PJ Library of Greenwich Launches New Summer Reading Program

Until now, PJ Library of Greenwich has fostered a love of reading and Jewish values through story times and nearly year-round community programs. A new push is underway to extend the fun of reading PJ Library books, which will take place during summer vacation.

Our new Summer Reading Program is the brainchild of several PJ Library Parent Planners, Jill Derikrava, Jody Siegertel Lazlo and Jessica Rickert. With their own children in kindergarten and first grade, these moms want to foster enthusiasm for independent reading and help their offspring uncover the thrill and rewards of choosing their own books.

In a brief interview below, PJ Library Chair, Jessica Rickert, shares her vision and that of her Summer Reading Co-chairs:

Q: What sort of program do you, Jill and Jody envision?
JR: A stress-free reading program for PJ Library families that enables kids in the community to further their love of reading while strengthening their Jewish identity.

Q: How did the idea come about, and what’s the inspiration?
JR: We’re building on the success of other summer reading programs in our community. These programs incentivize reading by providing a sense of accomplishment and accountability in young readers. The kids themselves sign up for the program, and they are in charge of maintaining the list of books they read. Upon reaching their goal, they receive a prize.

Q: What need or gap does a summer reading program fill?
JR: During the summer months when kids are out of school, the regular routine of reading can fall by the wayside. A summer reading program provides a way to be a part of a “club” with your friends that makes reading fun and rewarding. Also the PJ Library Summer Reading Program will enable participants to focus some of their reading on books they can uniquely identify with as children who are part of a Jewish or interfaith family and the greater Jewish community.

Q: How will titles be selected, and which titles are currently under consideration?
JR: Books will be selected by the children and their parents from among the many titles they have received as PJ Library enrollees. At the kickoff for the Summer Program, we will have suggested titles based on ages of the participants. There is also a library of available PJ books at the UJA-JCC offices.

Q: How does the PJ Summer Reading Program help sustain Jewish community and values?
JR: We hope that the PJ Library Summer Reading Program will help families maintain their connection to PJ Library and Jewish identity and themes over the summer. We realize that summer can be a busy time with camp and vacations. But the beauty of this program is that participants can tailor the program to match their own schedules. Kids can read when they have free time and stop by to receive their prize when they have met the goal. With Jill and Jody designing and helping to implement this program, it’s sure to be fun and rewarding for the kids.

For more information contact Tracy@ujajcc.org

PJ Library Summer Reading Program Chairs (left to right) Jill Derikrava, Jessica Rickert, Jody Lazlo

Melton Graduates

Five members graduated from a two-year UA JCC Melton class in May. Melton offers high-quality, interactive, text-based Jewish study.

Melton grad Ellen Wolfson, Cynthia Sherwin, Joel Blumberg, Debbie Simon and Robin Gelbs. Also in the photo are Alan Simon, Jack Greenberg, Suzanne Weiss, Peter Lilenthal and Pam Ehrenkranz.

This Is Us, an Event Celebrating UJA-JCC Greenwich, an Enormous Success

On May 10, celebrants had a great time while honoring the people behind 63 years of bold achievements in the Greenwich Jewish community. Keynote speaker Bradley Sherman shared his personal story of the life-changing impact of UJA.

Community Service and Rebuilding in Puerto Rico

Interested in performing much needed community service and rebuilding in Puerto Rico? Michelle Stuart is chairing a 4-day trip to help. For more information contact Tracy@ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.

Jewish Book Council Annual Conference

Silvina Knoll, Women’s Philanthropy President joined Leah Schechter and Pam Ehrenkranz at the Jewish Book Council annual conference, where 200 authors gave presentations for possible talks in Greenwich. Jane Weitzman, a co-founder of Women’s Philanthropy, is president of the Jewish Book Council.

Thank you for your generous support of the UJA-JCC Greenwich annual campaign, your center for Jewish community, culture and caring. Your contributions enable us to fulfill our commitment to the greater Jewish community, whenever and wherever our help is needed. To see where your money goes, refer to pages 4-5 for an Allocation Report.
J-Babies’ Spring Excursion to the Stamford Museum and Nature Center

On May Day, J-Babies Greenwich set out for a spring safari right here in Fairfield County. Six participating moms with ten little ones in tow set out with a docent educator at the animal sanctuary. The mission – to meet infants of a different ilk. “We had the idea that with springtime comes new life,” says J-Babies Chair Rebecca Cooper. This conjured up a warm and fuzzy image: “baby animals on the farm.” Stamford’s verdant preserve seemed like a “natural environment to introduce our children to other ‘new babies.’”

By the end of the morning, the contingent had made friends with four-legged creatures from llamas to sheep. Of the avian residents they encountered chickens, ducks and wandering feathered friends. J-Babies explorers “talked” with the varied menagerie, but it wasn’t all chatter: The children also communicated by touching and petting the animals. Romy Cohen pointed out two pleasures of the outing. “It was a wonderful opportunity for the little ones to see the animals up close and for the moms in the community – new and old – to get together.” The farm trip also held special resonance for Marissa Cohen. “My 3-year-old daughter was so excited to see the new babies. We have a 3-month-old at home. Now she could see how animals take care of their newborns in nature.”

Party in the Park

PJ Library held a mega playdate on June 13, offering age-appropriate activities for pre-K children up to 5 years old. Little BFF’s, parents, grandparents and guardians all rocked with Lizzie Swan of the award-winning Swingset Mamas and Hebrew Wizards Family Band.

Event Chairs were Jamie Kesmodel, Jessica Rickert and Erika Brunwasser.

PJ Library Books on Their Way…
Women’s Philanthropy Update

Recent meetings of UJA-JCC Greenwich Women’s Philanthropy re-affirmed the dedication and far-reaching vision of the group. Activities of interest included a presentation by Scott Selig, Executive Director, UCONN Hillel. Mr. Selig presented pictures, stories and data about UCONN Hillel’s far-reaching impact on the UCONN population. UCONN Hillel provides enrichment, resources and a strong social network for Jewish students and the university community that joyfully celebrates Jewish life and identity. It was easy to see that support from Greenwich makes a positive difference in the lives of students at UCONN.

The Education Portfolio committee, including Joui Hessel, Kim Sands and Christine Toback with WP President, Silvina Knoll, has identified ways to enrich the WP board and community with a new educational series. Entitled “What Is Jewish Philanthropy and Why Does It Matter?” this two-part series will present principles of philanthropy and how to make an impact at every level, as well as why giving Jewishly matters in today’s world. Interest in such a forum has been brewing. Women’s Philanthropy board members gather several times per year to discuss timely, relevant information that enhances their understanding of global Jewish community. The group wants to give back on a local level. With a goal of educating, inspiring and empowering women and families, Women’s Philanthropy Vice President, Christine Toback, explained: “Talking about money is awkward. We will go at it head-on and explore why we give and how to streamline smart ways of giving that make the best use of every dollar.” Joui Hessel, parent, rabbi and educator added, “we are working to create a program that will help couples and families have meaningful conversations and establish their values.” Kim Sands, entrepreneur and long-time board member also remarked, “this course will be great for people at every stage, whether they are at the beginning or are well-established in philanthropy. Maybe it will also inspire people to take on the responsibility of adding ‘Jewish’ to their portfolio of charities.”

As in previous board meetings, the recent spring rite included discussion of UJA-JCC program offerings and associations and the fundraising agenda for coming months. Always happy to connect socially, the WP board maintains its stature as a lynchpin of meaningful learning and discussion about the issues facing Jewish people today and how its members can help others. Stay tuned for more on this subject and watch for updates from the Missions and Excursions committee, now working on a hands-on mission to Puerto Rico and on local excursions to visit with Jewish seniors.

Dr. Rachel Korazim Led Two Sessions on Israeli Literature to a Packed Crowd on Yom Ha’atzmaut

An enthusiastic full-house response to the sessions on Israeli literature with Dr. Rachel Korazim.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for an evening, chaired by Jaime Eisenberg, Allison Jackson, Yael Rosen and Hillary Rosenthal with Dr. Dale Atkins and Amanda Salzhauer on Thursday, September 27, when they will introduce their new book, The Kindness Advantage: Cultivating Compassionate and Connected Children. Research shows that connection and social engagement are key to successful, fulfilling lives, and yet we have never been less connected than we are now. The Kindness Advantage confirms the authors’ places as leading relationship experts – Dr. Atkins as a celebrated psychologist, author of six books and frequent guest on TV, and Ms. Salzhauer, as a social worker in clinics and private practice.
UJA-JCC Impact Report

UJA-JCC’s annual campaign is the foundation on which we are able to fulfill our commitment to be connected to and to care for one another, in Greenwich, Israel, and around the world, wherever there are Jews who need our help.

Allocation Report: Where does your money go?

We are pleased to share with you how your gifts to the annual campaign and designated giving are used to provide the most far-reaching results. We thank you for enabling us to build the Jewish community here in Greenwich, and to give others a better life, lived in dignity, as Jews.

Our Overseas Partners:

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) maximizes its impact as the central address of North American Jewry. Among the top ten charities in the world, it is a major center of global Jewish philanthropy.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is the world’s leading Jewish humanitarian organization, committed to ensuring that every Jew is able to live in a safe and secure environment with a sense of dignity and with the opportunity to thrive Jewishly.

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) was instrumental in founding and building the State of Israel and works to secure a vibrant Jewish future. The Jewish Agency is prepared to address emergencies in Israel and to rescue Jews from countries where they are at risk.

Local Organizations:

Bi-Cultural Day School, located in Stamford, provides a thorough foundation in secular and Judaic studies. UJA-JCC supports scholarship funding for tuition and the 8th grade Israel experience. $5,000

Carmel Academy, located in Greenwich, is unaffiliated with any particular stream of Judaism, and is committed to innovation and excellence in general and Judaic studies. UJA-JCC provides funding for the growth and success of Carmel, and provides scholarships for the 8th grade Israel experience. $90,000

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich (JFS) provides programs and services to improve the quality of life for families and individuals of all ages in the community, including well and homebound seniors, individual and group counseling, and support groups. $90,000

Jewish High School of CT (JHSC) is a pluralistic Jewish high school, whose mission is to educate Jewish youth, for whom learning and responsible action are the foundation for achievement. $10,000

Jewish Senior Services (formerly The Jewish Home for the Elderly of Fairfield County) is a leader and trusted provider of skilled nursing and senior care services. $5,000

Solomon Schechter High School of Westchester is a high school that prepares students for literate, religiously committed lives and active participation in the Jewish community, as well as academic preparation. UJA-JCC provides scholarships for the senior class study experience in Israel and Eastern Europe. $7,500

UConn Hillel is the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life in Storrs, CT. Hillel at UConn provides exciting opportunities to maximize the number of students participating in Jewish activities, including social and religious programs, and social action opportunities, as well as Birthright Israel. $20,000
UJA-JCC Impact Report

Local and Global UJA-JCC Programs Supported by Your Contributions: $350,000

Chicken Soup Project
Community Adult Education
Greenwich Jewish News
Ideas & Arts Programs
Israel Club at Greenwich High School
Israel Independence Day
J Babies
JFACT
Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning
Newcomers
Partnership 2gether for Afula Partnership, our sister city in Israel
PJ Library Subscriptions & Events
Shalom Baby
Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance
Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

Supported by Donors' Designated Gifts through UJA-JCC: $980,000

Aharai (for Youth at Risk)
ATZUM (Combating Sex Trafficking in Israel)
Birthright Israel
Carmel Acadmey
Davis Film Festival
Emunah Afula Children’s Center
Flood and Disaster Relief
The Gush Etzion Foundation
Haifa Rape Crisis Center
Israel Center for Excellence Through Education
JDC
Jewish Family Services – Camp Scholarships
Leket Israel
Maale Film School Videotherapy Program in Israel
OneFamily International
ORT
Sunrise Association
United Hatzalah
Yemin Orde Youth Village
2018 Legislative Session Comes to an End

JFACT, the Jewish federation Association of Connecticut spent the last three months lobbying legislators, staff and other decision makers on a range of issues. In addition, JFACT sponsored four Legislative Breakfasts with local Jewish Federations to strengthen relationships with legislators, and sponsored events at the State Capitol, which highlighted Connecticut’s strong relationship with Israel.

From passing critical Holocaust and Genocide education laws, securing security grants for schools and sponsoring the 40th Annual State Holocaust Commemoration, JFACT had an enormously productive session that will benefit Jewish communities all across Connecticut.

After years of advocacy, our community was finally able to pass legislation stating that schools must include Holocaust and Genocide education in their social studies curricula. JFACT will now work with the ADL, Voices of Hope and other organizations and universities to make sure this legislation gets implemented seamlessly.

Securing all schools and Jewish institutions from outside threats continues to be a top priority for the Jewish community. In the aftermath of the Parkland tragedy, Governor Malloy asked the legislature to bond another $10 million for schools to increase their security. As in previous years, $1 million will be set aside for non-public schools, including Jewish day schools. JFACT successfully lobbied legislators not to cut funding for the security grants.

JFACT’s work in support of the Jewish community in Connecticut is funded in part by your contributions to UJA-JCC Greenwich.

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**My Role As a Responsible Jew**
Rabbi Simha Berger ............................................June 21

**Hidden Meanings of the First Week of Creation**
Diane M. Sharon, Ph.D. ......................................June 28

**Know Before Whom You Sit**
Chaim Lauer .................................................................July 5

**From Trickster to Hero: Understanding Jacob**
Sandra E. Rapoport ...............................................July 12

**First Impressions**
Rabbi Oran Zweiter ................................................July 19

**A Real Hallmark Moment**
Rabbi Greg Wall ......................................................July 26

**A Life of Blessings**
Chaim Lauer ..........................................................August 2

**How to Disagree Constructively**
Dr. Carmella Abraham ........................................August 9

**The Stranger Among Us: The Torah’s View of Non-Jews**
Rabbi Moshe Edelman .................................August 16

**When the Party's Over, It Has Only Just Begun**
Rabbi Elisha Paul.............................................August 23

**Isaac and Ishmael, Sarah and Hagar: Torah Reading for Judgment Day**
Miriam Gedweiser ..........................................August 30

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**Governor Malloy signing SB 452, an Act Concerning Holocaust and Genocide Education.**

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**Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT)**

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When you hear PJ Library, what comes to mind? Children? Storytime? At the Tenth Annual PJ Library Conference, attendees and topics are considerably more grown up. This year’s conference, held May 7-9 in Springfield, MA, brought together more than 300 PJ Library professionals, lay leaders and donors aiming to elevate their work with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation’s flagship initiative. Spanning dozens of North American communities and six countries, they immersed themselves in such topics as PJ Library program design, marketing, outreach and fundraising skills needed to effectively present the PJ Library to their communities and engage Jewish families in Jewish life.

Greenwich PJ Library Chair, Jessica Rickert joined PJ Library Greenwich Program Director, Tracy Daniels, for the conference. Jessica’s enthusiasm was still palpable three days after returning home. “I learned so much and met so many terrific people,” Rickert said. “It’s incredible to swap ideas and learn new skills with such a vibrant group of professionals. Now I’m reinvigorated with new insights about how to deepen the involvement of Greenwich parents, all of whom already value the community programs as well as the books and music their children receive every month.”

As in previous Conferences, a highlight of this year’s gathering was the rich lineup of workshops and presentations. Casper ter Kuile, a Harvard Divinity School Ministry Innovation Fellow, was a standout with his report on our nation’s need “to care for its soul” in the digital age. Asked about other attractions, Rickert underscored the Conference’s concern for the future of social action. “This very much resonates with the direction that the Greenwich chapter is headed in,” she notes. “We’re charging full steam ahead to grow our social action goal of helping to create age-appropriate volunteer activities for families.”

This serious takeaway belies the Conference’s camp-like atmosphere, according to Rickert. “There’s so much singing and such a strong sense of joy and camaraderie,” said the veteran of less fondly remembered more legalistic conferences. Beyond the chance to commune with like-minded souls who share a commitment to the PJ vision, she especially appreciated the fertile ground for personal growth. “There were so many opportunities to enrich yourself, not only as a professional but as a Jewish individual,” said Rickert. Not only is she excited to make PJ Library Greenwich even better than it already is, Rickert professes herself inspired by the “unusually collaborative ethos and warm sense of community, both with fellow PJ professionals and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation staff.”

Are You on Board for “18 in 2018?”

Want to donate? Please cut here and mail to: UJA-JCC Greenwich, One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830. Or call us at 203-552-1818 to use your credit card. Make your check payable to UJA-JCC Greenwich.

YES! Count me IN for the “18 in 2018” project. My 2018 total gift amount is:

- I’ll pledge 18% more than my last gift
- $180  $360  $540  $720  $1,000  $1,800  $2,500  Other
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Choose among the options for my additional gift:

- I want to give where it’s needed most.
- Hebrew Free Loan for Emergency Assistance to Greenwich families
- Met Council on Jewish Poverty (New York)
- Joint Distribution Committee Women’s Health Empowerment Program (Global)
- Kfar Silver Youth Village (Israel)
- PJ Library of Greenwich - subscriptions & programming

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For more information call or e-mail Pamela Ehrenkranz 203-552-1818 pam@ujajcc.org.
The Holiday—of Shavuot came quickly, and in its flurry landed this year on my daughter’s graduation from Tufts University. Shavuot means “weeks,” and it is our festival celebrating the 50th day of the counting of the Omer as we mark our exit out of Egypt and the revelation of receiving the Torah on Mt Sinai. Our holy Torah scrolls contain the sacred knowledge and wisdom that our prophet Moses received many thousands of years ago. The Torah is our blueprint for life. It advises us, encourages us and inspires us every day. The lessons come from the sage advice of our matriarchs, patriarchs, and from the voices of the children of Israel. As the Books of Moses unfold, they teach us the truth about our past, guide us in the present and ultimately shepherd us into our future. These holy words are the doctrines of humanity enlightening us as one big family.

I am a proud Jewish-person. I am a Rabbi with a beautiful congregation. But on Sunday, May 20th, I was a proud mom as I sat there among the thousands of people on Shavuot morning at my daughter’s graduation from college. I could not imagine a better place to have spent this holiday than among this gracious academic congregation. I sat under a sprawling tree just east of the center stage. I am a mother bursting with pride as I watch my most precious accomplishment, my daughter, receive her diploma. In the moment I feel the holiness, just like Moses did when he brought the Torah of truth to the children of Israel.

I glanced around at the sea of people and saw some fellow Jews wearing kippot. We exchanged a nod acknowledging that this Shavuot we will watch our children receive their degrees affirming their perseverance and dedication to knowledge itself. I cannot help but smile at the parallels. Today, God gives us a wink as the torch is passed on with high hopes for our next generation to make the world better, to perform Tikun Olam and to nurture the concept of daily mitzvot.

My weekend sanctuary began with the celebration of Shabbat in a Mexican restaurant. We gathered two candles, some wine and some rolls as my daughters, husband and I created the holy space to light the candles for the Sabbath. The following day, I woke up Shabbat morning to watch the profound sermon on TV by the American Bishop, Michael Curry, at the wedding ceremony of Prince Harry to his beloved bride Meghan Markle. “We are brothers and sisters,” he exclaimed, echoing those words and then adding the words, “when love is the way.” The typical British royal wedding mold was broken as the church filled with people of multiple backgrounds and colors all listening attentively to the proclamation about the “power of love.” The attendants’ heads moved up and down in perfect unison, acknowledging that they were indeed, bound by love.

The baccalaureate spiritual service replaced Havdallah that evening, which gave us an opportunity to be joined together in song, praise and thoughtful speeches. We sat joyfully together in our holy space sharing the sentiment of love and acceptance. The program embraced all religious and philosophical symbols among its pages to represent all traditions, affirming that we are from a deep-rooted family filled with love and inclusion as we stood side by side. Each nation waved its flag prominently on the podium reminding us that in spite of our different backgrounds and beliefs, we all love our precious children.

This weekend I found my sanctuary in the oddest places. It was created as I clung to my family and friends with a shared vision of hope, love and acceptance. Our lives are filled with holiness when we watch people huddled together, singing and dancing and laughing and crying. The beautiful prayer that we recite each day is Mah Tovu, “How goodly are your tents, oh Jacob, your dwellings oh Israel.” This prayer reminds us to be humble, that we are not strangers, but rather neighbors. It reminds us that we can join together, and God will hear our prayers in a field, in the car, and on a college campus. Today our sanctuaries are no longer bound by walls but created in the sacred space of our lives.

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-JCC Greenwich.
This Is Us
An Event Celebrating UJA-JCC Greenwich, May 10

Photos by Marilyn Roos
Hot Topics in Breast Cancer with UJA-JCC Greenwich and Breast Cancer Alliance, April 25

When Life Gives You Lululemons with Author Lauren Weisberger in Conversation with Daisy Florin, June 7
Plenty of Laughs to Go Around at UJA-JCC Greenwich’s Comedy Night, May 31

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Israel at 70
Annual Community-Wide Israel Independence Day Celebration, April 22
James Schreiber Elected Chairman of Washington Institute’s Board

James Schreiber, attorney, businessman, and philanthropic leader, was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Jim, a lawyer and former assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, was chairman, chief executive officer and principal shareholder of Dairy Enterprises, Inc., Jim sits on many nonprofit boards, and lives in Greenwich and New York City with his wife Wendy.

“It is a true honor to be elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Washington Institute,” said Mr. Schreiber. “Now, more than ever, I believe the Institute contributes to the vital national security interests of the United States by providing analysis and ideas to our nation’s leaders. Indeed, it is fair to characterize the Institute as both a ‘think’ and ‘do’ tank, given that its policy prescriptions carry such weight with senior government officials who make and implement U.S. policy in the region. As chairman, I look forward to strengthening its capacity to provide policymakers with solutions that will advance security and peace in this critical region of the world.”

The Washington Institute is an independent, nonpartisan research institution funded exclusively by U.S. citizens. It seeks to advance a balanced and realistic understanding of American interests in the Middle East and to promote the policies that secure them.

James Schreiber

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Jewish Family Services of Greenwich and Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department invite you to join us for an inspirational service of prayer and song with
Lisa-Lorraine Smith, JFS Executive Director
Joan Mann, JFS Spiritual Care Counselor
Rabbi MJ Newman, Greenwich Hospital Chaplain
Mondays: June 11, July 9, August 13
12:15-12:45 pm in the Greenwich Hospital Chapel

SPECIAL DONATIONS to JFS

In Honor of:
Lisa-Lorraine Smith, by Richard Schwartz
Rick Holz, by John Russell Smith

In Memory of:
Olga Mack, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Ruth Jacobs, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Carol Peterson, by Steven Gross
Paul Rosen, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Michael Warner, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Mark Jacobson, by Elyse Brown

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.

Life is constantly changing... with our support, you are never alone.

PARENTS OF LGBTQ CHILDREN

This group is for parents who are dealing with any stage of their family member’s coming out process. Together, in a safe and confidential environment, we explore the tumultuous process of accepting, understanding, and celebrating your children and their LGBTQ identities.

Second Wednesday of Every Month, beginning June 13
Noon-1:00 pm
At JFS, One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich
Facilitated by Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW
$25 for each group session
(Sliding scale fees will apply if necessary)

Come relax over a glass of wine and delicious appetizers with other women at JFS’s

Working Moms’ Night Out

Join us to talk about the opportunities and challenges of being a working mom. Share laughter, friendship, and frank, uplifting conversations.

For upcoming program dates and details, please visit www.jfsgreenwich.org.
Book clubs are all the rage these days. A local library reports 300 different groups borrowing books! There's a new movie out actually called “Book Club,” that features many of our favorite well-preserved actresses (and actors) some from days gone by. That particular club is busy reading some x-rated titles.

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich's Book Beat is a different kind of discussion group. This series features compelling reads of interest to the Jewish community with new and classic titles that you won't want to miss. The titles we select to read are concerned with Jewish history, Israel, and/or hot topics of the day related to our community. Typically we read novels with Jewish narrators or main characters, with occasional memoirs or nonfiction books thrown in.

Developed for those who love to read and who really enjoy discussing what they are reading, JFS Book Beat sessions are stimulating and never boring!

5,000 Israeli Flags Inscribed by Well-wishers Across World

by Abigail Klein Leichman

In honor of Israel's 70th anniversary, 5,000 Israeli flags signed by 200,000 well-wishers from across the world will be placed in a time capsule at Jerusalem's Ammunition Hill historic site to be opened in 2048 on Israel's centenary. At least 200 of the blue-and-white banners will hang from poles in the center's main hall for several months starting on Jerusalem Day (May 13 this year) before joining the others in the capsule. They'll be preserved in special envelopes and catalogued so signers can find their flags easily in 30 years' time.

The signatures, blessings and wishes of children, soldiers, cultural and spiritual leaders, government officials, ambassadors and others from Israel as well as New Delhi, Rome, San Francisco, Bucharest, Copenhagen, San Paolo, Abidjan, Miami, Serbia, Moscow, Tokyo and other cities are inscribed in languages ranging from Portuguese to Arabic. One school group came from Los Gatos, California, to hand-deliver their flag. In Florida, 4,000 students marched with 30 of the signed flags on Israeli Independence Day before sending them to Ammunition Hill. Many other groups sent pictures and videos of the signing event.

A U.S. Army veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder visiting Israel with Heroes to Heroes wrote on the group's flag, “Thank you, I chose life” – referring to the high rate of suicide among American war veterans and the healing power of his experience touring with Israeli counterparts. Several flags are still on the way to Israel from far-away places including Australia and South America.

The Ascending the Flag project was conceived by Alon Vald, events and marketing manager for Ammunition Hill, site of a critical Six-Day War battle, in which Vald's father and 23 other Israeli paratroopers were killed on June 6, 1967. "In 2018, we are showing that our flag is not just about death and battlefields; it's about our nation's future," says Vald. “Two hundred thousand blessings cannot go wrong.”

—Reprinted from Israel 21c
JHSC Seniors Look Toward the Future

By David Giver

With the school year winding down, the eight-member senior class at the Jewish High School of Connecticut is looking to the future. While many of the students are making the transition directly to university, some are taking a gap year in Israel to have experiences that will help them on their chosen paths.

Three JHSC students, Natalie Shclover, Samuel Terr, and Matt Zweibel, all of Stamford, will be attending UConn. Senior Class President Natalie Shclover has been accepted to the Honors Program there. “The University of Connecticut’s six-year Medical Program was certainly the best choice for me, and I can’t wait to further my passion for the medical field at college,” says Natalie of her next step toward her goal of becoming a doctor.

Three members of the JHSC graduating class are going out of state for college. Senior Danny Goldblum, of Stamford, has committed to Washington University in St. Louis to study biomedical engineering. Senior Julia Arnowitz, of Wilton, has committed to Ursinus College in Pennsylvania for psychology. And senior Emily Sklar, also of Wilton, will be attending UC Davis, and studying business.

While most of the class is heading directly to university, seniors Gabriella Lieberman and Jensen Greif, both of Stamford, are spending a gap year in Israel before heading to school. Jensen will be participating in an art and dance program in Israel, while Gabriella will be going to Midreshet Torah V’Avodah.

CARMEL ACADEMY

The Trustees, Faculty and Families at Carmel Academy Congratulate Our Class of 2018 and Wish Them B’hatzlacha, Much Success in High School!

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20 Years of Daring
Bi-Cultural Day School Hosts a “Blue Ribbon” Celebration

Close to 450 guests filled the ballroom of the Hilton Stamford Hotel on Sunday evening, May 6, to pay tribute to Linda and Len Russ of Stamford, and several other leaders of the Connecticut Jewish community, for their commitment to Jewish education and their dedication to community service at the Bi-Cultural Day School (BCDS) Celebration Dinner. Among those in attendance was U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, who presented each honoree with a certificate of commendation.

An annual event, the theme of this year’s Celebration Dinner was “Blue Ribbon,” in recognition of the school’s recent designation as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

In addition to the evening’s Guests of Honor, Linda and Leonard Russ, the school presented Larry Rezak with the school’s Community Service Award, Craig L. Price with the Young Leadership Award, and Dr. Pamela Schaffer Singer with the Alumni Award. The gala evening also honored Pia Walker, the school’s longtime administrative secretary, with the school’s Jane Shoztic Memorial Award, presented annually to an outstanding member of staff.

Join Jewish Forties and Fifties (JFF)
A NIGHT OF MIXING AND MINGLING!

Join us along with other Jewish singles in their 40’s and 50’s for a night of mixing and mingling. Get to know each other, enjoy a few cocktails, relax, kibbitz, and meet other like-minded people.

Tuesday, June 26th • 5:30-8 pm
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JHSC Students Compete in CIJE Innovation Day

by David Giver

In May students from Dr. Castle's Engineering class at the Jewish High School of Connecticut took part in the 6th Annual CIJE (Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education) Innovation Day. CIJE’s Innovation Day is the largest Jewish day school robotics and STEM event in the country. It took place at the New York Hilton in Manhattan. More than 1,200 students from 40 day schools in the tri-state area displayed their capstone projects and participated in the high school engineering conference competition. JHSC submitted two projects to this year's event.

One of JHSC’s two teams was comprised of sophomores Kovi Bodek, Noam Haron, and Andrew Yakubovich, all of Stamford, with their project, “ServoTunes.” Explaining the project, Andrew said, "thousands of musicians suffer from some kind of hand or arm injury throughout the course of their careers. Our product, ServoTunes, is a simple fix that could significantly improve the musical aspect of their lives. Our main objective was to display the many capabilities of servo motors by coding them to depress and pluck guitar strings in such a way that they were able to play melodies. Adding additional servos allowed us to expand the range of notes that were able to be played. ServoTunes successfully was able to play a song, exhibiting the adaptability of servos."

JHSC’s other CIJE Innovation Day team is made up of sophomores Sarah Hanna, Zoe Jaffe-Berkowitz, and Jake Sigman, all of Stamford. Their project was called the “Bio Shelf.” As explained by team member Zoe Jaffe-Berkowitz, “The Bio Shelf is designed and constructed to produce the ultimate, eco-friendly, efficient planting system for small spaces. Our design also utilizes an LED panel and water dripper to maximize its efficiency. The base is a donut-shaped planter that is rotated by a motor at a constant rate. The motor is connected to an Arduino computer processor to ensure that it is spinning at the correct speed. The watering system consists of a water dripper that releases water at a constant rate. The final component of our design is an LED panel. The panel contains a combination of red, blue, and white LEDs to assist the plants in growing. This feature is useful, especially if the consumer has limited window space.”

Please join us for:

Selichot
Dinner and Service
Saturday, September 1, 7-10 pm

Selichot (Hebrew for forgiveness – forgiving ourselves, forgiving others) marks the beginning of the High Holy Day season.

We begin with dinners in the homes of GRS congregants. Next, we’ll gather at the synagogue for dessert, followed by an uplifting service in the sanctuary.

Dinner will start at 7 pm, followed by dessert at 9 and the service at 9:30.

RSVP required; all are welcome.
92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob CT
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IDF Soldiers Visit GHS and Israel Club

IDF Soldiers from the Tzahal Shalom program of JCC Stamford in partnership with UJA-JCC Greenwich visit Greenwich High School and Israel Club, speaking to more than 150 students.

GHS Israel Club Cooking

The GHS Israel Club had its annual cooking event where club members make and taste favorite Israeli dishes. This year’s menu included Israeli salad, homemade hummus and zatar pita.

Teen Action Committee Making Tu B’Av (The Jewish Day of Love) Cards for Clients of JFS Greenwich

Tu B’Av will fall on July 27, 2018. Be sure to send a little extra love to someone in your life.
THE WORLD IS AN UNSTABLE PLACE. WE BRING STABILITY.

Around the world, violent attacks target Jewish people and institutions. UJA-JCC is helping to restore a sense of security, sharing expertise and funding to keep our kids safe at school, standing up against hatred so that Jews everywhere can walk without fear, into a synagogue, a Jewish museum—or simply down the street.

But we can’t do it without your help. Please give to UJA-JCC Greenwich, your center for Jewish community, culture and caring.