UJA-JCC Virtual Gala on October 22: Mixology, Magic and Mazel Tov Honoring Scott Simon

It wasn’t an easy decision. But with Covid-19’s continuing impact on world communities, including Fairfield County, UJA-JCC Greenwich has opted to hold its 2020 Gala online. The event, called “Mixology, Magic and Mazel Tov,” combines cocktail making, live entertainment and a grateful salute to Scott Simon. Chaired by Bonnie and Manny Citron and Yael and Josh Rosen, this October 22 event is a radical departure from galas past.

Guests will “arrive” on time at 7:30 pm sharp with a box of ingredients they will receive in advance, ready to make two cocktails guided by our bartender extraordinaire, Pam Wiznitzer. She was named one of Food & Wine’s Top 10 Rising Star Mixologists and one of Wine Enthusiast’s 40 Under 40. Wiznitzer serves as president of the United States Bartenders’ Guild—New York Chapter. “We’re taking a leap of faith here,” says CEO Pam Ehrenkranz. “So we’re being creative about how to make Zoomland feel like a special space where everyone is coming together to celebrate the mitzvah of giving, leading and building community.”

Scott Simon will be honored for his three years of outstanding service as president of UJA-JCC. Then master magician Tom Pesce will perform “unbelievable” tricks that spectators will swear are all camera effects, but aren’t. As part of his act, he may invite the crowd to join him in conjuring an illusion. The curtain drops at 8:30 pm, even though there is no long drive home!

Couvert is $180 per household, which includes delivery of a personal mixology kit and a sweet treat. Donors of $2,500 and up will receive a free half-page ad in the print and digital journal in honor of Scott. Registration and further details will be available by September 9 at ujajcc.org.

Dr. Scott Simon

On Sunday, September 13 from 3 to 5 PM PJ Library will be “Picking for the Pantry” at Silverman’s Farm at an event chaired by Michaelan Cohen, Romy Cohen and Alex Saltis. Families can participate in an outdoor community service activity to help support local food pantries. Let’s help those in need in these unprecedented times, while taking part in the perfect pre-Rosh Hashanah activity. Due to social distancing requirements, there are a limited number of spots available, and families will be picking apples as a unit. Silverman’s Farm is located at 451 Sport Hill Road, Easton, CT. Please register here for Picking for the Pantry. Cost is $36.

See amazing new programming for the fall on pages 6-8

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A SWEET AND GOOD NEW YEAR!
SHANA TOVA!
How to Be and Raise Better Men
A Conversation with Michael Ian Black

“If we cannot allow ourselves vulnerability, how are we supposed to experience wonder, fear, or tenderness?” The “we” of this poignant question refers to today’s boys and men. Its author is comedian/actor/director/writer Michael Ian Black. He posed this question in his new book *A Better Man: A (Mostly Serious) Letter to My Son*, which is the focus of the September 23, 8 pm UJA-JCC webinar, “A Conversation with Michael Ian Black.”

Both the book and the online chat pose a related question: How to be, and raise, better men? Black will peel back the layers of his relationship with his own father as he probes the toxic effects of pressuring boys to “man up.” Black invites a rethinking of masculinity and – in the spirit of his memoir/advice book addressed to his college-bound son – opens up a timely discourse about how young men can be part of the solution, not the problem. *A Better Man* is ranked as BuzzFeed’s “Most Anticipated Books of the Year.”

A resident of Redding, CT, Black is perhaps best known as a cast member and writer of the MTV sketch comedy show *The State,* and he has co-created, written and/or starred in some of the most beloved live and filmed entertainment of our time. He brings his deadpan humor and searching candor to this Days of Awe-timed exploration for boys, men, and anyone who loves them. “A Conversation with Michael Ian Black” is co-sponsored with the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County.

The event is free to the community. Click here to register for the webinar (required for a Zoom link) and to purchase *A Better Man* (optional, starting September 15).

**Bucket Full of Summer Fun**

Dozens of PJ Library families, with children aged 3-5 years old, celebrated the start of summer with a special gift from UJA-JCC. Each bucket was filled with sidewalk chalk, bubbles, Play-Doh, lanyard & beads, an insect collecting kit, parsley seeds for planting and “Summertime Bingo.” These items were guaranteed to keep young children happily engaged on those long summer days.

**William Raveis**

Helping clients open the door to the next chapter one home at a time!

***Stacy Young***

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45 Field Point Rd.
Greenwich, CT

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Scarsdale, NY

**Happy Rosh Hashanah from**

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stephenbatkin@worldins.net
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*Look for emails on upcoming JTAC programs this fall.*
UJA-JCC CARE-avan Lights Up the Streets of Greenwich

We had an impressive turnout for the Community CARE-avan, chaired by Joui Hessel. The parade spread joy to senior residents throughout Greenwich and to staff and patients at Greenwich Hospital. Fifteen cars decorated for the occasion, loaded with participants age 3 years old and up, drove through the streets of Greenwich on a sunny Wednesday afternoon in August. Smiles on the faces of the seniors and their caregivers was a joy to behold. As the CARE-avan passed through the entrance to Greenwich Hospital parking lot, it was met by cheers from doctors and nurses, even though those on the front lines really deserve all the accolades. The CARE-avan was a unique adventure, which presented an opportunity for learning as well. As participant Marissa Cohen stated, “my children had fun, and it sparked meaningful conversations with them.”

Power of the Flower!

The Women’s Philanthropy Board of UJA-JCC Greenwich added some color to the homes of the most vulnerable populations in our community. Volunteers delivered beautiful plants, cards, and colorful pictures hand-drawn by local kids, to the homes of local Holocaust survivors and to residents of The Mews, an assisted-living facility in Greenwich. The recipients were overjoyed and truly moved upon receiving these beautiful gifts. The plants brought light and love to those who have been most impacted during this difficult time. A portion of the money raised from this effort also helped to provide more than 800 meals to the Emunah Children’s Center in our sister city of Afula, Israel.

Special thank you to the volunteers who helped deliver the plants: Romina Rapoport, Mugs Zales, Dina Klein-Lunder, Madeline Simon, Andi Fern (President, Women’s Philanthropy), Sammi Fern, and Jadyn Daniels.
Morning of Song from Lerner and Loewe

On July 20, more than 120 participants, including 32 survivors from Schoke JFS Anachnu Program for Holocaust Survivors joined UJA-JCC of Greenwich for a special morning of history and song behind two of America’s most recognizable musical theatre teams, Lerner and Loewe. Their works, such as Camelot, Gigi and My Fair Lady, helped form the fabric of a generation. It was an amazing live performance by Rebecca Cooper, Regina Elliott, Daniel Frankel and Jacob Litt with musical accompaniment by Zachary Kampler! Thank you to all the talented performers who donated their time.

Greenwich Reform Welcomes Cantor/Religious School Director Michelle Rubin

Greenwich Reform is thrilled to welcome Cantor Michelle Rubin to the GRS family as our Cantor and Religious School Director. She was invested by the Jewish Theological Seminary’s H.L. Miller Cantorial School, from which she received a Master of Sacred Music and a Diploma of Hazzan in 1999. Before joining the clergy team at GRS, Cantor Rubin served as Cantor and Education/Youth Director at Montebello Jewish Center in Suffern, NY and as the Cantor at Temple Israel in Ridgewood, NJ.

Prior to her cantorial studies, Cantor Rubin worked in a variety of Jewish settings as a teacher and youth advisor. She received a Bachelor of Music in Opera from the Hartt School of Music and two Master of Music degrees in Vocal Performance and Vocal Pedagogy from the New England Conservatory. Cantor Rubin lives in Hartsdale, New York with her husband Jeffrey Gross and her twin daughters, Erica and Kara Freedman. She has grown stepchildren, Mitchell and Abby Gross.

As Cantor Rubin tells us: “I want to provide our students with a nurturing and fun school environment that fosters an enthusiasm and love for Judaism through experiential and individualized learning and personal connections.”

“And in response to the challenges of Covid-19, we have planned an engaging and experiential Religious School program. In our Zoom breakout rooms, we will be utilizing a variety of education apps, including Kahoot and Quizlet. We will be taking virtual trips to Israel, building model Sukkot, doing Hebrew scavenger hunts, participating in a variety of Chesed (kindness) projects and much more. Our teachers took intensive training sessions in preparation for this extraordinary school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me CantorRubin@GRS.org or 203-629-0018 if you have questions.”

A laboratory for our future leaders

Register Today

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is open

stamfordjcc.org
Preventing for the Days of Awe—Forgiving Others and Ourselves

by Rabbi Jordie Gerson, Greenwich Reform

We are now midway through Elul, the month leading up to Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Traditionally, Elul is when we turn our attention inward, and do the work of cheshbon hanefesh, the accounting of the soul. But just as you wouldn’t run a marathon without training for weeks and months beforehand, neither did the Rabbis expect that the work of return, renewal, and inner transformation, of forgiveness and letting go, would begin on Rosh HaShanah and end at sunset on Yom Kippur.

Rather, the work of changing ourselves begins when we add prayers of selichot – forgiveness – to our daily liturgy in the month of Elul. And beyond our prayers, we also begin to ask all those we have hurt – intentionally or unintentionally, in word, deed or action – for forgiveness as well. What’s particularly interesting is that it’s not blowing the shofar – but hearing it – that is the mitzvah, or commandment. Because the Rabbis knew that the act of truly listening kickstarted the process of teshuva (or return to the best version of ourselves). We ask ourselves: have we been thoughtless with our words this year? Have we spoken harshly to or about others? Have we listened when our kids were asking for our attention or comfort? Did we respond when our spouse asked for love, or assurance, or when our friends or parents needed us? Above all, did we listen to our own inner wisdom? In an ordinary year, the shofar reminds us to pay attention to these questions. This year, its plea is even more commanding.

This year, it’s harder for us to listen than ever before. The noise of the world outside, and our fear of it, has created a frenetic, anxious interior dialogue in most of us that never ends: “How long will the pandemic last? How long can I stand living this way? When will it get easier? Am I safe – are my aging parents safe? Will I ever be safe again? Am I a good parent or spouse when I have so little patience left? How long can I stand being so lonely?”

Living with these questions is exhausting. Which is why, this year, more than ever, we need the spiritual alarm clock of the shofar to stop that interior monologue and remind us of this important fact: not only do we need to ask forgiveness of others at this time of year, but we also need to ask forgiveness of ourselves, for doing the best we can in an extraordinarily difficult time, and sometimes failing.

This year, the shofar gives us permission to ask for and grant forgiveness, from others and from ourselves. And we look ahead to the New Year, with the hope that the world as it is right now will, someday, with our help, become a world of safety, healing and love. Shanah tovah u’metukah – a sweet, happy and healthy new year to you and yours from all of us at GRS.
**Some Enchanted Afternoon**

**A Very Special Live Performance on Zoom**

**Celebrating the Music of Rodgers & Hammerstein**

**Tuesday, September 15 at 4:00 pm**

Rain Date is September 30 (as our performers are outside for social distancing)

The Golden Ticket series returns for another outdoor performance; this time, to celebrate the history and song behind one of the most beloved musical theatre teams of all time, Rodgers & Hammerstein. Their works such as Oklahoma, South Pacific and The Sound of Music helped weave the fabric of a generation. This is a not-to-be-missed afternoon featuring the singing quartet of Rebecca Cooper, Regina Elliott, Daniel Frankel & Jacob Litt, with musical accompaniment by Zachary Kampler.

Registration - $18   Sponsor - $36   Patron - $250

**RSVP**

Patrons (list in formation)

- Marshall Cooper
- Anne Klein
- Shoke JFS Stamford Anachnu Program

Sponsors (list in formation)

- Kathy & James Adams
- Barbara & Ron Ashkenas
- Marcie & Andrew Braver
- Marilyn Cooper
- Shawne Cooper
- Joui Hessel & Jimmy Hexter
- Rikki Kaplan
- Linda Pryde
- Beverly & David Stein
- Mark Weisburger

**MICHAEŁ DAVID SOLOMONOV**

- Executive Chef and Co-owner of Zahav, the 2019 James Beard Foundation award winner for Outstanding Restaurant, the first Israeli restaurant to ever win the award
- Zahav was named by Food & Wine as one of the “40 Most Important Restaurants of the Past 40 Years”

**GABRIELLA GERSHONSON** - Moderator

- James Beard award-nominated food journalist based in New York City
- Contributor to The Wall Street Journal

**MENU**

- Kale, Apple, Walnut and Sumac-Onion Tabbouleh
- Honey Glazed Chicken
- Apple Cake

**RSVP**

Free • RSVP to Receive Zoom Link, Recipes & Ingredient List (to be sent closer to event date)

This Event is a Thank-You to Donors of $1,000 or more to the UJA-JCC Greenwich 2020 Annual Campaign.

**Announcing the Love Your Neighbor Face Mask**

New Year, New Mask, New Charitable Donation!

Start 5781 off with a breathable, comfortable and washable mask with the Hebrew words, “Love Your Neighbor as You Love Yourself.”

Available for $18 please contact randi@ujajcc.org.
This has been an extraordinarily challenging year and with your support, UJA-JCC Greenwich has been able to make unprecedented impact. We are excited to express our gratitude by inviting you to:

**THE COMMUNAL KVELL**

**featuring**

Eugene, Dan, and Sarah Levy from *Schitt’s Creek*

**Wednesday, September 16th at 1:30 PM**

**Free!**

If you have not yet made your contribution to our 2020 Annual Campaign, we kindly ask that you consider doing so in advance of participating in this wonderful program.

You can make your 2020 campaign contribution by clicking here.

To register for the Communal Kvell, click here.

### FEELING LUCKY?

**TAKE A CHANCE AND JOIN UJA-JCC GREENWICH FOR A VIRTUAL CASINO NIGHT**

**TO BENEFIT PJ LIBRARY & COVID-RELATED FOOD INSECURITY**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

8 - 9:30 PM

$136 per person - $180 to sponsor

Want to play at a table with your regulars? Please contact randi@ujajcc.org

Learn to play poker at the Beginners’ Table

18 + TO PLAY

Event Committee:

Alice Baron Delikat & Michael Delikat;

Shella & Brian Neillinger, Christine & Jeff Toback

### PJ Library

Join Dr. Abigail Gewirtz for a discussion about

**How to Talk to Your Kids About Things That Worry Them in a Complicated World**

Monday October 26 8:00 PM

Big issues make both parents and children anxious— from disturbingly routine active-shooter drills at school, to frightening news about climate change, pandemics, social-justice issues, and violence. It’s too easy for parents to feel at a loss for how to equip their child to deal with it all in a healthy way. Dr. Gewirtz will share insights from her book, *When the World Feels Like a Scary Place: Essential Conversations for Anxious Parents and Worried Kids.*

Please Click Here to RSVP

*Presented in partnership with:*
UJA-JCC Greenwich Announces New Fall Meet the Authors Series

**Lit Cafe**

Grab a cup of coffee and meet the authors!

$20 for the entire series

Books are available at amazon.com or your local bookstore.

Zoom link will be provided upon registration.

RSVP at www.ujajcc.org or (203) 552-1818

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**The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia: From Abraham to Zabar’s and Everything in Between**

With co-authors Stephanie Butnick, Liel Liebovitz and Mark Oppenheimer

October 6, 10:30 am

How much do you really know about Jewish culture and civilization? Find out when the hosts of Tablet Magazine’s popular podcast Unorthodox sample their exhaustive reference guide to all things Jewish (and Jew-ish). From history, ritual and language to holidays and entertainers, there’s something for trivia junkies and serious mavens alike. But let’s be clear: This is not an Encyclopedia Judaica. Laugh and learn about everything from the Torah to Chinese food.

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**Peas Love & Carrots**

With author Danielle Renov

November 18, 10:30 am

From her kitchen in Jerusalem, Renov will discuss her book and whet our appetites for Moroccan cuisine. Soak up the flavors and traditions that inspire this half-Sephardic, half-Ashkenazi foodie as she shares her handy tips for making every meal a feast. Gather around the screen and get some delicious ideas for your upcoming holiday meals.

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**Welcome to Greenwich!**

WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

We will extend a hearty “Welcome!”

Bonnie Citron, Chair,
UJA-JCC Greenwich Newcomer Committee
September 2020     Page 9

SEPTEMBER 3
Rabbi Mois Navon
Lives versus Dollars: A Coronavirus Dilemma
“We cannot let the cure be worse than the problem itself,” argued President Trump in the wake of Covid-19 as Governor Cuomo fired back, “We’re not going to put a dollar figure on human life.” How can we make such calculations? Let’s consult Jewish classical sources to grapple with this question.

SEPTEMBER 10
Aryeh Ben David
Becoming a More Loving Human Being
Jewish wisdom on how to love difficult and annoying people.

SEPTEMBER 17
Chaim Lauer
Danger: Rabbis
When does standing on principle and ego destroy? Trial and error in the development of the rabbinate.

SEPTEMBER 24
Dr. Yael Ziegler
Face to Face with God
We will engage in a theological exploration connecting Moses’s experience on Sinai, the High Priest on Yom Kippur and every individual in their quest for God.

OCTOBER 1
Dr. Yakir Englander
Do the Right Thing
What’s the responsibility of Jewish leadership in times of crisis?

OCTOBER 8
Dr. Moulie Vidas
Torah Study, Social Justice and the Competition for Defining Judaism in Antiquity
As classical Judaism was forming, Torah study became one of its central values, with some traditional texts hailing it as the most important one. How did Torah study come to prevail, and what competing visions did Judaism embrace, of such as public service, social justice and devotion in prayer?

OCTOBER 15
Rabbi Hayyim Angel
The Chosen People in an Age of Political Correctness
Explore an ideal vision of the Bible and later Jewish thought regarding our relationship with God, Jews and all of humanity.

OCTOBER 22
Rabbi Professor Jeffrey Woolf
The Italian Renaissance Meets the Synagogue
We’ve all heard of the Italian Renaissance. But few know that the great Italian artists and composers had a direct impact on Jewish life. We’ll look at some surprising examples, such as when Michelangelo became an object of a Shabbat walk.

OCTOBER 29
Rabbi Eric Hoffman
The Rabbis on Thanksgiving
As we approach the American season of Thanksgiving, let us examine and discuss Rabbinic thought in the Talmud and Midrash about what thanksgiving ought to be.

NOVEMBER 5
Rabbanit Michelle Cohen Farber
The Effects of Human Behavior on Jewish Law
Today’s Daf Yomi, Eruvin 88, is our lens for retrogazing the 2020 international Siyum HaShas for Women and what inspired it. That landmark event in Jerusalem was the first, though by no means the last, major celebration of women’s achievements in Talmud learning.

NOVEMBER 12
Rabbi Menachem Liebtag
Priestly Blessing
There’s no obvious reason why the utterance of a few special words by a member of the priestly clan could facilitate a blessing from God. Let’s explore its Biblical logic.

NOVEMBER 19
Rabbi Avital Hochstein
Between a Deed and Its Goal – What Counts?
To evaluate a deed, should we consider its purpose or its outcome? The effort behind it or its final effect? Let’s probe the criteria – for criteria – through the classic dispute between Rabbi Yehuda and Rabbi Shimon.

NOVEMBER 26 - THANKSGIVING
NO CLASS

DECEMBER 3
Rabbi Devorah Evron
Zero to Hero
Gender roles in the story of Chanukah.

DECEMBER 10
Rabbi Shaul Robinson
Chanukah – Finding Light After Much Darkness
The ancient story of Chanukah is about faith, resilience, adaptability – and most of all hope. We will examine some classic and contemporary stories to find much light after a very difficult year.

DECEMBER 17
Rabbi Dr. Henry Abramson
Plague and Pandemic in Jewish History
Over the course of their millennial, diasporic history, Jews encountered virtually every contagion known to humanity. From the Hebrew Scriptures to the Talmud, from Maimonides to modern medicine, the Jews responded to the medical and social upheavals occasioned by pandemics, developing strategies that inform the present Covid-19 condition.

DECEMBER 24
NO CLASS

DECEMBER 31
NO CLASS

Check UJA-JCC Greenwich calendar at ujajcc.org for updated schedule.
You must register to receive Zoom link.
Dear Greenwich Community Friends,

Always breaking new ground, Kehilat Shalom continues to innovate and create lifelong memories as we celebrate being Jewish together. Our Wizards Team has worked tirelessly in order to create this wonderful Jewish experience for the New Year. We hope that you will gather with your family and relish in the moment as we come together as a community in our Virtual Sanctuary. We will begin with Rosh Hashanah services on Saturday, Sept. 19th at 10:30 am sharp. So wear your High Holiday best, make sure you have Zoom downloaded and click on your link/password. Then sit back and enjoy with your family and close friends. We want to include as many people as possible to share in this beautiful experience. Suggested donation is $18 per person, but feel free to donate generously. Students and children are free.

FYI-Once registered you will have your own personal registration code. We are also preparing High Holiday Boxes with all of your favorite New Year’s treats. This can be delivered or picked up at the Wizards Building.

Registration Link High Holiday Services in our Virtual Sanctuary
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X7x0gewjQlvt0fVfM6DYAg

We welcome you to our Virtual High Holiday Sanctuary 5781
September 19th - Rosh Hashanah Day 1 at 10:30 am
September 27th - Kol Nidre Yom Kippur Night at 7:30 pm
September 28th - Yom Kippur Day at 10:30 am

We will have two live events scheduled. (outside services and masks must be worn)

Sept 20th - Rosh Hashanah Day 2 at 10:30 am - Tashlich & lunch to follow
Sept 28th - Neillah & Break the Fast at 6 pm

Both live events will be held at: Rabbi Deborah Salomon’s Home
130 Cummings Point Road, Stamford, CT 06902

Please RSVP 203-249-4036 and weather dependent.
All Donations are tax deductible and will support our Wizards Scholarship Fund.

The community is welcome to join Temple Sholom for our livestream services.
Please contact Lori Baden at lori.baden@templesholom.com for all of the links.
Or visit the Temple Sholom website at www.templesholom.com for more information.

### Temple Sholom High Holiday Services 2020

**Erev Rosh Hashanah, Friday, September 18, 2020**
8:00 pm, service in Temple Sholom sanctuary led by Rabbi Mitch Hurvitz and Cantor Sandy Bernstein
Available through livestream

**Rosh Hashanah Day 1, Saturday, September 19, 2020**
9:00 am – 1:00 pm, service in Temple Sholom sanctuary, led by Rabbi Mitch & Cantor Sandy
Available through livestream
10:30 am, Family service led by Sheldon Low
Available by livestream & Zoom
1:30 pm, Young Family service led by Sheldon Low
Available by livestream & Zoom

**Rosh Hashanah Day 2, Sunday, September 20, 2020**
9:00 am – 1:00 pm, service in Temple Sholom sanctuary, led by Rabbi Mitch & Cantor Sandy
Available through livestream
10:30 am, Family service led by Sheldon Low
Available by livestream & Zoom
1:30 pm, Young Family service led by Sheldon Low
Available by livestream & Zoom

**Kol Nidre, Sunday, September 27, 2020**
6:30 pm, service in Temple Sholom sanctuary led by Rabbi Mitch and Cantor Sandy
Available through livestream

**Yom Kippur, Monday, September 28, 2020**
9:00 am – 1:00 pm, service in Temple Sholom sanctuary led by Rabbi Mitch and Cantor Sandy
Available through livestream
10:30 am, Family service led by Sheldon Low
Available by livestream & Zoom
1:30 pm, Young Family service led by Sheldon Low
Available by livestream & Zoom
1:30 pm, Adult Education with Rabbi Margo Hughes-Robinson and Rabbi Kevin Peters
Available by Zoom
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Afternoon/Evening Services in Temple Sholom sanctuary
Available through livestream

- **Erev RH**
  - RH Morning Tashlich, Saturday, September 19th
  - 7:30 - 9:00 pm
  - 10:00 am - Noon

- **Yom Kippur**
  - Kol Nidre, Monday, September 28th
  - 7:30 - 9:00 pm
  - 10:30 am - Noon
  - 3:30 - 4:15 pm
  - 4:15 - 5:00 pm
  - 5:00 - 5:30 pm

A 24/7 Meditation, recorded by Cantor Abramson, will be available throughout the High Holy Day season.

MEMBERS – free  ●  GUESTS – minimum donation of $54 per household

You may register on our home page at www.congregationshirami.org. | 203.900.7976

* * *

May the sound of the shofar herald in a year of health and peace for all

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**HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5781**

**2020 ~ HIGH HOLIDAYS ~ 5781**

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES VIA ZOOM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Erev RH</strong></td>
<td>RH Morning</td>
<td>Saturday, September 19th</td>
<td>Temple Sholom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>10:00 am - Noon</td>
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| **Yom Kippur**         | Kol Nidre             | Sunday, September 27th  | Temple Sholom   |
|                       | 7:30 - 9:00 pm        | 10:30 am - Noon         |                 |

|                      | Yukor-Concluding      | Monday, September 28th  | Temple Sholom   |
|                      | 4:15 - 5:00 pm        | 5:00 - 5:30 pm          |                 |

| Templeshila and      | virtual Break Fast    | Monday, September 28th  | Temple Sholom   |
|                      |                       | 5:00 - 5:30 pm          |                 |

The community is welcome to join Temple Sholom for our livestream services.
Please contact Lori Baden at lori.baden@templesholom.com for all of the links.
Or visit the Temple Sholom website at www.templesholom.com for more information.
**HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5781**

**Greenwich Reform**  
High Holy Day Services 2020/5781  
92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob  
(203) 629-0018  
www.grs.org

To join GRS and ensure High Holy Day access, contact the office at info@grs.org.

All services will be online, except the Drive Through Shofar Service and Second Day of Rosh Hashanah Tashlich. Please contact the office for details at (203) 629-0018 or info@grs.org.

**Selichot**  
Saturday, September 12  
Congregational Service  
8:30 pm

**Erev Rosh Hashanah**  
Friday, September 18  
Congregational Service  
7:00 pm

**Rosh Hashanah**  
Saturday, September 19  
Tot Service  
8:45 am  
Family Morning Service  
9:45 am  
Traditional Morning Service  
11:30 am  
Drive Through Shofar Service  
2:30 pm

**Second Day of Rosh Hashanah**  
Sunday, September 20  
Socially Distant Tashlich Walk  
10:30 am

**Yom Kippur Kol Nidre**  
Sunday, September 27  
Congregational Service  
7:00 pm

**Yom Kippur**  
Monday, September 28  
Tot Service  
8:45 am  
Family Morning Service  
9:45 am  
Traditional Morning Service  
11:30 am  
Yizkor/Neilah Services  
5:00 pm

All services will be online, except the Drive Through Shofar Service and Second Day of Rosh Hashanah Tashlich. Please contact the office for details at (203) 629-0018 or info@grs.org.

**Services for Chavurat Deevray Torah and Chavurat Aytz Chayim**

Mark S. Golub, Rabbi  
Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services 2020 (5781)

This year, due to Covid-19, we are planning on holding Virtual High Holiday Services using the Zoom App. There is no charge to attend High Holy Day Services. Please check back with us on this website, chavurah.org, for updated information and online links to our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services. We hope you will join us.

**Meditative Walk and Tashlich:**  
Second day of Rosh Hashanah at Greenwich Reform

The second day of Rosh Hashanah at Greenwich Reform will include an in-person meditative walk and tashlich service. Details at GRS.org.
New Dignity Grows™ Initiative

UJA-JCC Greenwich Partners with Neighbor to Neighbor and JFS Kosher Food Pantry

UJA-JCC Greenwich donated 100 Dignity Packs to Neighbor to Neighbor in Greenwich for distribution to those in need in our community. Responding to the fact that a lack of menstrual supplies and other hygiene products can negatively affect a person’s quality of life, making it difficult or even impossible to do things we often take for granted, like attending school or going to work, each zippered bag contains menstrual products and toiletries, including soap, shampoo, toothpaste and a toothbrush.

UJA-JCC CEO Pam Ehrenkranz said, “A core Jewish value is human dignity, and this effort epitomizes how we enact that value within our own community.” Spearheaded locally by Women’s Philanthropy board members Margie Black, Stephanie Esquenazi, Andi Fern and Bryanna Kallman, this project was created by the women of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Dignity Grows™ has been on UJA-JCC’s radar screen prior to the pandemic. And there is no better time than now to bring this to our local Greenwich community.

The Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry at Schoke JFS in Stamford was selected in September as the new recipient of our donations. The project is funded through individual donations to UJA-JCC Greenwich. Want to help? Donate at our website, www.ujajcc.org

100 bags donated to Neighbor to Neighbor! Packing volunteers (left to right): Stephanie Esquenazi, Margie Black, Bryanna Kallman, Bran Berni, Andi Fern, and Samantha Fern. (Karen Ross not in photo)

Pencils, Paper and Philanthropy Packing Party

Multi-generations of Greenwich families came together at the very beginning of September to pack a variety of school supplies for hundreds of children in need who are starting school this fall. UJA-JCC Greenwich teamed up with Met Council on Jewish Poverty to make it all possible. Many thanks to Christine and Jeff Toback for hosting this event.
Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich is encouraging the Jewish community to celebrate Shabbat through a new campaign called #Shabbat500, which takes place each week during Judaism’s time of rest. It includes refraining from work-related activities and engaging in restful activities to honor the day. To participate in the #Shabbat500 initiative, families in the Jewish community should sign up at www.chabadgreenwich.org/shabbat500 to receive a Shabbat gift bag, delivered to your home. “We all know that the Covid-19 virus has had an impact on everyone’s lives. It is a very dark time for all of us,” said Schneur Deren, a Rabbinic Intern at Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich. His parents Rabbi Yossi and Maryashie Deren are the directors of Chabad Lubavitch in town. “During this period when there are fewer distractions, we turn off our phones and computers, and we spend time with family. It is an opportunity to rest from a busy week. God gave us the gift of Shabbat, and so we came up with the idea of putting together Shabbat to-go bags.” The first week of August, Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich sent Shabbat bags to 60 families. Volunteers wearing gloves and masks delivered the bags throughout town. Chabad would like to see that number grow to at least 500 families. “We received an email from a donor to our organization, saying that he wanted to provide enough support so that each member of our community will receive a bag,” Schneur Deren said. The Shabbat Shalom bag includes two loaves of Challah bread, a Kiddush cup, a bottle of grape juice, two Shabbat candles, a scroll providing inspiring information for the week, a Shabbat dinner guide, a charity box and treats for the kids. Deren said that the candles are especially significant. “A candle can shine very far; it lights up our homes and can light up the world,” Deren said. “Women and girls have a great influence on what goes on in the home, and abiding by tradition, we encourage women and girls to light the candle.” Sign up to participate in a pre-Shabbat Zoom event with the Greenwich community and share a Shabbat table on social media with #Shabbat500. “This is a way for us to give back to our community and lift each other’s spirits,” Deren said.

Hebrew Wizards Launched Its First Wiz Kidz Day Camp

This summer we offered a 6-week camp, June 22-July 30th. Campers tell us these were the best six weeks ever, with two hours of art and crafts and outside activities each day, followed by two hours of swimming, beach time, and even rock climbing. Ten campers ranging in ages from 5 to 13 enjoyed Boating with Buster. And BBQ lunches were served to hungry campers. Grateful parents shared their thanks to our three Wiz Kidz counselors and two Camp Directors who contributed to a great summer experience for all.
Over the last year, Congregation Shir Ami, like many other synagogues, moved Jewish spiritual life to a virtual environment. One member taught our community to make homemade cheesecake from her kitchen over Zoom in preparation for Shavuot. Another member taught English to a new immigrant family over FaceTime through our partner organization Building One Community in Stamford. As for me, I lead Kabbalat Shabbat from my dining room via Zoom, inviting our members to welcome the Sabbath with songs of praise. It hasn’t been easy, but we have all gained new appreciation for the strength of our community.

Here is what I’ve learned:

Our congregation is adaptable. I marvel at the ways our members adjusted to this new reality. I don’t think I heard one person kvetch or complain. I am proud of our members for their flexibility. Of course we yearn for the time when we’ll hear each other’s voices singing together and feel the strength of in-person human connectivity. But for now, I continue to marvel at the resilience of our Shir Ami community.

I’ve learned that offering prayers and melodies does work online when we bring our heartfelt intentions to the task.

I’ve also learned that activism must not stop in the midst of a global health pandemic. Now more than ever, we maintain our commitment to the Black Lives Matter movement in a variety of online forums and discussions.

This coming year, we are excited to continue our online learning with a robust series of adult learning opportunities. Please join us as we continue our series entitled “Essential Jewish Conversation.” Together we’ll explore Jewish perspective on a variety of critical issues. We’ll continue to invoke our Jewish values to combat racism and work for social justice. (To learn more see page 16.)

While 2020 has been a year ripe with challenge, I invite you to join us at Shir Ami as we strive to make Jewish life relevant, meaningful and vibrant.

May 5781 bring us good health, a renewed sense of community, and a sweet New Year.

Social Action Sundays at Temple Sholom

This fall the Temple Sholom Learning Center is launching a new initiative for 7th and 8th graders, called Social Action Sundays. The program meets on Sunday mornings and is led by Rabbi Margo Hughes-Robinson and Sarah Baden. The framework is experiential, including engaging weekly hands-on classes. Some examples from the curriculum are a field trip to help clean up the beach; peer training on mental health first aid; speakers on disabilities; and planning for a large community-wide Mitzvah Day. Additionally, students in the program will have the opportunity to suggest projects or organizations to support that they are passionate about.

“We are providing opportunities for our students to develop positive Jewish identities and to engage in living Jewish values,” said David Cohen, Director of Schools. “Ultimately we want them to explore what motivates us as Jewish people to engage in social action, what causes feel important in our daily lives, and what impact can we make together as a community.”

Rabbi Margo, who joined Temple Sholom in July, comes with many years of training and experience within the social action space, including time with Avodah: the Jewish Service Corps and T’ruah, a human rights organization. She is a 5th year rabbinical student at JTS, and in addition to her duties at the Temple Sholom Learning Center, she is also a Greenwich BBYO advisor.

For more information on Social Action Sundays, please contact David Cohen, Director of Schools at 203-869-7191.

Lessons of Virtual Community

by Cantor Jill Abramson

Over the last year, Congregation Shir Ami, like many other synagogues, moved Jewish spiritual life to a virtual environment. One member taught our community to make homemade cheesecake from her kitchen over Zoom in preparation for Shavuot. Another member taught English to a new immigrant family over FaceTime through our partner organization Building One Community in Stamford. As for me, I lead Kabbalat Shabbat from my dining room via Zoom, inviting our members to welcome the Sabbath with songs of praise. It hasn’t been easy, but we have all gained new appreciation for the strength of our community.

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Applications Available for the 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.

The award will be given to those who exhibit the most creativity and personal commitment to Jewish philanthropy. UJA-JCC 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-JCC Greenwich. All funds raised from the projects must be donated through UJA-JCC Greenwich. 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@ujajcc.org.
Shir Ami Participates in Interfaith Efforts to Give the Gift of Life

by Barbara Salop

Blood remains in short supply, especially this summer when most schools, colleges and businesses were closed, and this year, may remain closed. Yet the need for a life-sustaining resource is more important than ever.

Twice a year, Congregation Shir Ami, partnering with First Presbyterian Church and several other Greenwich congregations, co-hosts a blood drive with the American Red Cross. Traditionally this takes place in June and December at First Presbyterian. This drive has been innovative in its location during these Covid times. Greenwich Country Day School has generously provided its gymnasium, which proved to be an ideal space for blood drives – sparkling clean, with ample space for social distancing, air conditioning, and good lighting. Extra ARC staffing enabled the steady donor flow to be processed efficiently to minimize contact among participants.

The June 19 drive yielded sixty productive units, which means approximately 180 lives saved or prolonged! By Greenwich Jewish News press time, Shir Ami will have proudly helped to collect more on August 21, and plans to do so again on Saturday, November 14, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Join us there, but don’t wait for November!

We can’t predict when a major disaster or individual trauma will occur. When it happens, there’s no time to wait. It’s the blood already on the shelves that doctors reach for to save lives at a moment’s notice. “Choose life,” and your donation will ensure blood supplies are ready, whenever and wherever they are needed. Make your appointment at redcrossblood.org. By searching for 06830, you’ll find many opportunities to perform this mitzvah.

To learn more about additional Social Action programs Shir Ami is involved with visit www.congregationshirami/social-action

Dear New Year,

I hope I can still receive my medicine and have a meal every day.

Saul
Age 90

May the new year bring with it the promise of peace, the blessing of good health, and the sweetness of our tradition.

Shanah tovah u’metuka!

Our comprehensive STEAM-based curriculum encourages critical thinking, nurtures creative expression and builds self-esteem.

Our Judaic studies program instills in students the Jewish values that serve them on every step of life’s journey.

To learn more:
For Lower School, contact Miriam Sperber
203-329-2186 or msperber@bcha-ct.org
For Upper School, contact Sarah Rich
203-883-8970 or srich@bcha-ct.org

The Center for Jewish Community, Culture & Caring
Congregation Shir Ami looks forward to the continuation of its two Monday evening study programs that each meet monthly under the guidance of our skilled and knowledgeable Cantor Jill Abramson. Both programs have proven to be stimulating, enlightening and deeply satisfying for congregants who have enthusiastically attended our classes, whether we were gathering in person or finding our way to having deep and meaningful conversations on Zoom.

**Essential Jewish Conversation** will focus on the Jewish perspective on a range of beliefs and values. We will be exploring Jewish beliefs about God, Heaven and Hell, the Afterlife, Organ Donation, and more. We will have other classes where we affirm our values and commitment to combating racism and supporting social justice. Our first of eight classes will take place on October 26th. The course will draw on classical Jewish texts to understand these core topics.

**Women’s Rosh Chodesh**, a celebration of the beginning of each lunar month, is traditionally a Jewish woman’s gathering for observation and study. Together we will explore women’s spirituality and experience a variety of ways of depending spiritual practice. Our first Rosh Chodesh will be celebrated on October 19th.

Though we cannot yet meet in person, we will gather on Zoom on Monday evenings 7:30-9:00. Most participants attend every class, because they don’t want to miss anything. However, each class is a stand-alone, so that you are welcome to join us anytime. The Zoom link will be emailed only to those who have registered. Information on the date and topic for each Monday meeting and registration for each will be found in our weekly newsletter and on our website at www.congregationshirami.com.

Members and non-members are most welcome!
Selma Maisel Preschool Reopens for Busy Toddlers

On July 1 the Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery re-opened its full day program as well as its summer camp. There were lots of smiles from both the kids and their teachers, who were happy to be back together in person. Our kids had the opportunity to engage in water play, gardening, gymnastics, cooking and even enjoyed a visit from the local fire department.

Hebrew Wizards received a grant to run a Virtual Better Together in a Box with the aim of connecting students and seniors virtually. From Zoom concerts to art projects online, our Wizards are busy at zooming Shabbat Services, and forging great intergenerational connections. We are trying our best to make the world a better place. Teen leadership training is provided to make this experience extra special.

Dear New Year,
I hope my mom feels less scared.

Ethan
Age 9

Temple Sholom Learning Center

300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT • www.templesholom.com

Online & In-Person Options

The Temple Sholom Learning Center provides an innovative religious school experience that is embraced by students and valued by parents.

- Fun, meaningful and relevant Jewish learning
- Age-appropriate, hands-on activities that educate and inspire
- Small class sizes with emphasis on community-building
- Flexible schedules for Pre-K through 8th Grade.
- Interfaith families welcome

For more information, contact David Cohen, Director of Schools, at 203-869-7191 or david.cohen@templesholom.com.

Enrollment is Open for the 2020-2021 School Year!
CEOs Corner

Lions, and tigers and bears – oh my! How about pandemic, systemic racism, and tornados – oh my! What a whirlwind over these past months of fear, confusion and destruction. As a social service agency we are tasked to provide to those in need, in the most challenging of times.

And, true to all things at JFS of Greenwich– we have! Since day one of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been working non-stop to practice tikun olam – repairing the world.

What is most important to note is that our small but mighty team of professionals at JFS would never have been able to manage the burden created by Covid-19 without our army of volunteers. So many of you answered the call to help. In turn JFS has been able to respond in real time with compassionate care and service.

Over the past months we have delivered up to 160 bags of groceries each week to home-bound seniors in Greenwich. Our counseling and psychological services have expanded dramatically to accommodate the influx of Jewish community members who found themselves in need of tele-therapy. We have been fielding calls daily for immigration services, emergency financial assistance, and case management.

It has been busy! I wish our community was free from emotional pain and suffering and our services were not so desperately needed. However, at this bizarre time in the history of JFS of Greenwich, I am proud to be here. There is unmatched generosity of time and resources from the Greenwich Jewish community. To all those who have provided support to us over these past months, your willingness to help those in need is inspiring, and we are truly grateful.

–Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL
Chief Executive Officer
Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

Jewish Health and Healing Happenings

by Larry Stoogenke,
Director of Community Engagement for Family Life Programs

Anyone else astonished to think we just surpassed five months of Covid life? JFS of Greenwich heard the call during this unprecedented time and has responded with programming to meet the emotional, spiritual and religious needs of the community. JFS quickly established a new program, “Coping with Covid,” led by Dr. Betsy Stone, who gave the community tools to deal with the shock of being in lockdown. Dr. Stone also helped define the sense of loss and mourning the community would be dealing with as the Covid world we live in will not soon reunite with our pre-Covid world.

JFS then recognized that we weren’t whole spiritually and set up a meditation, “Cultivating Resilience,” led by Cantor Jill Abramson of Congregation Shir Ami. The meditation proved to be so powerful, and the need so great, that we asked her if she would run a second one. She agreed, and both meditations were fully subscribed and had a lasting impact on our community.

In making our outreach calls, we found that the community longed to learn how to transition from communal praying to praying alone. Rabbi Ben Goldberg of Congregation KTI conducted a program “Prayer in a Pandemic.” It proved to be a success, as many commented that they had a firmer understanding of how to pray at home and how to incorporate rituals, order and kavanah (intention) into their daily lives. JFS has more programs in the queue. Please see www.jfsgreenwich.org for monthly Family Life Programs.

Finally, JFS reinstated healing services and shabbat services in co-sponsorship with Greenwich Hospital, facilitated by Rabbi MJ Newman. The healing services were so impactful at this unsettled time that we decided to add a second one each month. These two programs are ongoing and available to the public. Please feel free to reach out to JFS if you would like to attend.

JFS has adapted to these unprecedented times with robust programming that meets the needs of our community. We are ever grateful to those who agree to share their wisdom and time to help guide us through this challenging period. We will continue to listen and respond, to make our Kehillah Kedoshah (sacred community) stronger, healthier and more resilient.

ARE YOU FEELING OVERWHELMED, ANXIOUS OR DEPRESSED?

JFS of Greenwich Remains Ready to Support You Through Our Telehealth Services Or Outdoor Sessions

All Are Covered By All Insurance Plans
Contact Us At 203-622-1881 or mknee@jfsgreenwich.org
JFS Mourns Loss of Long-Time Board Member

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Arthur Wichman, who passed away on Friday, April 24. Art was an exceptional and kind human being as well as an integral part of the JFS of Greenwich family. Art’s beloved wife Anne served briefly on the Board at JFS, and inspired by Art’s mother, who served as the president of JFS of Northern New Jersey, she encouraged Arthur to join the Board after his retirement from a successful career in finance. Art’s long tenure included positions on the General Board, as Treasurer on the Executive Committee, as President of the Board from 2010-2012 and Chairman of the Board from 2012-2015. Even in his year of illness he made JFS a priority and came to most board meetings, right up to his passing.

Art was loved by all for his incredible warmth, quick wit, and thoughtful opinions. He leaves behind a great legacy of charitable giving and service. As the community mourned his loss there was also a sense of gratitude as his son, Dan Wichman, filled his father’s vacant seat on the board of Jewish Family Services of Greenwich. May his memory always be for blessing.

Love to Read and Share Your Reactions with Fellow Literary Mavens? Then JFS Book Beat is for you!

This is not your grandma’s book club. Book Beat is a discussion group for modern women who love to read. Our titles range from classic to contemporary, but all have one thing in common – they illuminate the Jewish experience here and around the world. We cover a mix of fiction and nonfiction, American, Israeli and European authors, some works in translation. Each season we read and discuss at least one compelling memoir by an author with much to tell us about Jews in the world.

Book discussions are led and facilitated by Judi Margolin, an avid reader and trained librarian. We meet at 7:30 pm six times a year. On Wednesday, September 16 we’ll be discussing Miss Cecil’s Recipes for Exceptional Ladies, about an unlikely friendship between two stubborn souls who discover one of life’s big lessons: never be afraid to ask for more. The author is Vicky Zimmerman, a sister of one of our Book Beat members, and she will be joining us online from London to share her thoughts on her book and do some Q and A.

Then on Wednesday, October 28 we will discuss The Book of V, by Anna Solomon. In this compelling historical novel the lives of three women intertwine across the centuries as their stories of power, sex, and desire finally converge in the present day. This novel is recommended by the Jewish Book Council.

We hope you’ll join us for the fall 2020 Book Beat season. All are welcome! Interested? Contact Elyse Brown – ebrown@jfsgreenwich.org

Tribute Contributions to Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in honor of Alexandra Hochman, Scott Kramer, Derek Kaufman, Anne Akyuz, Shane Leahey, Doug Fishkin, Vernon Schwartz, Cathy Goldstein, Eileen Robin, Lori Baden

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.

JFS Partners with Mike’s OrganiCares to Help Families with Food Insecurity

In March 2020 many Greenwich residents went from gainfully employed to furloughed almost overnight as offices and stores were shuttered. Along with this sudden change came a serious financial impact on thousands in the Greenwich community. Calls began to come in at an alarming rate for basic necessities. JFS of Greenwich was blessed to raise much needed Covid-19 relief funds to be used specifically for food cards to families in need. The cards were distributed, but the needs kept growing.

A quick call from one of our incredible volunteers, led us to Mike’s Organic in Stamford. Now a staple of fantastic organic food in the area, Mike has been known for his altruism and interest in serving the community. He has the goods, and we had direct access to those in need. What started out as a small weekly donation of extra produce delivered to a handful of families that benefit from this new collaboration now have access to fresh and healthful food and the choices they can make themselves.
by Sarah Balcombe

Sheltering in place doesn’t seem so bad when you have a studio like Ron Agam’s. Shelves of iridescent day-glo pigments, large canvases with psychedelic patterns and 3-D painted panels present a colorful background. He wears his colors, too. Pink “glasses of hope” are accessorized by complementary colored beanie hats. Today it’s a slightly more restrained pale grey one, hinting at the weather this mid-April morning. Nevertheless the viewers, courtesy of UJA-JCC Greenwich, are excited. The size of some of his pieces, at “eight or nine feet” is astonishing as is an illuminated bloom, Georgia O’Keefe style, on a glossy black background. “I used to take these photos of flowers as if I was taking portraits,” he announces. From there the conversation turned inwards.

Commissions from luxury brands such as LVMH had resulted in more commercial attention, but increased stress, resulting in a health crisis. A lengthy recuperation period caused him to reassess his sense of self in relation to that of his celebrity father, Ya’akov Agam, whose art has dominated the Israeli art world for decades. Ron Agam explains, “At that time I was searching for something which would give me comfort”. He found it, recalling a memory of himself at five years old, painting alongside his father. Yet his subsequent decision to shift into painting was not taken lightly. “I never believed that I would ever be a painter.” He equates it to Einstein having a son who suddenly wants to go into physics. “And I was 52; I’m 62 today, it’s like almost a suicidal path in terms of trying to make something out of it.”

Agam claims his influences derive from Bauhaus artist Josef Albers and the Russian Constructivist Kazimir Malevich. He lists his clients as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, Madonna and the French Ambassador, from whom he received the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor award. He uses his art to try to make peace, to unify nations through a universal art, yet also seems aware of the responsibility of ensuring that his art speaks of himself, not of his father. This is more tricky when it comes to his kinetic art, as this is precisely the category which catapulted his father to international fame in Paris in the mid-fifties, alongside artists such as Alexander Calder and Jean Tinguely.

A huge black and white patterned disc appears to spin as Agam approaches. A hologram starts to move, and suddenly this feels even more contemporary. Stripes and swirls suffice, resonating with the TikTok generation and street art aficionados alike. Regarding any success generated by the Agam name, he states, “It may help me a little bit to have the name but at the end of the day you are appreciated for what you do and not for who you are.”

Cutting through the styling, the color, the marketing, one very much appreciates this view into his “little universe.” He approaches his art with a sense of urgency and complete dedication, “It is never too late to do something in life. I use this gift of life, I don’t want to see it wasted.”

His positive courage and successful pivot, is the takeaway message. Reverting to those early passions, memories of that younger self may be just what is needed to navigate a post-pandemic world.

Bearing a positive message of retro re-invention, Ron Agam is primed and ready for re-entry. His art with its message of renewal, welcomes in the New Year, with its color, mysticism, light and just enough symbolism.

Author ID: Sarah Balcombe is an architect, artist and founding editor of the arts blog at www.manhattanmodernist.com. Her artwork can be seen at www.sarahbalcombe.com.

Dear New Year,

I hope for food on the table to feed my children.

Andrea

Age 38

A Merry-Go-Round, Inc. Property

Connecticut State Licensed Assisted Living Services available
Dear 5781,

Last year wasn’t easy — and I want this year to be different.

I want seniors who feel isolated to feel connected. I want parents who can’t put food on their tables to be able to feed their families. And I want our Jewish community to continue thriving.

I want health for the sick and comfort for the poor.

I want to see a better world.

Sincerely,

me

If all of this sounds a bit overwhelming, it doesn’t have to be...you can make the New Year one of healing and prosperity for all with your gift to UJA-JCC Greenwich.

Visit [www.ujajcc.org](http://www.ujajcc.org) today to make a difference now by making your gift to the 2020 Annual Campaign.