa can’t wait to get started coordinating party details. “I am thrilled to be able to help plan this year’s Hanukkah event featuring the amazing Mister G! It is going to be a fun-filled musical experience that will get everyone dancing into the Chanukah spirit!” said Natalie. “With engaging entertainment for both kids and parents, the PJ Library/JCC Hanukkah Party is a Greenwich event not to be missed and a great way to celebrate the holiday with family and friends!” Lisa adds.

In short, save the date. Hanukkah revelries will take place at Carmel Academy (270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich). Admission is $18 per person in advance, $25 per person at the door, and $72 per family of four or more in advance. For additional details and to register, visit jccgreenwich.org or contact Tracy Daniels at 203-552-1818 or x 17 or tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org.
On November 20, Rabbi Andrew Sklarz of Greenwich Reform Synagogue will be the first honoree of the Connecticut chapter of the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF).

David Kweskin, Connecticut Area Director, ICRF, explained that: “The theme of the evening is ‘Heroes.’ In Israel, ICRF cancer research scientists are battling cancer and coming up with winning solutions; here in Connecticut, our heroes are people like Rabbi Sklarz, who not only fights his own cancer, but continues to raise research funds so others can also get life-saving medication. We are delighted to honor Rabbi Andy, known to all for his extraordinary compassion and caring.”

The emcee will be Rabbi Mark Golub of Jewish Broadcast Services (formerly, Shalom TV) and Chavurat Aytz Chayim. The keynote speaker will be Professor Dan Peer, Director of the Laboratory of Precision Nano Medicine at Tel Aviv University. Professor Peer’s work was among the first to demonstrate extraordinary compassion and caring.”

The keynote speaker will be Professor Dan Peer, Director of the Laboratory of Precision Nano Medicine at Tel Aviv University. Professor Peer’s work was among the first to demonstrate systemic delivery of cancer drugs using targeted nanocarriers, which has enormous implications in cancer and inflammation.

Rabbi Sklarz noted: “Now in its 41st year, the ICRF has chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada. Its mission is to support cancer research programs in Israel, which have enabled me and many others to survive and thrive.”

The ICRF is the largest nationwide charitable organization in North America solely devoted to supporting cancer research in Israel. Since its creation, it has awarded over $56 million to Israel’s most qualified scientists via more than 2,200 projects. Research proposals are peer reviewed by eminent U.S. and Canadian scientists, ensuring that contributions will support some of the most innovative, promising, and carefully configured research anywhere.

Details: The event will be held starting at 5:30 PM at Temple Sinai in Stamford. Tickets, including dinner, cost $180 per person, $118 for guests under 35. Please RSVP to David Kweskin, Connecticut Area Director, ICRF, 203-321-1006 or david.kweskin@icrfonline.org, or register online at www.icrfonline.org.

Q: What are PJ Library programs encouraging children to explore?
CS: We’re encouraging families to explore their Jewish culture and heritage together, and to understand how the traditions are part of our larger community. So it’s not just about children celebrating Shabbat or holidays; it’s about doing it with their friends and peers and with their parents’ friends as well.

Q: Books are often taught with foregone conclusions. How do PJ Library programs let children find those conclusions on their own?
CS: When children come in for Story Time, they’re listening to the story and maybe they’re acting something out or having a craft activity. It’s a participant-based approach, where the kids are raising their hands and giving feedback or, if they’re really little, they’re shouting out. We’re asking guiding questions and asking the kids to respond from their perspective. Their tiny, amazing brains are able to come up with these brilliant connections that we adults aren’t necessarily able to.

Q: As a mother of three, what are your go-to programs at this stage?
CS: My little ones adore Party in the Park. And the Hanukkah program is always tons of fun. There’s always an action component and a tzedakah component. This year I’m very excited about Hanukkah with Mister G. How often do we have a Grammy winner? Kids will be talking about it the next day for sure.

Q: What are the program ideas come from?
CS: A lot of the ideas come from the PJ planners—a group of mothers who get together a few times a year and who have their finger on the pulse of the community. We meet and hold brainstorming sessions. Let’s say we really need something for the 2 to 4 year olds. Moms with children in that age group take ownership of creating and chairing programs for that group, and it’s really nice to see moms working together as leaders.

Q: Where do the program ideas come from?
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Q: For the really little ones, there’s JBabies. What does it offer?
CS: JBabies is perfect for 0-2 year olds. It’s a community gathering space for families with children under 2. The focus is on music, movement, and early childhood development. The classes are taught by trained educators and use the latest research in early childhood development to create engaging and fun learning experiences for children and parents. The classes include singing, dancing, and simple crafts that are designed to help young children develop important skills for language, literacy, and social-emotional development.

Q: To wrap up, what last thing should the community know?
CS: If you haven’t signed up for PJ Library books, it’s a free gift—there’s no catch. And if you haven’t tried out a PJ Library program, please come. We’d love to meet you!
The word “disability” often lives in the shadows in Bnei Brak, Israel’s 10th-largest city, home to approximately 178,000, a 20-minute drive from central Tel Aviv. Until the introduction two and a half years ago of JDC’s Ramp-Up initiative, aimed at getting young Israelis with disabilities from all backgrounds into the workforce, you might have heard whispered conversations about “physical difficulties” or “workplace challenges” — nothing more than that.

But Riki Steiner, 41, Ramp-Up’s women’s employment coordinator, knows how important it is to change the conversation. For her, the fact that one in five Israelis has some kind of disability is more than an abstract notion; especially because her own 15-year-old son has special needs and learning disabilities. “I know he can’t stay in the yeshiva forever. Ramp-Up has helped me have hope for his future, that he’ll work when he’s 18 or 19,” she said. “Ramp-Up is a place where we don’t say no. You won’t fall through the cracks here.”

Ramp-Up offers participants one-on-one counseling and mentoring, and an individualized work plans for integration into the workforce, finding jobs, and developing careers. Across Israel, more than 560 people utilize Ramp-Up’s services in 13 locations, with 73 percent of those who’ve found jobs retaining them for a year or more. Still in a pilot phase, the program plans to expand, following JDC’s work model in Israel: developing innovative solutions to social challenges, piloting them and adapting them for different needs, and finally, scaling up for national impact.

Ramp-Up, founded by JDC’s Tevet employment initiative and the Ruderman Family Foundation, differs from other Tevet programs in two key ways. First, the disabilities employment program is always housed within some larger community institution to diminish any possible stigma for participants whose disability may not be immediately visible. Just as important is Ramp-Up’s commitment to working with participants for the long haul, recognizing that entering the workforce as an Israeli with disabilities presents challenges that are not always easily solved.

Across Israel, Ramp-Up also employs three employment coordinators who themselves have disabilities. “Some other Tevet programs, it’s two meetings with the counselor and then you go to work,” said Tal Rokach, 38, JDC’s Ramp-Up coordinator for central and southern Israel. “People who use Ramp-Up can’t do it that quickly. They need a process that’s slower, and even after they get a job, we provide continual supervision. The guidance doesn’t stop.”

Dvir Mauda, 26, has cerebral palsy and has been disabled since birth. He says he’s able to speak from personal experience when counseling participants in Ramla and Lod, especially those who are afraid that they’ll lose government benefits if they secure a job. “I have a lot of people tell me they want a job right now, and I tell them I know how that feels,” he said. “It takes a lot of courage to come every week and practice your skills. It’s a deep, long process of getting to know yourself.”

Steiner said she begins her meetings with participants with a long intake interview, ostensibly designed to get basic information about their employment history. But it quickly morphs into something bigger than that. Each participant also receives guidance on how to frame their disability to employers — what they have to say, what they can keep more hidden. Then it’s on to workshops on computer skills and resume writing, and mock telephone and in-person interviews. “It’s a job to look for a job,” Rokach said, laughing. Rokach also works with employers to convince them of the value of hiring people with disabilities. It might not be easy, you’ll almost definitely have to be more patient, and you may have to make adjustments, but “it’s worth it,” she tells employers. “These employees are more likely to stay with you for a long time. You have the chance to do something very special here, and very important.”
Engaging. Interactive. Relevant. Social. These are just a few words to describe the newly re-imagined Learning Center at Temple Sholom (300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich). Open to students in grades Pre-K through seventh grade, the mission of the Temple Sholom Learning Center is to provide students an enjoyable and spiritually-rich educational experience. Its diverse religious school curriculum is designed to nurture students’ love of learning and create pride in their Jewish identity.

Students through second grade connect primarily through music, activities, play and arts and crafts. They enter third grade with knowledge of Hebrew vowels and consonants, a basic understanding of Jewish holidays and Shabbat, a strong sense of ethics through Bible stories, and an introduction to mitzvot. “One of the reasons we encourage enrollment at a young age is so that we can provide the foundational building blocks for life-long learning and instill a love for Israel, holidays and Jewish studies early on,” said Barry Gruber, Director of Congregational Learning at Temple Sholom.

In the upper grades, students learn to read Hebrew through prayer, and receive individualized instruction in small classes of ten or fewer. They explore Jewish studies (such as Bible, Israel, traditions, etc.) through weekly rotations, in which half of their time is dedicated to experiential activities. One of the most exciting elements of the program is its emphasis on Kehilla, or community-building. On Sundays, students spend time with their entire grade to work together on projects or participate in engaging lessons. During the week, all students spend a half hour in a large group setting, learning about one another and discussing topics that complement the classroom curriculum.

Knowing that children have a variety of other commitments – academics, athletics, school clubs, etc. – the Temple Sholom Learning Center strives to make religious education not only fun, but a valuable component in their weekly schedule. While this new program is only a year old, it has already garnered significant praise from both students and their parents. “We did a very comprehensive survey following the program’s debut and received very positive feedback,” said Gruber. “Parents and students expressed their support for the direction in which we are heading, and we look forward to continued success under this model.”

Registration is now open for the 2016-2017 school year. To learn more, please contact Barry Gruber at 203-542-7161 or barry.gruber@templesholom.com.

Temple Sholom’s Learning Center Offers Students A “Re-imagined” Jewish Education
What's Best for Israel

by Rabbi Deren, Chabad of Greenwich

In the midst of all the heated conversations during any election cycle, the question is often asked, “Which candidate is better for Israel?” … and my answer has always been – as it is in this shrill cycle as well – that it does not make much of a difference. If you’re asking from the perspective of an American voter, there’s no reason to believe that U.S. support for Israel will change in any drastic way depending on who is sitting in the White House. If you’re asking from the simple perspective of a Jew who is concerned about peace and security in our Homeland, then the real question is not WHO is better for Israel (not even who in the Israeli government), but WHAT is better for Israel.

That’s the real conversation we should have. And I want to use these few paragraphs to change the way you think about Israel and her best interests; a paradigm shift, if you will, by way of a short book review.

The tension we detect in the myriad formats and venues of the global Jewish conversation about Israel – AIPAC vs. J Street, for example – is the product of shallow and superficial questions. Are you for or against the Peace Process? Are you for or against reconciliation with Turkey? Are you for or against Bibi or Bibi? I’ll tell you a secret. Our Israeli brothers and sisters have long ceased to ask these questions because they know all too well that the core of the conflict is much more subtle than arguments over policies and politicians. The real questions are the fundamental “life questions.”

“The greatest threat of all . . . does not come from Iran, nor from terrorist groups, nor from any external source. It comes from within us . . . Without motivation, we will not endure . . . What are we aspiring to here? Without answers, we will not endure . . . We are like a mountain-climber that gets caught in a snowstorm; the night falls, he is cold and tired, and he wants to sleep. But if he falls asleep, he will freeze to death.”

That quote is from Professor Israel Aumann, Israeli Noble Laureate, cited in Saving Israel – How the Jewish People Can Win a War That May Never End, by Dr. Daniel Gordis (Wiley, 2009). This book is a must-read for anyone who takes the future of Israel seriously, if only for the author’s poignant questions that need urgent answers, and for his pithy quotes from political scholars of our time.

If Dr. Gordis’ aim was to radically transform the paradigm through which the Western mind understands and appreciates the value of “Democracy” in the context of Israel being a “Jewish Democratic” state, then he is very successful. “The image of Israel as a miniature America ignores what is unique about Israel . . . Israelis will devote themselves to sustaining, protecting and enhancing Israeli life, only if they can say something intelligent about what it means to be a Jew.”

This great book goes much deeper than political science. It is a very honest historical portrait, showing us that the “Zionist revolution was about more than Jews recovering the power they once had. It was also about shedding the burden of religiosity . . . Israeli secularism is characterized not by indifference but by ridicule . . . suffused by anger and derision.”

That part of the Zionist revolution was a wild success – and it is precisely that success of the Zionist vision in the 20th century which is proving to be its very undoing in the 21st century. Israelis are “learning that when this new Jew is incapable of any semblance of a Jewish conversation, it’s hard to say much about what the State of Israel should become . . . why the State matters . . . and how the high cost of living in Israel (and the issue is hardly financial) can be justified”.

Without answering these questions for ourselves, the Jewish People will continue to be at a loss in finding the proper response to those who threaten the durability of the Jewish State – a threat which is manifest both literally (from outside the Green Line), and figuratively (from within the Green Line).

The High Holidays are upon us, a season when we take the time to reflect upon our commitment to Israel, to her welfare, and to her future. One of the greatest contributions we can make toward that end is to ask certain questions of ourselves:

• How deep is my Jewish identity?
• How does my Judaism translate into my daily life?
• Have I sacrificed any personal gain on behalf of something much greater than myself?
• Do my children share the same commitment that I have to Judaism? To Israel?

In answering those questions, you become much stronger in your Judaism. A stronger Jew in one part of the world means a stronger Jewish people in ALL parts of the world – especially in the Jewish State.

May you – and all of humanity – be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life, Health, Happiness, Peace, Prosperity and Divine Accomplishments, in this coming year of 5777.

Shana Tora!

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.

From the Rabbi

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HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5777

GREENWICH REFORM SYNAGOGUE

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 2016/5777

Rabbi Andrew Sklar  Cantor Tobias Glaser

Selichot* (call for location)  Saturday, September 24
Dinner and Service  7:00 PM

Erev Rosh Hashana  Sunday, October 2
Worship Service  8:00 PM

Rosh Hashana  Monday, October 3
Worship Service  10:00 AM
Youth Service [Ages 7-13]  10:00 AM
Rosh Hashanah Luncheon Reception immediately following morning service
Young Family Service* (Ages 3-7)  2:00 PM

Yom Kippur Kol Nidre  Tuesday, October 11
Worship Service  8:00 PM

Yom Kippur  Wednesday, October 12
Morning Service  10:00 AM
Youth Service [Ages 7-13]  10:00 AM
Yom Kippur Symposium  12:30 PM
Young Family Service* (Ages 3-7)  2:00 PM
Afternoon, Yizkor/Memorial Ne'illah Service*  3:00 PM
Yom Kippur Congregational Break Fast immediately following services

All services held at Catherine of Siena Church,
4 Riverside Avenue, Riverside, CT unless otherwise noted
Please bring tickets with you to all services unless asterisked (*).

Join our community! Complimentary tickets for prospective members
For more information, contact Stephanie Glaser at
stephanieglaser@grs.org or 203-629-0018

Rosh Hashanah
Rosh Hashanah Day 1 (Methodist Church)  Monday, Oct. 3
Rosh Hashanah Day 2 (Rabbi Deb’s)  Tuesday, Oct. 4

Yom Kippur
Kol Nidre Evening (Methodist Church)  Tuesday, Oct. 11
Yom Kippur Day (Methodist Church)  Wednesday, Oct. 12

We look forward to sharing these meaningful Holidays with you and your family.

Visit the JFS website (jfsgreenwich.org) for a full schedule of High Holiday services offered at local senior residences.
HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5777

Services for
Chavurat Deevray Torah
and Chavurat Aytz Chayim

Mark S. Golub, Rabbi

Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, October 2, 2016
Evening Services – 8:00pm
Monday, October 3, 2016
Morning Services – 10:00am

Yom Kippur Services
Tuesday, October 11, 2016
Kol Nidre Services – 8:00pm
Wednesday, October 12, 2016
10:00am

All Services will be held at
West Hill High School Auditorium
125 Roxbury Road, Stamford
There will be ample seating
No tickets are required
All are welcome

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HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

ROSH HASHANAH

Erev Rosh Hashanah Sunday, October 2
Ma'ariv Service 8:00 pm

Rosh Hashanah Day 1, Monday, October 3
Preliminary/Shacharit 9:00 am
Torah Service 9:30 am
Family Service 1, 2 10:15 am–12:15 pm
Shofar Service 10:30 am
Teen Interactive Program 11:00 am–12:30 pm
Sermon 12:00 pm
Musaf and Shofar Blasts 12:30 pm
Benediction 1:00 pm
Young Children’s Family Service* 1, 4 1:45 pm–2:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah Day 2, Tuesday, October 4
Preliminary/Shacharit 9:00 am
Torah Service 9:30 am
Family Service & Tashlich 1, 2 10:15 am–12:15 pm
Shofar Service 10:30 am
Teen Interactive Program 11:00 am–12:30 pm
Sermon 12:00 pm
Musaf and Shofar Blasts 12:30 pm
Benediction 1:00 pm

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YOM KIPPUR

Erev Yom Kippur — Tuesday, October 11
Kol Nidre 6:30 pm

Yom Kippur — Wednesday, October 12
Shacharit 9:00 am
Torah Service 9:30 am
Family Service 1, 2 10:15 am–12:15 pm
Teen Tikkun Olam Project 11:00 am–12:30 pm
Sermon 11:45 am
Yizkor 12:05 pm
Musaf 12:30 pm
Jewish Mindfulness/Meditation* 1:30 pm–3:00 pm
Adult Learning Opportunities (TBD)* 1:30 pm–3:00 pm
Young Children’s Family Service* 1, 2 1:45 pm–2:30 pm
Mincha* 3:00 pm–4:00 pm
Speaker: Allan Houston and Friends, presenting a Personal Perspective on Israel*
Yizkor II: A Communal Remembrance* 5:15 pm
N’eilah* 6:00 pm
Concluding Shofar* 7:00 pm
Ma’ariv Minyan* 7:05 pm

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Congregation Shir Ami
HIGH HOLY DAYS 5777
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

★ ROSH HASHANAH ★
Sunday, October 2 at 7:00 pm
Monday, October 3 at 10:00 am

★ YOM KIPPUR ★
Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 pm
Wednesday, October 12 at 10:00 am
Children’s Service 1:00–2:00 pm
Meditation 2:00–3:00 pm
Afternoon–Yizkor–Concluding 3:00–8:30 pm

Childcare for all daytime services available with reservations
Rosh Hashanah Luncheon and Yom Kippur Break the Fast
Desserts donated by Garlick and Herbs
~ all services are livestreamed ~

ALL ARE WELCOME reservations required
www.congregationshirami.org | 203.274.5376

★ ★ ★

May the sound of the shofar
herald in a year of
health and peace for all
Are you considering taking a class or attending a lecture this Fall?

Look no further!

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

**KCC Cinema**
*Daros Film Festival*
*Bow-The Criterion Cinema, 2 Railroad Ave, Greenwich, Wednesday evenings, 7 pm, $15*
- “Son of Saul” September 21
- “Fire Birds” October 19
- “Sabena Hijacking-My Version” November 9
- “Mountain” December 7

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

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

**Jewish Meditation**
Tuesdays, Sept. 6 & 20, Nov. 1 & 15, 7-15 pm-8:30 pm
Contact Cantor Avi Fridkin at cantorasa@templesholom.com.

“Bow Jews and Christians Read Scriptures Differently”
With Amy-Jill Levine, Professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School
Friday, October 21, 7:30 pm
$18 per adult, $5 per child, includes a festive Sukkot dinner

**Temple Sholom**
“Izrael, Zionism, and Anti-Zionism on the Eve of the 2016 Election” with Gil Troy
Thursday, Sept. 15, 7 pm
Carmel Academy, 270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich

**For lectures at Academic Centers, see p. 22.**
This summer I went on a mission to Israel, where I visited twelve agencies and programs supported by your gift. Here is a snapshot of the impact your gift to UJA Greenwich has on the lives and future of our extended Jewish family in Israel. This collage is a mere glimpse of how your gifts help to transform lives and make dreams come true.

**JAFI Absorption Centers**

We visited Jewish Agency (JAFI) and Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) sites where UJA helps to fund transformative programs.

A visit with JAFI’s Beit Brodetsky Absorption Center brought us together with young immigrants, ages 18–30, from the former Soviet Union, Germany, France and Peru. With the help of a 5-month residential immersion program, young immigrants experience Israeli culture, learn the Hebrew language and establish social connections as they prepare for university studies, work and IDF service and begin productive lives in Israel.

During the week, I met Sarah and David (left), who had immigrated from France and Ethiopia to Israel.

Thanks to Jewish Agency and JDC programs, and support from Jewish Federations of North America, these dynamic and talented young people are already giving back. Sarah helps others from France who are making Israel their new home, and David is in his fifth year of medical school, preparing to be a physician. Another inspiring day!

**Susan’s House**

Susan’s House in Jerusalem is a JDC-sponsored agency that provides at-risk teens with art therapy and a studio workshop where they craft and sell the art they create. Here they receive life skills training, make social connections and get what they need to heal and grow.

Susan’s House currently works with 32 students per year and, thanks to your generosity, this brilliant program empowered by the JDC and Jewish Federations of North America, will expand to serve more teens at risk.

P.S. I bought a necklace made by Silvana (above).

**MASA Israel Journey’s Eco Israel**

MASA Israel Journey’s Eco Israel provides an immersive experience of sustainable organic living where students and post-college learners learn to live ecologically with the land and its people.

MASA gives Jewish young adults the opportunity to embrace permaculture and sustainable living through intensive hands-on experience and coursework on an organic farm.

With the help of Federation dollars, which support a MASA scholarship, Anastasia (right) will live at the Eco-Farm and learn more about her passion – eco-farming and sustainability. She is making Aliya and will be joined by her sisters while her parents remain in the former Soviet Union.

**JDC’s Accessible Health Zone**

JDC’s Accessible Health Zone is an activity and sports center for people with special abilities. Here they provide fitness training and activities that lead to healthier lives. We met and trained with Alon (above), captain of Israel’s competitive National Wheelchair Basketball team and discovered the power of Federation dollars to help restore and relaunch lives with purpose. We learned that shooting hoops from a three-foot wheelchair stature is really hard and that people with disabilities are, in reality, people with special abilities whose determination and perseverance are inspiring beyond words.

**The Loan Funds**

The Loan Funds encourage innovation in our Partnership 2Gether (“sister city” regions) by helping entrepreneurs open and grow businesses and improve the quality of life for themselves, their employees and communities. These funds are creating opportunities for people living in the Negev, Jerusalem and Galilee among target groups such as new immigrants, Israeli-Arabs, members of the Ethiopian-Israeli community and women. Since its inception these loans have helped to fund 1,450 start-ups and have created more than 7,000 jobs in Israel.

Pictured above is Gila Bashari, a participant of the Jewish Agency’s Ethnic Cooks Women’s Empowerment Program. Gila is a loan recipient who started a home hospitality business serving traditional Yemenite meals and entertainment.

**My Wave/HaGal Sheli**

–Riding the Wave Toward a Better Life

Mission travelers visited JAFI’s HaGal Sheli program at the beach in Bat Yam. Founded by a young Israeli who had a dream to help troubled teens build confidence and develop leadership through surfing and funded by Federation, this innovative program uses surfing as a metaphor for personal development, as teens learn to get up after every fall and to persevere until they can stand strong on the board and in daily life.

My Wave is helping hundreds of teens to experience success and build confidence during the school year and has spawned employment opportunities through its rapid growth, multiple beach locations and a positive impact on teens, many of whom now serve as surfing training assistants.
REGISTER FOR THESE PROGRAMS AND MORE AT JCCGREENWICH.ORG
For more information, visit JCCGreenwich.org
From Rembrandt’s Bathsheba and Alphonse Mucha’s Sarah Bernhardt to Andy Warhol’s Golda Meir and Deborah Kass’s Yentl, what can we learn from images of Jewish women over a millennium?

What’s the connection between Judith and Hanukkah? Discover a swashbuckling biblical heroine and why she graces 18th-century Hannukiot.

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.

For more information, visit JCCGreenwich.org
A New Name in the Spiritual Community – Congregation Kehilat Shalom

There are so many new and exciting things happening at Hebrew Wizards this coming year. Three exciting developments are: After 12 years, we are finally purchasing our own building, which will allow Hebrew Wizards to have a permanent and awesome new home in Greenwich for our school and educational programs. High Holidays will continue to be at the First United Methodist Church in Greenwich. While we are securing our certificate of occupancy and Zoning Board approvals, which takes months, we will remain at the YMCA. We are certain that you will love our new space, and we can’t wait to bless our new Wizards building with all of you.

Another exciting piece of news is that as we prepare for our new home we will be having a naming ceremony for our spiritual community. As our Congregation has grown, we wanted a new name to represent who we are and what we stand for. Introducing…Congregation Kehilat Shalom. “Kehilat Shalom” means “Community of Peace” which represents who we are as a community. “Shalom” means “hello, goodbye and peace.” We should come in peace, leave in peace and be at peace. Our Educational branch “Hebrew Wizards,” will of course remain our school’s name. Hebrew Wizards is thriving in dozens of communities across the country. “Wizards” will always mean “being the best we can be” and is our branded name as we expand our educational programming.

Lastly, we are adding new Wizards Pilot Programs in Houston, Texas, Ponte Vedra, Florida and Anchorage, Alaska. Our Teen trip this year will be to Florida with a visit to Disney World and our new community just outside of Jacksonville.

Ice Cream Surprise Provides an Unforgettable Lesson for Carmel Academy’s Third Graders

What began as a fun way to practice math and science skills turned out to be a lesson that our students will likely never forget. At the beginning of last school year, Carmel Academy’s third grade teachers used Talenti gelato as part of a “munchable math” lesson – a popular math manipulative method created by third grade teacher Hilary Machlis.

“At the end of every unit in math, after we have learned the skills and the vocabulary, we plan an activity that uses food as a ‘manipulative’ to problem solve. We have used cereal for graphing, clementines for multiplying, Twizzlers for patterning, caramels for cubic units, and marshmallows for geometry,” Machlis said. In this case, the students taste tested four different gelato flavors, she said. They then used the Talenti container caps to create pictographs and voted on their favorite flavor.

Soon, the use of the Talenti gelato containers took a life of its own as the students’ parents began buying the treat and sending in empty containers, which were used for science experiments, to collect tzedakah money, and even to plant Mother’s Day flowers, according to third grade teacher Robin Shainberg.

The students practiced their business-writing skills by each crafting a letter to the company founder, Josh Hochschuler, telling him about their learning activities using Talenti containers and offering some suggestions for new flavors. Hochschuler responded by sending the students a video message commending them for their hard work, well-written letters and their creative gelato flavor suggestions. At the end of the video he announced that he was sending the students a surprise – 56 pints of Talenti gelato! “We were amazed,” added classmate Yishai Orbach, who reported that he and his classmates jumped up and down cheering when the gelato was brought into the classrooms.

But before they could dig into the sweet treat, there was plenty of learning to be done surrounding the large ice cream delivery – such as solving a variety of liquid measurements problems and writing math equations about the seven different flavors they received. “As always, before we could munch, we had to do tons of math first,” said Jacob Madof. “That’s why we call it Munchable Math!”

Greenwich Historical Society Seeks Public Help in Telling the Jewish-American Story in Town

Through a series of planned discovery sessions this fall, local Jewish families are being encouraged to share stories, heirlooms and objects, to be considered for a planned exhibition. At these “show and tell” sessions, Historical Society representatives will examine, measure and photograph shared items and record their stories along with any other known information.

By sharing important memories, traditions and family objects, the exhibition will bring to life the varied stories of the Jewish families who settled in Greenwich. Commenting on the crucial role that public input will play, Exhibition Committee Chairman Jessica Guff noted, “We can’t do this without the support and participation of the Jewish community. Before these memories are lost, please help us chronicle your family’s role in shaping our town.”

Letters, photographs, emigration documents, diaries, reci-pes, household objects, vintage clothing, posters, postcards, scrapbooks, photographs and film clips of family and community events all are possibilities for inclusion in the exhibition. The Historical Society is also interested in hearing personal stories that convey the reasons why people left their former homes and what they experienced as they began new lives in Greenwich.

If you would like additional information or to attend a Discovery Day, you may contact Christopher Shields, Curator of Archives, Greenwich Historical Society, to arrange for an appointment by phone at 203-869-6899, x23 or by email at csheilds@greenwichhistory.org.
Shana Tova.

With the High Holidays soon approaching, I find myself looking back over the past year and over the good works of Jewish Family Services. Here’s just one example: “From the bottom of my heart – I want to thank JFS for being there for me when I was at my darkest place. You helped me to see that my life was not over. Your support and financial help saved my life. I am proud to say, I have now remarried and I am happy. If it weren’t for JFS, I don’t know what I would’ve done.” How proud I am to be associated with an organization that does so much good for so many people. In my 12 years here, I have witnessed how JFS rallies together to help others in their time of need. Whether it be food, clothing, furniture, money or friendship, JFS is there for those families and individuals who need us. In a time when there is so much uncertainty in the air, one thing I can be sure of, is the commitment and dedication of our staff, volunteers, our Board and our Jewish community.

JFS is honored by the trust our community places in us. We are gratified to receive dozens of letters like the one above – letters from a parent whose child was cutting school; from a teen who couldn’t afford to go to college; from a suicidal woman who ran away from her abusive husband; from a grieving widow after 66 years of marriage; or from an individual who lost his job and had no money for food.

Last year 1800 people asked JFS for help to solve problems in their lives. No one was turned away because they couldn’t afford to pay for the care and services they needed. How is this possible? With the generous support of our Greenwich Jewish community. You are the ones who create the life-saving resource that is JFS.

The founders of JFS believed that a decent community is responsible for protecting its vulnerable members. Embracing core Jewish values, JFS has become an activist for senior citizens, an advocate for immigrants, a center for Bikur Cholim training, a guide to teens and children, and a source of tangible support and counseling for people facing serious personal challenges. With decreasing government support and the increasing needs of families and the elderly, our challenge is to continue to live by this principle.

We thank our supporters, expert staff, and 175 volunteers for working in partnership with us to create this compassionate community. We are grateful for your involvement. And, if you have any ideas or want to see a program or group formed, please call me at 203-622-1881, and we will try to make it happen.

Warmly,

Lisa- Loraine Smith, LCSW, Executive Director JFS

Update From The Jewish Health and Healing Center of JFS

“...they keep us busy here. There are always activities and something to do, but when JFS comes and brings the Rabbi and the kids, it’s always something very special to us. We love it. Please don’t stop coming… your programs have meaning, they’re special.”

That’s what one resident of the Mews said to Lisa Goldberg, Director of the Jewish Health and Healing Center of JFS of Greenwich, after participating in a Jewish holiday-themed service and celebration. Her comment reinforces for us the appreciation and need that exists within our community to have a sense of Judaism and all its richness brought to our area senior facilities.

Supermarketing for Seniors Celebrates Grandparents

Supermarketing for Seniors hosts its third annual Supermarketing for Seniors Celebrates Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 25th. We’ll be raising community awareness of our free grocery shopping and case monitoring service for homebound Greenwich seniors, recruiting volunteer shoppers and shopping clients alike, and soliciting donations for the program. Volunteers will be found at tables throughout town, in front of Kings Food Market and Upper Crust Bagel Co. in Old Greenwich; Acme and Balducci’s in Riverside; Acme, Garelick & Herbs, and Stop & Shop in Central Greenwich; and the Greenwich Senior Center on Greenwich Avenue.

At 1:00 pm at the Greenwich Senior Center, Elyse Brown, program director, will present the second annual Supermarketing for Seniors “Shopper of the Year” award, heralding the outstanding efforts of our shoppers on behalf of their clients. Nominations are solicited from the shopping clients, and the award winner is decided by an independent panel of judges. Last year’s winner, Chris Bisceglia, is a volunteer shopper from Port Chester. We hope you’ll stop by and join us on this day of celebration in support of Supermarketing for Seniors.

Left to right: Chris Bisceglia, 2015 Shopper of the Year; Elyse Brown, Program Director, Supermarketing for Seniors; Lisa-Lorraine Smith, Executive Director, JFS of Greenwich; Maria Roman, Shopper; Odette Mouakad, Shopper

SPECIAL DONATIONS to JFS

For Bar/Bat Mitzvah: “Bima Baskets” in Honor of:

Barbara Salop, by Ralph and Judith Evans

In Honor of:

Cynthia Crispino, by Elyse Brown
Linda Schlaper, by Lynn Schwartz
Sally Schneider, by Janet Cohen

In Memory of:

Rivka Deren Berman, by Rita Edelson
Rivka Deren Berman, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Shigetoshi Nakata, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Rick Horwitz, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Irvig Phillip, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Barry Steinberg, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Thelma Feuerman, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
David Selib, by Joan and Robert Mann

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone special in your life or community, you may do so by making a donation to Jewish Family Services and we will send a note of acknowledgment to the person or family involved, informing them of your generosity in their honor/memory. 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.
Fall 2016 Programming

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

INSIDER’S GUIDE TO GETTING INTO COLLEGE – AND PAYING FOR IT: Tips for prospective college students and their parents
Stan Witkow, a Fairfield County-based expert on the college application process, and Joel Peck, a CPA and financial advisor, will share their expertise with students and parents about to enter the college application process. Stan will provide insights into how students can best position themselves for success, in both the selection of the college and in their applications. Joel will discuss programs and strategies to pay for college. This program is designed to be of particular interest to high school juniors and seniors as well as their parents.

Beginning September 29, 7:00 pm, at Temple Sholom. See website for details and to register.

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 generations that came before them. To join, contact Lisa Goldberg at JFS.

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 am. See website for dates.

JFS BOOKBEAT: FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ
A thought-provoking book club with themes relevant to Jewish women of all ages; facilitated by Judi Margolin; meets at JFS, 10/5; 11/9; 1/25, 3/22; 4/26; 6/7
Our next two books are “Crossing the Borders of Time” by Leslie Maitland on 10/5 and “The Bridge Ladies” by Betsy Lerner, on 11/9, both at 7:30 pm.

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 youth; the films are broadcast Live on Channel 75 in all patient rooms. The service is broadcast LIVE at 1:00 pm in the hospital’s Chapel. The service is led by Manny Mann, Spiritual Care Counselor at JFS; and Rabbi MJ Newman, Jewish Chaplin 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. 9/28; 11/16; 1/18; 3/1; 5/24; 7 pm, in a private home

RENEWAL OF BODY, RENEWAL OF SPIRIT HEALING SERVICE
JFS, in partnership with the Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, conducts a Healing Service for the community in the Greenwich Hospital 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.

Tuesdays, 9/12; 10/10; 11/14; 12/12; 12-12:45 pm.

Volunteer Opportunities
Bikur Cholim/Friendly Visitors/Grocery Shoppers
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.

Fall 2016 Counseling and Support Groups

Bereavement Support Group (JFS office)
For those who have lost a family member or friend within the past year. Facilitated by Lisa-Loraine Smith, LCSW, and 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 will provide a confidential space to reflect on the life you are living and the life you would like to live. It will be an opportunity to grow, develop, and learn from others! Facilitated by Mary Karlan, LCSW. Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45 pm

Living Well in Later Life (JFS office)
For individuals 70+ to talk with peers about the opportunities and challenges this stage of life presents. Topics covered 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, 2-3:45 pm

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

NEW! Chapter 2: For Empty Nesters (JFS office)
After the last child leaves for college, mothers often find themselves with a unique opportunity to reinvent themselves. But it is not always so simple. It can be challenging to find other ways to occupy their newly free time. And it’s sometimes difficult to reconnect with their spouse, let alone develop a new kind of relationship with their child. But perhaps what is most problematic is the lack of sympathy from people who believe that parents should be happy when their children leave home. Facilitated by Lisa-Loraine Smith, LCSW, Wednesdays, 12-1 pm

Through Torah to Life (Greenwich Hospital)
This spiritual discussion group opens a lens into the hidden messages in each week’s Parsha. We will study the ways in which these profound insights into human behavior can inspire us to an extraordinary life. Those seeking wholeness, comfort, and connection, as well as those in need of personal growth and healing will find strength and support through this group. Facilitated by Lisa-Loraine Smith, LCSW, and Rabbi MJ Newman, Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department. Six Fridays, beginning September 30, 12-1 pm

Children of Holocaust Survivors Support Group (ONLINE)
Participants will discuss how the Holocaust, which happened 70 years ago, continues to impact their present lives. We will explore the behaviors of our families and its influence on our own attitudes and relationships. We will also touch on how the legacy of being a child of a survivor can be a burden or a gift. And lastly we will discuss the resilience in our families and ourselves. Facilitated by Dr. Judith Zackon, Ph.D. Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 13, 2-3 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 llsmith@jfsgreenwich.org
All you need for our ONLINE groups is a computer, smartphone, or tablet with WiFi access.
GRS Topping-Off Ceremony, September 30

Greenwich Reform Synagogue will be celebrating the high point of the construction of its new home with a topping-off ceremony on the afternoon of Friday, September 30, at 92 Orchard Street in Cos Cob.

A long-standing builders’ tradition, the topping off ceremony celebrates the placement of the last steel beam into the construction of a building. This beam typically is painted white so that members of the community and the construction crew can sign it before a crane hoists it into position; the beam is often decorated with flags and a tree. The origin of the tree’s inclusion dates to Scandinavian times when it was meant to mollify the tree spirits displaced during construction. For Greenwich Reform, the tree will signify the central role of the Torah as the Tree of Life (Eitz Chayim) in the synagogue.

After the installation of steel beams, the construction schedule includes the placement of the wooden roof trusses, roofing the building, installing the windows and siding, followed by the completion of all interior elements by February 2017.

We invite you to stop by the site and sign the beam during the week of September 26-30, and to join our celebration on the afternoon of September 30.

Carmel Academy Students Create Permanent Art For New Greenwich Nature Trail

A group of Carmel Academy students have left an indelible artistic mark on one of Greenwich’s newest outdoor amenities, by creating a nature-inspired mosaic stepping-stones trail for a sensory garden. This is one of six activity stations along a new Nature Play Trail at Audubon Greenwich, which has held a variety of educational programs with Carmel Academy over the years, and had asked if the school would create the stepping-stones in time for the trail’s grand opening in late June.

“I couldn’t turn down this opportunity to have our students create these permanent pieces,” said Carmel Academy’s art teacher Lori Amer. Amer said she worked with the Audubon center’s director, Michal Frankel, to research and come up with a stepping-stone design concept. Several tile stores in the area donated materials to use to make the mosaic art, Amer said. Carmel Academy’s sixth grade students helped to carefully crack the tiles and then with a group of Lower School students used the small pieces of tile to create representations of garden animals, nature scenes and flora.

“Images of a robin, dragonfly and mushroom, ladybug, butterfly, bluebird, snail, owl, sun, leaves, tree, rainbow and various flowers were transported to the Audubon Society,” Amer said, adding that mosaic stones were then cemented into the ground. “Though the plants are small now, they will grow to be much larger and provide children with a wide variety of colors, textures and smells, through which to experience nature with all of their senses,” Frankel said. “We are so grateful to Morah Lori and her talented art students for contributing to this wonderful new resource for the community.”

Families throughout Fairfield County are welcome to visit the Nature Play Trail, which is geared to children of all ages. The trail is open dawn to dusk, seven days a week, and is fully wheelchair and stroller accessible.
Bi-Cultural Faculty Take Summer to Recharge and Reinvent

By Dora Salm

While many teachers slow down over the summer break, Bi-Cultural Day School’s faculty accelerated, attending seminars, workshops and summer courses, in order to expand their skill sets to ensure that they are well-equipped for the new school year with the most innovative tools in their teaching tool belts. “Our teachers are dedicated to continually enhancing the classroom experience and bringing out the best in every child. It’s important that we provide our faculty with the most progressive professional development opportunities to stay current for the 21st century classroom,” said Rachel Haron, Associate Principal, General Studies.

One major summer initiative was the Judaic Studies department’s collaboration with Ayeka, an Israeli-based education center, supplementing the Jewish studies curriculum with more ways for students to explore personal meaning and relevance. Bi-Cultural is one of a few schools in the country in this program, and the only middle school partner with Ayeka, supported by outside funding.

Building upon their success with Ayeka, Associate Principal of Judaic Studies, Michal Smart and several teachers teamed up with the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, an educational organization based in Jerusalem, which helps educators create meaningful ways for students to discover classic texts and traditions of Judaism and explore relevance to today’s most pressing issues. This year, Pardes is leading an initiative, funded by the Avichai Foundation, to make Tefilla more accessible to students. Pardes selected Bi-Cultural as one of three New York-metropolitan area schools to partner in this intensive two-year project, featuring Tefilla-specific seminars and workshops, and eventually rolling out an enhanced school-wide Tefilla program.

Teachers also concentrated on science and technology: Lower school teacher Beth Fritz and middle school teacher Adrianne Robinson took a course at Harvard University’s Design Theory and Innovation program, devoted to innovation in Makerspace Engineering Labs. “It was a great summer for learning,” said Robinson. “With the knowledge we gained, we were able to return to school excited and energized.”

‘Painted Ladies Series’ To Illuminate Jewish Women in Art History

By Laura Blum

Quick! Name a Jewish woman represented in painting. Did Adele Bloch-Bauer rush to mind? Perhaps so, for those who attended JCC Greenwich’s Woman in Gold screening and companion Neue Galerie New York outing. Now Greenwich art lovers will have a chance to delve deeper than Gustav Klimt’s portraiture.

Beginning in September, art historian Beth S. Gersh-Nešić will present a three-part immersive look at images of Jewish women in art. The series, entitled “Painted Ladies,” builds on the excitement of Dr. Gersh-Nešić’s breakout session at the 2016 Education Symposium, “How Ten Jews Colored Avant-Garde Art.”

Painted Ladies kicks off on September 15, 10 - 11:30 am with “The Jewess in Art from Medieval Times to Today,” a survey of relevant works created over the past millennium. Paintings Dr. Gersh-Nešić will discuss include: Sabina von Steinbach’s The Synagogue; Artemisia Gentileschi’s Joel and Sisera; Rembrandt’s Bathsheba at Her Bath; Delacroix’s Rebecca and the Wounded Ivanhoe; Alphonse Mucha’s Gismonda and other Sarah Bernhardt posters; Klimt’s Woman in Gold; Andy Warhol’s Golda Meir; and Deborah Kass’ Double Double Yentl (My Elvis).

The next two classes will take more of a close-up approach, each focusing on one charismatic persona from Jewish history and lore. In “Heroic Seduction” (Thursday, December 8, 10 - 11:30 am.), Dr. Gersh-Nešić will illustrate the biblical legend of Judith beheading the Assyrian general Holofernes to save the Jews of Bethulia. Drawing on painting, sculpture and memorials, she will tease out Judith’s connection with Hanukkah and propose a theory about the sword-wielding heroine’s presence in Jewish art.

“Queen Esther in Art” (Thursday, March 2, 10 - 11:30 am) will highlight another Jewish female protagonist whose selfless, courageous acts saved her people. Like Heroic Seduction, this third and final session carries a holiday theme and invites participants to celebrate with an in-depth visual appreciation.

Beth Gersh-Nešić, Ph.D., is founding director of the New York Arts Exchange, an arts education service that offers tours and lectures in the Tri-state area. She teaches art history at Purchase College and writes about Modern Art at About.com. Dr. Gersh-Nešić’s breakout session at the 2016 Education Symposium, “How Ten Jews Colored Avant-Garde Art.”

The fee for all three Painted Ladies sessions is $75. Ad hoc admission is also available: $30 in advance or $36 at the door. The series will take place at One Holly Hill Lane in Greenwich. Space is limited; art aficionados are encouraged to register early at jccgreenwich.org.
Carmel Academy Celebrates Commencement Exercises

Carmel Academy graduated its Class of 2016 on June 15, celebrating the school’s eleventh commencement exercises. The graduation theme was “Our Journey,” and the graduates poignantly reflected upon what they learned at Carmel Academy, both inside the classroom and out, and how the school has shaped and prepared them for their future. Through personal writings and songs, in both Hebrew and English, the graduates shared their memories, as well as their aspirations for the future based on the foundation they received at Carmel Academy.

New Program at Hebrew Wizards!

Mitzvah Moments

Hiddur Z’keinim, Honoring the Elders and teaching how to respect their life experiences.—Leviticus 19:32

We are so excited to announce a new Program this year at Hebrew Wizards. Each student in the Wizards II and Mitzvah Wizards will be performing 15 hours of community service Mitzvah Moments. Eight of these hours will be specifically completed at River House, our new collaboration with Seniors. Through focused learning classes, students will learn to conduct interviews, share stories and work together on a final year-end unique group memory book project and individualized inter-generational video. Through this experience, our students will be influenced by the seniors’ wisdom, so that they can fully understand the concept of repairing the world through Tikkun Olam and taking care of one another through Klal Yisrael.

Carmel Academy Celebrates Commencement Exercises

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Greenwich Reform Synagogue for Generations

Sunday, October 16, 5:00 - 7:00 pm – all ages welcome
Help decorate our Sukkah. Bring your own decorations or use ours. Pizza served at 5:30.

Paper Bag Lunch Party
Monday, October 17, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Stop by after Pre-K pickup and share lunch with friends. BYO lunch, drinks provided.

Sukkot Family Shabbat
Friday, October 21, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Celebrate Shabbat in the Sukkah. Dinner provided, BYO dessert.

Temple Sholom’s Annual Sukkot Dinner with Guest Speaker Amy-Jill Levine

Presented by The Sholom Center

Friday, October 21, 2016 at 7:30 pm
at Temple Sholom
300 E. Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT 06830

Amy-Jill Levine, a Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences, and the author of several books including Short Stories by Jesus, The Misunderstood Jew and The Jewish Annotated New Testament, will discuss “How Jews and Christians Read Scripture Differently.”

The cost to attend the dinner and program is $18 per adult and $5 per child (under 12-years-old).

To RSVP for this event or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities for Interfaith programming, please contact Alice Schoen at 203-542-7165 or alice.schoen@templesholom.com.

Amy-Jill Levine continues her Scholar-in-Residence Weekend in Greenwich with special programs on Saturday and Sunday. For a schedule of events, visit christschurchgreenwich.org
Bi-Cultural Wins Third Place in Celebrate Israel Day Parade

Dark, drizzly skies could not dampen Bi-Cultural Day School’s spirit on Sunday, June 5th, as more than 200 students, faculty and parents marched in unison up New York’s Fifth Avenue in the annual Celebrate Israel Day Parade. Bi-Cultural’s parade committee of parents, Anat Chavkin, Rachel Dayan, Meg Haron and Danielle Thau, prepared for months beforehand, coordinating logistics, choreography, music and all other creative elements for this event. As a result, Bi-Cultural won third place prepared for months beforehand, coordinating logistics, choreography, music and all other creative elements for this event. As a result, Bi-Cultural won third place.

For students in 3rd-7th grades, Hebrew instruction is offered on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Students come to the GRS office for 30 minutes of individual instruction with a Hebrew specialist, where each child receives personally tailored instruction. Students prepare for their bar/bat mitzvah by learning Hebrew reading and prayer, as well as theological concepts, vocabulary, and grammar.

GRS teens participate in a robust program for students in grades 8-12, with a variety of options, including a NFTY-affiliated youth group with terrific student officers; a Confirmation Academy, where students from grades 8-10 meet monthly to deepen their connection with Jewish life through study; and a madrichim program, which trains student aides in leadership skills through hands-on experience in the classroom, along with regular reflection with one another.

In addition to our Sunday programing, students enjoy a variety of creative Shabbat and Holiday activities. Family Shabbat services also take place monthly. After a family-oriented service and Shabbat dinner, our young people have fun with a hands-on activity reinforcing the theme of the evening’s service.

For more information, contact Eliana@grs.org or 203-629-0018, ext. 1008.

Shir Ami to Livestream High Holy Day Services

“This is an historic year in US, Israeli, and world history. The High Holy Days offer an opportunity for serious reflection,” notes Rabbi Vicki L. Axe. “We think about our relationships with others, with the world, and with God. We consider our role as diaspora American Jews in a world that desperately compels us to fulfill our sacred mandate to be a ‘light unto the nations.’ We seek a sense of comfort and community when facing the challenges of a fragile world. We seek role models of strength and courage in a world yearning for kindness and goodness. We seek rituals and customs to give ceremonial form to the daily tasks of life, transforming ordinary routine into purposeful sacred acts.”

“This year,” she added with great excitement, “we are livestreaming our services so that seniors and others who are homebound, even college students who are away from their families can virtually ‘come home for the holidays’ in what I like to call our ‘21st century shtetl.’”

“An innovation in our services is the use of modern technology,” notes Co-President and IT Chair Rick Mason of Cos Cob, who is arranging the livestreaming for all services. “During the Torah readings, the open scroll is projected onto a large screen so that all congregants can follow the text directly from the Torah.”

Past President Nancy Collamer of Old Greenwich finds the use of technology for the Yom Kippur Yizkor Memorial Service particularly meaningful. “Instead of a Memorial Book, we project the names of our loved ones one at a time on the big screen while the choir offers a medley of moving songs of comfort and memory.”

Shir Ami enjoys a partnership with several churches and organizations throughout the area, including Christ Church Greenwich, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, The First United Methodist Church, Round Hill Community Church, where High Holy Day Services are held each year, and the Atria, an assisted-living community in Stamford where the residents look forward to Rabbi Axe’s monthly Shabbat services, which have become an important part of the Shir Ami family.

All are welcome at Shir Ami High Holy Day Services. Visit www.congregation-shirami.org for easy online registration. For information about worship, education, and all congregational events and programs or to speak with Rabbi Axe, call 203-274-5376.
SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, September 29

JCC Greenwich

Exclusive Tour: American Ballet Theatre

With Executive Director Kara Barnett
890 Broadway, 2nd floor, NYC, 11 am-1 pm; Register at JCCGreenwich.org, $50

Thursday, September 29

Temple Sholom and Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

An Insider's Guide to Getting into College and Paying for It

Temple Sholom, 7 pm

Thursday, October 6

Fairfield University Carl & Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies

Sephardic Songs and Stories with Dan Saks

Quick Center for the Arts, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, November 2

JCC Greenwich/Pearl Society

The Chicken Soup Project With author Jessica Fechtor

YWCA Greenwich, 259 East Putnam Ave, 7 pm; Register at JCCGreenwich.org, $30

Tuesday, December 6

UJA Annual Meeting

Location TBD, 7:30 pm

Lectures at Academic Centers Near You

Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies UConn, Stamford

Lunch & Learn Series

$50 per person for four-session series (including kosher lunch)

The Maria & Ishier Jacobson Lecture:

“Was Equality for Jews Central to the French Revolution? A Contrarian Analysis”

With Dr. David Sorkin, Professor of Modern Jewish History, Yale University
Thursday, September 22, 12-1:30 pm


With Dr. Eric Goldman, Adjunct Professor of Cinema Yeshiva University
Thursday, September 29, 12-1:30 pm

The Nina & Norman Lotstein Lecture: “Moses Maimonides’ Rationalist Revolution”

With Dr. Paul Franks, Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Judaic Studies, Yale University
Wednesday, October 19, 12-1:30 pm

The Hyacinthe Hoffman Memorial Lecture:

“The World of Yesterday In the Works of Nobel-Prize Winner, S.Y. Agnon”

With Dr. Neelama Aschkenasy, Director, Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies UConn-Stamford
Wednesday, November 16, 12-1:30 pm

2016 Louis J. Kuriansky Annual Conference:

“Our World Today: Coping with Terrorism, Humanitarian Crisis, and State Collapse”

Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Dr. Daniel Kurtzer
Wednesday, October 26, 7 pm Suggested donation of $10 per person

GenRe Auditorium, UConn-Stamford

For information contact: rebecca.isenstein@uconn.edu or 203-251-9525

Fairfield University Carl & Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies

Special Lectures

All lectures are held in the Dolan School of Business unless noted. Please call to reserve a seat as space is limited 203-254-4000, ext. 2066.

2016 Judaic Studies Scholar-in-Residence:

“What American Jewish History Can Tell Us About the American Jewish Future”

Dr. Eric L. Goldstein, Associate Professor of History, and Judith London Evans Director, Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, Emory University
Monday, September 26, 7:30 pm

“The Hidden Poetry of the Five Books of Moses”

Dr. Jason Gaines, Biblical scholar, associate faculty member, College of the Holy Cross and Fairfield University
Thursday, October 27, 7:30 pm

Jacoby-Lunin Humanitarian Lecture: “Overcoming the Fear of Difference”

Timothy P. Shriver, activist, author and Chairman of Special Olympics
Wednesday, November 16, Kelley Theatre, Quick Center for the Arts, 8 pm

Adolph and Ruth Schurmacher Lecture in Judaic Studies:

“Popular Anger or Planned Pogrom? What Really Happened During Kristallnacht 78 Years Ago”

Dr. Michael A. Meyer, Adolph S. Ochs Professor Emeritus, Hebrew-Union College Jewish Institute of Religion
Tuesday, November 29, 7-30 pm

Early College Experience at JHSC

The Jewish High School of Connecticut is proud to announce that it is now certified as an ECE program site for the University of Connecticut. Top level class instructors at JHSC are now simultaneously teaching both JHSC high school classes as well as UConn college classes, which will give students college credit on a UConn transcript while still in high school.

Credits at our high school are a fraction of the cost they would be in college and allow students to essentially start their college classwork while still completing high school. “It is the best of both worlds for our students” said Rabbi Elisha Paul, JHSC Head of School. “This potentially saves parents thousands of dollars in college costs”.

This development is the next step that strengthens the connection between JHSC and UConn began with several recent JHSC graduates attending UConn, part of the prestigious UConn Honors program.

Bi-Cultural Welcomes

David Pitkoff as Board President

Bi-Cultural Day School recently elected David Pitkoff as the incoming President of the Board of Trustees, succeeding Robert Zitter, who served in this role for six years. Pitkoff, a partner in a CPA and financial-services firm, is a devoted community volunteer, having served on Bi-Cultural’s Board of Trustees for the past 12 years, chairing the Finance Committee, serving on the Executive Committee and on various search committees. Pitkoff has also served as president of the Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation and directed numerous Israel-related charities. He and his wife Cindy, a Bi-Cultural teacher in the early education program, have three adult children, all Bi-Cultural graduates.
“All my bags are packed, I’m ready to go...” was the song playing in the background while I packed my life into boxes. Leaving on a Jet Plane John Denver kept singing, and it made me think about what music I would listen to on my flight to JFK en-route to Greenwich, as the new Israeli emissary at UJA/JCC Greenwich.

The first song that came to mind was, San Francisco Al HaMayim – San Francisco by the Water – by one of the greatest Israeli singers, Arik Einstein. In the song, Einstein talks about his visit to America, and he marvels at what he sees. He is in awe of the Golden Gate Bridge that “is as impressive as seen in the movies.” He is amazed by the geese floating among the boats and doesn’t miss the opportunity to watch the NBA player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar who “touches the sky.” Despite this, he feels distant from his beloved, with whom he would like to share how everything is “so beautiful in San Francisco by the water,” but also from “little, warm and great Israel,” which he loves to love. This year, I hope to bring a piece of my Israel to Greenwich. I’d like to bring you a “taste of the Tavor and the Sea of Galilee.” I am looking forward to learning and loving the pieces of Greenwich you will show me this year.

The second song I added to my playlist called, Ya Mama by Shimon Buskila from the Idan Raichel Project, reminds me of my home. Raichel was inspired by the various cultures that comprise Israeli society. The project has songs in Amharic and German. This song is in a Moroccan-Jewish dialect, which is my parents’ mother tongue. The song talks about longing for your mother. Even though I don’t understand every word, it reminds me of the place and the home where I grew up.

The third song in my playlist comes from a young Israeli singer named Roni Dalumi. It’s called Ten, which means give. The singer asks for the ability to discover, to create and never hold back. “Give me a tomorrow where I can change everything.” I am also asking and hoping that in the coming year, we can discover, create and make new connections together. I am excited to be in Greenwich this year and can’t wait to meet you. I would love to hear from you at Racheli@jccgreenwich.org or 203-552-1818.
THIS NEW YEAR
DO SOMETHING
AMAZING:
GIVE

If you care, if you want to make an amazing difference in the world, now is the time. Rosh Hashanah is a time of reflection, the right moment for each of us to give to what means the most to us.

With one gift to UJA Greenwich this New Year, you'll be nurturing and sustaining people in need and helping thousands connect to their Jewish identity.

Please be amazing this year, give as generously as you can.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Go to UJAFedGreenwich.org to be amazing.

One Holly Hill Lane
Greenwich, CT 06830
203-552-1818
ujafedgreenwich.org
jccgreenwich.org