Why We Brunch: Women, Friends, Community

The Women’s Philanthropy Fall Brunch will take place on Wednesday, November 7th at the newly updated Milbrook Club in Greenwich. This year’s celebration will be chaired by steadfast community leaders, Madeline Simon and Carolyn Surgent, who look forward to acknowledging the long-standing service of three Women’s Philanthropy Vice Presidents, Debbie Daum, Dina Klein-Lunder and Yael Rosen. Also of keen interest will be the keynote speaker, Chloé Valdary, a rising star of Israel advocacy, education, pro-Israel campus activism and political commentary, whose topic, How I Found My Groove with the Jewish People and Israel, will surprise, inspire and reveal new directions in the Israel conversation.

Raised in a devout Christian home and native to New Orleans, Valdary incorporates elements of the African-American civil rights movement in her Jewish pride work. She is oft cited as a compelling voice for Israel, engaging students from middle school through university level in raising new perspectives on the Jewish homeland and its people. An acknowledged expert on Israel-engagement in the millennial space, Valdary is among Algemeiner’s top 100 people positively affecting Jewish life today. She currently serves as Director of Partnerships & Outreach at Jerusalem U, a digital media group producing transformational educational films, videos, online and gap year experiences for today’s young Jews. She is also a prolific thought-leader, widely published in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, The Atlantic Monthly, The Jerusalem Post and other prominent periodicals. Valdary previously served as a Robert L. Bartley and Tikvah fellow under Bret Stephens at the Wall Street Journal, where she developed a blueprint for Israeli advocacy on campus. Co-Chairs Surgent and Simon anticipate the festive gathering with great enthusiasm. Carolyn remarks, “I look forward to another great event! It’s a good chance to be with friends, and to be inspired by an energetic speaker.” Madeline adds, “the fall brunch is always a great time to connect or reconnect with old friends, to meet new ones, and together, benefit from a powerful presentation. The brunch is sure to be a memorable morning with a lasting impact.”

Bi-Cultural Day School and Jewish High School of CT Announce Merger

After months of careful planning, two highly regarded Jewish schools in Stamford have announced their merger. The Boards of Trustees of Bi-Cultural Day School, a national Blue Ribbon School serving pre-K through grade 8, and the highly acclaimed Jewish High School of Connecticut, have unveiled plans to create one comprehensive, unified educational institution. The newly formed Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy – the first of its kind in Connecticut – will open its doors this fall. At least initially, each school will continue to operate at its present location.

“There has never been a better time for this alliance to take shape,” says David Pitkoff, President of Bi-Cultural Day School, and Geoffrey Erickson, president of the Jewish High School of Connecticut, both of whom played key roles in engineering the agreement. According to Mr. Pitkoff and Mr. Erickson, the two schools enjoy many similarities. Both have vibrant student bodies steeped in Torah values and a deep love for the state of Israel; and, both enjoy dynamic and innovative curriculums, reputations for academic excellence, legacies of service to the community, and passions for passing on the legacy of the Jewish heritage.

“Our two schools agreed to this merger because we wanted to build a pre-K through grade 12 school that represents the best of our community, a school committed to educational excellence and devoted to instilling in our children and grandchildren the values, traditions and heritage we share as a community,” said Mr. Pitkoff, who will serve as president of the

Reading Superstars

PJ Library inspires love of books and brings families together year-around. See more about upcoming PJ programs on pages 2-3.
A Message from PJ Library's Chair

As we switch out our swimsuits for school supplies, we look forward to an exciting fall programming line-up. We begin with the PJ Library Welcome Back Family Picnic on Sunday September 16th, where old and new friends reunite to enjoy special entertainment, snacks and cheers for our Summer Reading Program Superstars! For our littlest friends we offer JBabies and TOTS on the Town, featuring playgroup excursions to Greenwich's lively synagogue communities to discover our local resources and make friends everywhere. Our hugely popular PJ Library Storytimes will resume this Fall as well, in partnership with the Greenwich Library.

Near and dear to my heart, we kickoff PJ Library's Helping Hands Family Volunteer Series, offering families and children age-appropriate opportunities to practice Tikkun Olam. Mark your children's calendars for apple picking to donate to local food pantries, on October 14th and Elect to Serve on November 6th.

Of course none of these incredible events would be possible without our talented PJ Parent Planners and community sponsors. If you are interested in becoming a Planner or to find out more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact me or Tracy Daniels. I look forward to seeing you and your family soon!

Your PJ Library Chair, Jessica Rickert

PJ Library
Party in the Park in June

Rain did not dampen the fun at this year's PJ Library Party in the Park. We moved our musical adventure with Lizzie Swan and MEGA playdate to the YWCA, with games, activities and, of course, watermelon! BIG THANKS to event chairs Erika Brunwasser and Jaime Kesmodel.

For more information and to register visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.

PJ Library
Parent Planners 2018

Alona Altman           Natalie Landres
Erika Brunwasser       Jody Lazlo
Marissa Cohen          Staci Levy
Romy Cohen             Stephanie Otten
Rebecca Cooper         Hillary Rosenthal
Jill Derikrava          Jordan Sanders
Stephanie Esquenazi    Cori SaNogueira*
Kelly Wines Freishhtat Rita Teichner
Allison Jackson*       Rebecca Tipermas
Jamie Kesmodel         Jen Smokler Zigler

*Past PJ Library Chair

PJ Library Back Together
Family Picnic
With Special Guest Ethan Berlin

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | 3 - 5 PM

At a private home, address provided with RSVP
48 per family suggested donation to support PJ Library subscriptions in our community.

Welcome newcomers and gather with friends at this fun-filled postsummer reunion with featured special guest children's book author and silly storyteller Ethan Berlin. Remember Dr. Seuss? Now we’ll trade the adventures of a fellow nursery gamer who’s a little—no—a lot bigger!

PJ Library Dreidel Ball
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 | 12 - 2 PM

Cadmil Academy, 370 Lake Ave
$100 Sponsorship | $25 per person | $100 for family of 4+ in advance
$35 per person, $250 for family of 4+ at the door

The PREMIERE Hanukkah Party in Greenwich! Lunch & dancing, DJ Adam, mitzvah project, dance floor games and more!
Chair by Rebecca Cooper, Stephanie Esquenazi and Hillary Rosenthal

Committee information: Erika Brunwasser, Marissa Cohen, Romy Cohen, Jill Derikrava, Natalie Landres, Jordan Sanders and Jen Smokler Zigler.
PJ Library Summer Reading Superstars Launch

PJ Library Reading Superstars kicked off with a bang when more than 65 moms and kids gathered to sign up for the summer reading challenge, ice cream and play. Kudos to Jill Derikrava, Jody Lazlo and Jessica Rickert for launching this new program!

PJ Library Storytime at Greenwich Library
TUESDAYS 4 - 4:45 PM
November 21, December 19, January 16, March 19
Greenwich Library, 101 W. Putnam Ave
Drop in for classic PJ Library stories and music with our special guest readers, enjoy creative, quality time with your children and friends. Best for ages 2.5 and siblings are always welcome. Chaired by Erica Bransfeller and Rita Tischman.

J Babies and Tots on the Town
TUESDAYS 9:30 - 10:30 AM
Tuesday, October 9
Greenewich Reform Synagogue
52 Orchard St.
Tuesday, January 9
Temple Sholom
500 E. Putnam Ave
Tuesday, April 9
Hebrew Institute
318 River Road
Tuesday, May 7
Citadel of Greenwich
75 Mason Street
Never too young for a UJA-JCC Event! Explore the diverse local Jewish community. See what's unique and special about our community resources and enjoy playdates, activities, music and enrichment while making new friends around town. For children up to 24 months and their parents. Chaired by Rebecca Cooper.

Join UJA-JCC Greenwich for Wine, Women, and Wisdom!
The Kindness Advantage
With co-authors Dole Atkins, Ph.D. and Amanda Salzhauer, MSW
THURSDAY, SEPT 27

7:30 pm | Weber Fine Art; 11 Hersheyway Pl $94 per person

Connection and social engagement are keys to successful, fulfilling lives and yet we have never been so disconnected. Two leading relationship experts discuss how to empower children to make a difference in the world and form “kindness habits” that will last a lifetime. Join us for a ladies’ night out to glean ideas about how our kids can make the world a kinder place. Dr. Atkins is a celebrated psychologist, author and frequent guest on NBC TODAY and CNN. Ms. Salzhauer, MSW, has worked in private practice and at the NYU Child Study Center in NYC.

For more information and to register visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.
Private Art Tour at Ghiora Aharoni Design Studio
With Ghiora Aharoni

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

10 am | 276 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1100, New York, NY
$54 per person

Visit the New York studio of Israeli-born Ghiora Aharoni and explore the dualities that connect and distinguish his art, architecture and design. A graduate of Yale University, Aharoni recontextualizes traditional objects, symbols and scriptures -- from cultural artifacts to sacred texts -- and invites the viewer to reconsider their meaning. His work is in the permanent collection of The Pompidou Center in Paris as well as in private collections in the U.S., Europe, Canada and India.

For more information and to register visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.
Great Adventure on a Local Excursion

Are you looking for a way to connect with the Jewish community beyond Greenwich and to make an impact that matters? Join the Women’s Philanthropy group on our October 25th excursion to the beautiful new campus of Jewish Senior Services in Bridgeport to spend time with the residents and see what’s new in “small house” care for our elders. All are invited to come along on this local excursion, where we will visit with seniors over arts and crafts, tour the campus and grab lunch at the café, if time permits. Along the way, you’ll meet – or deepen ties with – like-minded people who know the mutual value of sharing time with elder citizens. Having already visited the center, Excursion Chair, Sheila Neilinger, is excited about taking a group there. “The Fairfield Jewish Senior Center has built a state-of-the-art elder care residence to provide best-in-class housing, as well as medical and social services, to the elderly in our community. I took a guided tour of the Center and was very impressed with the facility and the programs they offer. I am excited to bring a group back in October,” said Neilinger, who is working with Andi Fern on excursion plans.

For additional details, contact Tracy Daniels at 203-552-1818 or tracy@ujajcc.org.

Andi Fern, Silvina Knoll, Sheila Neilinger visiting the Jewish Senior Center campus in Bridgeport.
Applications Available for the 2019 Weitzman Youth Award for Jewish Philanthropy

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

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.

Bi-Cultural Day School and Jewish High School of CT Announce Merger

Continued from page 1

new Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, with Mr. Erickson assuming the role of vice president.

“This is a watershed moment for our entire Jewish community,” said Jacqueline Herman, longtime BCDS Head of School, noting that the merger lays a solid foundation for the future of the Fairfield County Jewish community by instilling in families considering a move to the area the confidence that their children will have convenient access to a top-quality, well-rounded, uninterrupted education from the earliest grades straight through high school.

Mrs. Herman will continue as Head of School of the newly formed Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. The high school’s principal, Rabbi Elisha Paul, will take over as the new school’s Madrich Rachani (spiritual leader). “We see a future that captures the best of who we are – from Einstein to Maimonides, from biblical Israel to start-up nation,” says Mr. Pitkoff. “Together, from our home here in Stamford to our home in Israel, we hope that everyone will come together and join us as we begin the process of pooling all our talents and resources to create something extraordinary.”

Carmel Academy Students Win Top Honors in International Math Olympiad

Seven students placed in the top 10 percent in the international Math Olympiad Competition. Pictured here (l to r) are the five Carmel students who were the overall winners for their respective grades: fourth grader Jacob Lebwohl, fifth grader Nathan Toback, sixth grader Adina Ament, seventh grader Sophie Citron, and eighth grader Ben Levy. In addition to the school’s overall winners, sixth graders Lily Lebwohl and Yishama Orlow also ranked in the top 10 percent internationally. The students competed in five challenging competitions throughout the academic year, testing their knowledge in complex math word problems.

AmazonSmile...You shop – Amazon gives to UJA-JCC Greenwich!

Just select UJA-JCC Greenwich as your chosen charity, and start your first shopping session at smile.amazon.com.

Happy shopping!
Rabbi Vicki L. Axe, spiritual leader of Congregation Shir Ami since its founding in 2003, announced that she will step down following the upcoming High Holy Day Services. With rabbinic and cantorial ordination, degrees in music and education, and a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling, Rabbi Axe served Shir Ami as rabbi, cantor, director of education and choirs, and administrator for the past fifteen years.

“While Rabbi Axe will no longer serve as our rabbi,” noted Co-President Dahni Nisinzweig, founding member and long-time teacher in the Shir Ami Religious School, “she will always be part of our congregational family as she begins this new chapter in her life during a nine month sabbatical from October 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, at which time she will become Rabbi Emerita.”

According to Joel Collamer, treasurer and founding member, “We plan to honor the legacy that Rabbi Axe has generated and fostered, to continue her passion for Jewish life and learning, for music as a cultural heritage, social justice as a mandate, and caring for one another as a way of life.”

Past President Nancy Collamer adds that “Rabbi Axe inspired us to be welcoming to everyone who wants to be part of a Jewish community – interfaith, LGBTQ+ singles, young families, seniors, boomers – everyone.” “Our rabbis has also represented Shir Ami and all of us in the community,” notes Barbara Salop, past president and member of the JFS Greenwich Board, “as co-chair of the Professional Consultation Committee of the Clinical Pastoral Education Program and Per Diem Chaplain and at Greenwich Hospital, an active participant and leader in JFS events and programs, and past officer of the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy, to name a few.”

“Her leadership as director and teacher of our religious school students is legendary,” adds Linda Gratt, Education Chair and teacher. “The hundreds of students she has taught and prepared for Bar/Bat Mitzvah carry her teachings into their adult lives. Many have sought her out to officiate at their weddings years after they left the community.”

“This was a difficult decision,” notes Rabbi Axe, “but I know that is it is right for me and my family and for Shir Ami. The transition for all of us will be transformational as we forge our respective futures.” “I plan to stay in the area for the foreseeable future.” she adds, “I hope to continue with community activities and to be available to Shir Ami for advice, and to members for life-cycle events and pastoral counseling.”

Rabbi Axe will lead High Holy Day services at Round Hill Community Church in Greenwich. Her farewell service will be Shabbat Services Friday night, September 28, 7:30 pm, honoring Simchat Torah and celebrating her fifteen years of leadership and guidance for Shir Ami, as well as her thirty-five year career as a rabbi, cantor, and educator.

Rabbi Axe Stepping Down After High Holy Days

Join the Fun

Tot Shabbat
Friday
October 5 at 5:30 pm

Join us at 5:30 for a fun, lively Tot Shabbat led by Rabbi Jordie. Stay for Family Shabbat Dinner at 6 pm.

Tot Sundays
Sunday
October 21 at 10 am

Kids too young for religious school? Bring them on Sunday morning for a play date. We’ll provide coffee and snacks while you schmooze and watch the kids play.

RSVP Required!
For full details, contact the GRS office at 203-629-0018 or info@grs.org

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HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5779

Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, September 9, 7:00 pm
Monday, September 10, 10:00 am

Yom Kippur
Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, September 19, 10:00 am

Kol Nidre Evening
Tuesday, September 18, 7:30 - 8:45 pm

Yom Kippur Day
Tuesday, September 18, 10:30 am - 12:15 pm

Meditation
1:30-3:00 pm
Afternoon - Yizkor - Concluding
3:00-5:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah Luncheon and Yom Kippur Break the Fast
~ all services are livestreamed ~

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

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

Rosh Hashanah
Rosh Hashanah Day 1
(Methodist Church)
Rosh Hashanah Day 2
(Rabbi Deb’s)

Yom Kippur
Kol Nidre Evening
(Methodist Church)
Yom Kippur Day
(Methodist Church)

Visit the JFS website (jfsgreenwich.org) for a full schedule of High Holiday services offered at local senior residences.
**HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5779**

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**Chabad of Greenwich**

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**Chavurat Deevray Torah and Chavurat Aytz Chayim**

Mark S. Golub, Rabbi

Rosh Hashanah

**Services for**

**Sunday, September 9, 2018**

Evening Services – 8:00pm

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**Yom Kippur Services**

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

Kol Nidre Services – 8:00pm

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**Wednesday, September 19, 2018**

10:00am

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All Services will be held at

**West Hill High School Auditorium, 125 Roxbury Road, Stamford**

There will be ample seating • No tickets are required • All are welcome
I just recently returned from Rabbi summer camp – the Shalom Hartman Institute’s Rabbinic Torah Study Seminar in Jerusalem, where I spent two weeks studying Torah, Talmud, and contemporary sources with 170 other rabbis from around the world. This year’s theme was “Derech Eretz (‘common decency’): Building Character and Building Society.” Together, we studied the Jewish ethics of masculinity with an Orthodox Rabbi and an Israeli gender studies professor; ethical dilemmas in Israeli society with Ilana Dayan, one of Israel’s foremost intellectuals; and derech eretz in the relationship between Israel and world Jewry with Donniel Hartman. We spoke with Tal Becker, one of Bibi Netanyahu’s deputies, and also with Dorit Benisch, Israel’s first female Attorney General and current Supreme Court Justice.

We also studied “Character and Leadership: The Rise and Fall of Saul, Between Humility and Hubris” with Micah Goodman, who made the point that Jewish narratives of political leadership are, from Genesis to Kings, narratives of failure. Goodman reminded us, that as Jews it’s incumbent upon us to learn just one event, and retell it over and over again – the Exodus. What is its purpose? To create a kingdom of priests and a holy nation: a society that holds itself, and its leaders, to the highest ethical and moral standards, which aspires to be the opposite of Egypt; a country that doesn’t take advantage of weakness, but has compassion for it. And not a country led by dictators concerned only with their own reputation and egos, but by a leader with vision, compassion and moral backbone who is willing to be held accountable for her or his mistakes.

Then why, Goodman asked, are we given such flawed leaders in David and Saul? Because the Torah, Prophets and Writings (the Tanach) are not simply a description of Israelite behavior – in slavery and freedom – but of Israelite leadership in a sovereign society. In other words, the Jewish understanding of human-led government is a product of a deep and centuries-old skepticism about leadership that continues to this day.

In the cultural and historical context of the Tanach, leadership was divinely appointed. The stories of David and Saul functioned as a foil. Yes, the Israelite kings were appointed by prophets – but they were also deeply human and fallible. David abused his power when he ordered Uriah murdered so that he could marry Batsheva; Saul claimed the booty from his triumph over the Amalekites even though God – and Samuel – made it clear that it should be destroyed. The message of the Biblical authors was clear: human leadership is absolutely necessary, and absolutely flawed.

So too today. The risks of leadership are perennial. And there is no one solution for the problem of human fallibility, frailty, and weakness. But holding our political leadership accountable is also deeply Jewish. And it is our inheritance as both Americans and as Jews, to critique and condemn; to rebuke and hold accountable; and to not only hope, pray, and envision a better world, but to work for one. In this year 5779, may we continue to work and advocate for an America – and an Israel – where our leadership aspires to transcend itself, and while fallible and fragile though we may be, we never stop working to realize our nation as an exemplar of derech eretz and higher ethics. Shanah tovah u’metukah – a sweet, happy and healthy new year to you and yours.

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.
In August, Leah Schechter, Assistant Director of UJA-JCC Greenwich, took a new role as the Director of Volunteer Services and Donor Relations at the MetCouncil on Jewish Poverty in New York City. Leah will be responsible for creating and implementing volunteer opportunities across the nine divisions of MetCouncil in all five boroughs of NYC. About her new role, Leah said, “for me, this position is a combination of my personal passion to help those in need, which in fact was sparked as a teen volunteer at a Jewish soup kitchen in NYC, and a professional commitment to creating opportunities for others to make an impact in the world.”

For almost six years, Leah Schechter has served as the Assistant Director at UJA-JCC Greenwich. She began her role helping to implement and grow the JCC Greenwich programming, prior to the merger with UJA Federation of Greenwich, especially in the areas of teen service and youth programming. Since then, Leah has been involved in all aspects of programming and engagement and has become an integral part of UJA-JCC Greenwich. “I am profoundly grateful for my time in Greenwich. It is because of the people I have worked with, the work we have done together and the incredible community here that I have grown as a person and a professional and feel confident in taking on this new role. Thank you for allowing me to become a part of the fabric of the Greenwich Jewish community.”

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**Celebrate Sukkot**

**Join us for fun in the Sukkah**

**Build the Sukkah**
Sunday, September 23, 9am - all ages welcome
Help build and decorate our Sukkah. Tour the new home of GRS while the kids make decorations. Everyone is welcome to lend a hand. Bagels and coffee provided.

**Shabbat in the Sukkah**
Friday, September 28, 6pm
Celebrate a special Shabbat in the Sukkah with a dinner to honour our new members, followed by a festive Sukkot service. All welcome.

Visit www.grs.org for more details. To RSVP, please call the office at 203-629-0018 or email info@grs.org.

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**At Carmel Academy, we dare to:**

- **Inspire** joyful learning that fosters an excellent foundation for academic, spiritual and social growth
- **Encourage** our students to be curious, think deeply and take action
- **Cultivate** exceptional faculty with expertise in teaching a variety of learners
- **Create** unity through diversity by nurturing the common bonds of Jewish text, values, tradition and practice

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**Open House**

**Sunday, October 28th, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

To register or for more information, please contact Ella Shteingart at ella@carmelacademy.com or 203-983-3503

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

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Carmel Academy is a private school for children of all Jewish affiliations serving students through 8th grade.
ADULT EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

Are you considering taking a class or attending a lecture this Fall?
Look no further!
Here is a list of what's going on right here in the Greater Greenwich Jewish Community.

CARL AND DOROTHY BENNETT CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES

Joan and Henry Katz Lecture in Judaic Studies
“Looking for Bubbe: The Remembered and Forgotten Jewish World in Heritage Tourism”
With Daniel J. Walkowitz, PhD, emeritus professor of history and of social & cultural analysis at NYU
Monday October 29, 7:30 pm
Dolan School of Business Dining Room

Jacoby-Lunin Humanitarian Lecture
“Defending Human Dignities”
With Khizr Khan, lawyer and activist
Wednesday, November 14, 8:00 pm
Quick Center for the Arts, Kelley Theatre

CHABAD OF GREENWICH

Sunday Morning Torah Study – 9:30-10:30 am
Email RabbiFeldman@ChabadGreenwich.org for information.

Parsha with Classic Commentaries – Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 am

Chassidic Philosophy Class – Shabbat, 8:30-9:30 am

Women’s Torah Study Group:
Gleanings from the Torah on Family and Marriage Relationships
Led by Mrs. Maryashie Deren
Wednesdays: 9:30-10:30 am

GREENWICH REFORM

Contemporary Issues in Judaism with Rabbi Robert Rothman
Sundays, 10:00 am

Talmud Study with David Rappoport
Wednesday at 7:30 pm, once a month in October and November
For details on these free classes, call 203-629-0018 or email info@grs.org

JEWDISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH

Book Beat: A Discussion Group for Those Who Love to Read
“The German Girl” by Armando Lucas Correa
Wednesday, October 10, 7:30 pm – at a private home
To register, contact cculter@fjsgreenwich.org or call 203-522-1881

TEMPLE SHOLOM

Shabbat Study with Temple Sholom Clergy
Saturdays, 9:00-10:00 am

Lunch & Learn – Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 pm
Kosher lunch provided.

“My Amazing Story”
With guest speaker, Bizu Riki Mullu, an Ethiopian Jewish and Israel social entrepreneur
Monday, October 29, 7:00 pm
Co-sponsored by Temple Sholom and Israel Bonds. Register with Alice Schoen at alice.schoen@templesholom.com.

UCONN CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES AND CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIFE

“The Soul of a Stranger,” a Special Lecture on Election Night
With Joy Ladin
Tuesday, November 6, 5:30 pm
UConn Stamford Art Gallery

“Anti-Semitism in Contemporary America” with Tom W. Smith
Wednesday, November 7, 5:00 pm
Konover Auditorium, Dodd Research Center, Storrs

UJA-JCC GREENWICH

Private Art Tour: Ghiora Aharoni Design Studio
Friday, September 14, 10:00 am
276 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York

Adult Jewish Learning Series:
Tales of Sibling Rivalry, Rape and Seduction
A text study of Genesis with Pam Ehrenkranz
Thursdays, 9:45-11:00 am; Sept. 27, Oct. 4, Oct. 11, Oct. 18, Oct. 25
One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich

The Kindness Advantage
With co-authors Dale Atkins and Amanda Salzhauer
Thursday, September 27, 7:30 pm
Weber Fine Art, 12 Havermeyer Place, Greenwich

Rhythms and Purposes of Jewish Living
Melton School of Adult Learning
With Jonanthan Fass and Bob Abrams
Tuesdays, beginning October 9, 7:00-9:00 pm
UJF of Stamford, 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford

Author Series
Promised Land
with Martin Fletcher
Thursday, October 18, 10:00 am
Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Ave.

Tapestry: A Celebration of Jewish Learning
Saturday, November 10, 6:30 pm
UJF of Stamford, 1035 Newfield Ave., Stamford

Ten Commandments for Tax-Wise Giving
With Ruth Moskowitz & Amy Wilfert
Opening Remarks by Jane Weitzman
Thursday, November 29, 7:30 pm
One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich
Generously sponsored by Joui Hessel & Jimmy Hexter, Kim & Marty Sands, and The Toback Family Trust

Lunch & Learn
Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 pm – See page 13
Heroes and Villains of the Bible
Rabbi Lewis Warshauer ................................................................. September 13
ETROG: How a Chinese Fruit Became a Jewish Symbol
David Z. Moster ................................................................. September 20
Sukkot Secrets
Chaim Lauer ................................................................................ September 27
Why Start the Torah in the Beginning?
Rabbi Elisha Paul .............................................................. October 4
Noah and Those Horrid Wicked People
Yael Unterman ............................................................................... October 11
Taking a Chance on Love
Rabbi Greg Wall ........................................................................... October 18
Fritz Haber: The German Jewish Scientist Who Invented Zyklon-B
Michael Feldstein .................................................................. October 25
“The Eternal Thou”
Rabbi Dr. Carmella Abraham ............................................ November 1

Check ujajcc.org for updated schedule

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Tapestry
An Evening of Adult Jewish Learning

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

6:30 pm | 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford
$25 in advance, $36 at the door
$180 sponsorship includes priority choice for sessions and reserved seating at reception

For more information and to register visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.

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Tales of Sibling Rivalry, Rape and Seduction
A Text Study of Genesis
With Pam Ehrenkranz

THURSDAYS | 9:45 - 11 AM
9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25
One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich
5 sessions, $175

Rhythms and Purposes of Jewish Living
The Melton School
of Adult Jewish Learning
With Jonathan Fass & Bob Abrams

TUESDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
Beginning October 9
UJF of Stamford, 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford
20 sessions, $745
Co-sponsored with
Author Series
$25 per session, $100 for the series

Promised Land | With Author Martin Fletcher
Thursday, October 18 | 7:30 pm | Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Ave

From NBC’s legendary former bureau chief in Tel Aviv comes a sweeping novel of Israel’s tumultuous early years, told through the eyes of two German Jewish brothers. Fletcher has won almost every award in TV journalism, including the duPont-Columbia University Award, five Overseas Press Club awards, the Edward R. Murrow award for excellence and five Emmys.

The Weight of Ink | With Author Rachel Kadish
Wednesday, November 28 | 10 am | YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Ave

Set in London in the 1660s and early 21st century, this historical mystery interweaves the tales of two remarkable women: an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi just before the plague hits; and an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history. The Weight of Ink is the recipient of the 2017 National Jewish Book Award.

The Lost Family | With Author Jenna Blum
Tuesday, January 29 | 10 am | YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Ave

The bestselling author of Those Who Save Us paints a vivid portrait of marriage, family and WWII grief in this emotionally charged novel spanning a generation, from the 1960s to the 1980s.

Rush | With Author Stephen Fried
Tuesday, February 26 | 7:30 pm | YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Ave

Benjamin Rush – Surgeon General of the Continental Army, signatory of the Declaration of Independence and Jefferson’s pick as medical advisor to the Lewis and Clark Expedition – is also hailed as the father of American psychiatry for his pioneering work with the mentally ill. Dr. Rush was also a visionary political thinker whose voice is ever more relevant today. New York Times bestselling author and award-winning journalist Stephen Fried resurrects the most significant Founding Father you’ve never heard of and duly inducts him into the pantheon of great leaders.

War Widow | With Author Ziva Bakman Flamhaft
Wednesday, May 8 | 10 am | YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Ave

Mark Yom Hazikaron, Israel’s Memorial Day, with Ziva Bakman Flamhaft. In her gripping memoir, Flamhaft brings home the pain of the Six-Day War, honoring the voices of individuals whose lives echoed that strife. She recalls the dual traumas of losing her husband and baby, but also her activism on behalf of other childless widows and how she found the strength to carry on. Don’t miss this inspiring story of resilience, self-empowerment and the healing power of helping others.

For more information and to register visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.
Upcoming Viewings

Davis Film Festival

Wednesday, January 16
Wednesday, February 6
Wednesday, April 3
Wednesday, May 1*
Wednesday, June 12

* Special time and location details to come

Love, Gilda
October 3

Don't miss this intimate portrait of the beloved Saturday Night Live cast members, featuring readings from her diaries and candid interviews with Chevy Chase, Bill Hader and Amy Poehler, among others.

Presented in partnership with Gilda's Club Westchester.

Lisa D'Apolito / Documentary / USA / 86 min.

Shelter
October 24

Two women – a Mossad agent and a Lebanese informer – find themselves trapped in a labyrinth of deception, paranoia and intrigue, in this espionage neo-noir.

Eran Riklis / Thriller / Israel / 93 min.

Scaffolding
November 7

A troubled student is challenged by his literature teacher, who aims to open his narrow worldview to other possibilities.

Matan Yair / Drama / Israel / 90 min.

Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas
December 5

Did you know that Jewish songwriters wrote the soundtrack to Christianity's most musical holiday? Let the movie entertain you with harmony by immigrant outsiders from Irving Berlin to Mel Tormé.

Larry Weinstein / Documentary / Canada / 52 min.

Wednesdays, 7 pm
Bow Tie Cinema, 2 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich
$15 per film, $110 for the season

For more information and to register visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.
JTAC Meetings

September 16
October 14
November 11
January 13
February 3
March 3
May 19

Teen-led activities and community service projects for middle and high school students. Sunday evening meetings include dinner, discussions and projects.

Getting to 10,000+
October 21 | 9:30 am - 2:30 pm | Stop and Shop, 161 W. Putnam Ave
Wednesday, December 12 | 7 - 9 pm | Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Ave

With the help of the Outreach Program, JTAC has set a goal to pack 10,000 meals for local food pantries. Each of these meals costs 25 cents. Come help JTAC reach our goal by raising money and awareness for this effort at Stop & Shop and the UJA-JCC Town Hall Meeting.

Elect to Serve
Tuesday, November 6 | 9:30 am - 12:00 pm | $25

Come meet other volunteers, celebrate the spirit of tikkun olam and have fun as you make your mark helping to serve those in need. We’re partnering with local organizations on projects ranging from soup jars to card making. You can be a part of it by joining our community service day!

Hanukkah Helpers
December 9 | 12 - 2 pm | Carmel Academy, 270 Lake Ave

Volunteer at our annual children’s Hanukkah party, the Dreidel Ball. Help the DJ keep the party going with activities, games, mitzvah projects and more.

Midnight Run
Date TBD by Midnight Run | 8 pm | Meet at One Holly Hill Lane, return at 1 am | $36

Make a difference, face to face, by serving homeless men and women in NYC. Must RSVP in advance to have a seat in the vans.

The Packing Project 10,000+
March 31 | 3 - 5 pm | Carmel Academy, 270 Lake Ave | $36

With the help of the Outreach Program, JTAC has the goal of packing 10,000 meals for local food pantries. You can be a part of this huge effort! Donate any amount of money to reach our target of $2,500 for the ingredients needed for the 10,000 meals -- only 25 cents each. Sign up to help pack all 10,000 meals in a matter of hours. Friends and family of all ages welcome to attend.

For more information and to register visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.
Introducing New JTAC Advisor Erika Brunwasser

Erika Brunwasser is thrilled to begin her new role as JTAC Advisor. JTAC is the UJA-JCC Greenwich Jewish Teen Action Committee which meets monthly on Sunday evenings and at special times for projects. These are teen-led activities and community service projects for middle and high school students. Erika is a New York State certified School Counselor and has worked in NYC schools as a guidance counselor for eight years. Her most recent role was Guidance Counselor at Wagner Middle School on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, where she managed the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of almost 500 students. She is delighted to bring her experience and passion for supporting and guiding adolescents to this position. She is an active and involved member of the Greenwich Jewish community. One of the most rewarding parts of Erika’s work as a school counselor was her ability to motivate teens to reach their full potential. She believes that by inspiring Greenwich teens to take action, along with the influence of Jewish values, the group will continue to thrive. Erika is looking forward to a fun and meaningful year with the JTAC teens!

If you have a middle school or high school teen interested in getting involved, contact Erika by email at Erika@ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.

Shir Ami Goes Live for the Holidays

Calling all seniors, homebound, college students, and anyone else who is away from their families to “come home for the holidays,” as Shir Ami goes live for all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. “In the past few years,” notes Rabbi Axe, “we’ve had friends and family from all over the country, who otherwise couldn’t attend High Holy Day services, join us remotely in what I like to call our ‘21st century shtetl’.”

With modern technology arranged by Co-President and IT Chair Rick Mason, another innovation is the projection of Torah readings onto a large screen so that everyone can follow the text directly from the Torah. And instead of a Memorial Book for the Yom Kippur Yizkor Service, the names of loved ones are projected one at a time on the big screen while the choir offers a medley of moving songs of comfort and memory.

Members are included in every aspect of worship, leading prayers and readings, chanting from the ancient scrolls of the Torah, and singing in the choir. Member Torah readers include past president David Green and Jane daSilva, Rick Lake, and past president Barbara Salop. Even the set up to transform a church sanctuary into a bima is handled by Shir Ami members, under the direction of Co-President Dahni Nisinsweig.

“This is an historic year in the U.S., Israel, and the world. The High Holy Days offer an opportunity for serious reflection,” notes Rabbi Vicki L. Axe. “We think about our relationships with others, with the world, and with God. We consider our role as diaspora American Jews in a world that desperately compels us to fulfill our sacred mandate to be a ‘light unto the nations.’”

All are welcome at Shir Ami High Holy Day Services. To make reservations, visit www.congregationshirami.org for easy online registration.

For information about all congregational events and programs or to speak with Rabbi Axe, call 203-274-5376.
For the last 14 years JFS has been successfully running support group services for members of our community. In the past year alone, 102 community members benefited from these services. Individuals who choose to participate in any of our groups gain support, strength, hope and friendship. Members also gain knowledge from psychological insight and coping strategies from shared experience. All JFS support group leaders are licensed social workers with significant experience in facilitating support groups. Confidentiality is strictly maintained.

The Bereavement Support Group was the first group JFS offered to the community in 2004, and it has been ongoing ever since. Members can stay for as long as they feel the group is benefiting them. Looking through the lens of Jewish wisdom and tradition, this group reduces isolation and promotes a sense of connectedness. Here are a few testimonials about this group.

“I will always be grateful to the JFS bereavement group. Attending each week supported me through the grief process of losing my husband. Lisa, Rabbi Deren and Rabbi Axe were all so helpful and compassionate that I found myself looking forward to being with them each week. The members of the group bonded in friendship, and we all helped each other and continued our relationship outside of the group.” –Joan Merdinger

“Though attending reluctantly, this bereavement group has been helping me heal from my grief with the understanding, compassion, encouragement and friendship provided by both the group leaders and the other participants.” –Marilyn Cooper

If you or someone you know has lost a loved one within the last year, please contact JFS for support. We are here for you.

What People Say About JFS and Supermarketing for Seniors

“My shopper is anxious to help and to improve my life; she is a blessing to be with.”

“My shopper always puts a smile on my face. She has the young people with special needs [from Abilis] to help her. I like to see them – it brightens my day.”

“Thank you! It was such a comfort speaking with you yesterday! I had felt a bit alone previously, and our conversation grounded me a bit. My strong feelings about JFS, and the amazing and crucial services provided to our community through your efforts, remain with me.”

“At times at night before I sleep I thank my God, Jehovah for this service rendered to me!”

“I admire your organization. You’re doing a lot of good things for the seniors. Keep doing what you’re doing!”

If you know of anyone who may be interested in being a shopper or getting grocery shopping services, call Elyse Brown, Program Director at 203-622-1881 or email her at ebrown@jfsgreenwich.org.

The Jewish Health and Healing Center Holds Annual Bikur Cholim Advisory Meeting

The Jewish Health and Healing Center of JFS hosted the annual Greenwich Jewish Clergy Bikur Cholim Advisory meeting in August. In attendance were: Rabbi Vicki Axe, Congregation Shir Ami, Cantor Sandy Bernstein, Temple Sholom, Rabbi Menachem Feldman, Greenwich Chabad, Lisa-Loraine Smith, Executive Director, JFS, and Lisa Goldberg, Director, Jewish Health and Healing Center.

The discussion, lead by Lisa Goldberg, focused on the collaborations of area synagogues with the JHHC to bring holiday programming to senior facilities. The advisory panel also reviewed current needs in the Greenwich community and discussed how those needs will be addressed. Please visit our website jfsgreenwich.org for a full schedule of holiday programs and new partnerships and collaborations among our Jewish institutions.
SPECIAL DONATIONS to JFS

In Memory of:

Donnie Tendler, by Roni and Jan Kaplowitz
Edwin Lichtenfeld, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Eileen Kutikoff, by Phyllis Shapiro and Mary Flashner
Joe Rosen, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Stanley Rubin, by Susan & Jerry Davis

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.

Stay in the Know

Get on our JFS email distribution list so you can stay up to date on all of our new programming and support groups. New programs and support groups forming monthly.

Go to www.jfsgreenwich.org to sign up

Don't miss out – sign up now

Jewish Forties and Fifties (JFF)

This program offers Jewish singles in their 40's and 50's the opportunity to find friendship and commonalities through enjoyable activities.

Join us September 13th for Happy Hour at Bar Rosso in Stamford.

Hosted by:

Working Moms Night Out

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

Join other working Moms to talk about the opportunities and challenges of being a working mom. Share laughter, friendship, and frank, uplifting conversations in a private home.

Go to www.jfsgreenwich.org for details.
In addition to offering sports clinics – including Lacrosse, Golf, Red Cross Swim Lessons, Tennis, Soccer – led by top instructors, along with specialties like Circus and Theater, what differentiates Camp Gan Israel of Greenwich from other day camps is its sense of community and the values it instills in its campers. Through bringing out the gifts that each child has, campers feel like they can shine on the grounds of Camp Gan. It becomes a second home to them and they come back year after year, until they eventually return as counselors themselves.
Carmel Academy Graduated Largest Class in School History

On June 14th, as it culminated its 20th anniversary year, Carmel Academy graduated its largest class in school history. The student-designed graduation ceremony centered around “20 Years of Daring,” in keeping with the theme of the school year. The school’s 33 graduates poignantly reflected upon what they learned at Carmel, and how the school has shaped and prepared them for their future. Through personal writings and songs, in both Hebrew and English, the graduates shared their memories, as well as their aspirations for the future, based on the foundation they received at Carmel Academy.

The graduates shared in Hebrew excerpts from their year-long project Shorashim, or Roots. The project was modeled after an Israeli initiative that has become a nationwide tradition, where the students research their family’s history and connection with the Jewish people. Another highlight of the ceremony were the Divrei Torah that the graduates wrote and presented themselves.

Head of School Nora Anderson addressed the graduates and encouraged them to think about the importance of responsibility throughout their lives. “As you take this next step in your educational career, I hope that we have given you the skills to think, to be open, to achieve, correct, improve and reflect...to take risks and to get up when you fall, to learn from your mistakes and build upon your successes. But just as important, I hope we have taught you to take responsibility for yourself and the world around you.”

In a Carmel Academy tradition, after the students received their diplomas, the faculty joined the new graduates on stage to bless the class.
Temple Sholom’s JEWEL Aims to Enrich the Lives of Jewish Women

Temple Sholom is excited to announce the formation of a new women's group, JEWEL, making its debut this fall. JEWEL, which stands for Jewish Enrichment for Women Engaged in Learning, was co-founded by Temple Sholom members Rebecca Cooper and Becca Levine to provide meaningful and dynamic programming that will transform the mind, body and soul for young women.

The group will serve as an outlet for building positive Jewish connections, and will encourage discussions of relevant issues that resonate to young women as mothers, daughters, sisters, friends, partners, and professionals. “We saw that there was an underserved population at Temple Sholom consisting of women/mothers whose children had either aged out of the preschool, attended other preschools, or were starting their educational journey at Temple Sholom,” said Cooper. “When we presented these ideas to various women of all walks of life, there was such an enthusiastic response. We were happy to have it come to fruition.”

Chaired by Cooper and Levine, the JEWEL committee (which is still in formation) is poised to include women with a variety of backgrounds and interests, thus harnessing the diversity of Temple Sholom. JEWEL will host its inaugural program on Wednesday, November 7 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Saks Fifth Avenue Shoe Salon in Greenwich. Noted authors Dale Atkins, Ph.D. and Amanda Salzburger, M.S.W. will discuss the topic “Incorporating More Kindness into Your Parenting.” Atkins and Salzburger’s new book, The Kindness Advantage: Cultivating Compassionate and Connected Children, is sure to resonate with young women in the community.

The cost to attend is $36 per person, which includes light bites, refreshments, and an opportunity for private shopping at Saks. If you would like to attend, please register online at www.templesholom.com/jewel-opening-program or contact JEWEL@templesholom.com for more information.

Lifelong Learning at GRS

Introduction to Talmud: Its Influence on Jewish Law, Thought and Living

Are you curious about the Talmud and its hold on the Jewish imagination? For much of Jewish history, the Talmud has been understood as a blueprint for living. Discover what it’s like to participate in a Talmudic debate and walk away inspired, intrigued and a little wiser.

Teacher David Rappoport studied in yeshivot in France, New York and Israel, and was a practicing rabbi in Switzerland. He’s been teaching the higher art of Talmudic study for more than 30 years. David now lives in Greenwich where he practices the lower art of quantitative finance.

Classes will be held at Greenwich Reform, on a Wednesday evening in October and November.

Guest Speakers

A classically trained talmudist, Rabbi Yonah Hain is the Campus Rabbi at Columbia University; he’s also a faculty member of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. He will discuss the complex issue of BDS (boycott, divest, sanction) on campus as well as anti-Semitism experienced by students at Columbia.

This presentation will be offered on a Sunday evening in October or November at Greenwich Reform.

Samuel G. Freedman is an award-winning author, columnist, and professor. A former columnist for The New York Times and a journalism professor at Columbia University, he is the author of eight acclaimed books, and is currently at work on his ninth, which will be about Hubert Humphrey, civil rights, and the 1948 Democratic convention.

This presentation will be offered during a Friday night Shabbat service in November or December at Greenwich Reform.

For details on times, dates, and topics, please visit www.GRS.org or call 203-629-0018.

TEENS WANTED

Interviewing high school teens to work at Wizards.

Rabbi Deb
203 249-4036
For many children, the idea of taking time to read in the summer is a dreaded activity, often driven by a book list of required reading and meaningless assignments that may not suit a student's interest. At Carmel Academy, the school’s unique approach to summer reading veers from the traditional, with the goal of encouraging children to be genuinely excited about reading, even when school is out.

“Our summer reading program is not a chore or an assignment; instead we use our students’ close connection and relationships with their peers, teachers and family members to help pique their interest in reading some great books and hopefully develop a genuine love for reading,” said Carmel Academy’s Director of General Studies Curriculum Jennifer Gensior. “At Carmel we approach reading as a social activity – where our students form relationships through a shared love of reading,” said Gensior, pointing to Carmel’s popular peer book clubs, intergenerational book clubs, and buddy reading programs that take place throughout the school year.

When summer approached, Carmel’s summer reading assignment encouraged students to have conversations about books with people in their lives – their friends and family members. Instead of a traditional summer reading log, students were given an interactive assignment. Prompts included, “Choose one book that a friend wants you to read because he or she thinks it is the best book,” and “Choose a book that your mom/dad/grandparent/teacher or any adult promises you will love.” One of the most popular items included in the students’ summer reading assignment was a list created by the Carmel faculty, where teachers personalized their recommendations by sharing a memory associated with a book from their childhood. Throughout the summer, Carmel posted many of these recommendations via the school’s social media sites, prompting school parents and members of the community to share their own favorite childhood reads and memories.
Temple Sholom Learning Center Adds “Color War” Style Sholom Games

Middle school and high school can be a challenging time in a child’s life. Kids are asking big questions, friends and community are central in identity development, and the Jewish community can offer values and grounding to keep kids strong, centered, and confident.

Starting October 10, Greenwich Reform is offering Moving Traditions, an exciting program that promotes self-discovery, challenges sexism, and inspires a commitment to Jewish life and learning. Designed for 8th and 9th graders, girls and boys will meet in separate groups from 6-8 pm on Wednesday nights. The cost for the nine-session program is $180, including dinners. All are welcome; kids can try the first session for free. The volunteer group leaders are Rabbi Joui Hessel for the girls and Adam Leader for the boys.

Moving Traditions (www.movingtraditions.org) is a nonprofit organization specializing in Jewish teen development. Its goal is to help Jewish teens move into adulthood with confidence, compassion and a commitment to Jewish community. Here are some comments from past participants in this nationwide program:

Girls say:
• “I feel more comfortable being vocal about my sexual, emotional, and spiritual needs.”
• “I love the people, the games, the amazing things we learn, and having a free space to be myself.”
• “I was comfortable being vocal about my sexual, emotional, and spiritual needs.”

Boys say:
• “In Shevet Achim, we can say anything without being judged. I don’t have anything else in my life like it.”
• “It feels great to open up to these guys. It requires a lot of trust but I couldn’t ask for a better group of people.”
• “We just relax and talk about anything with friends and a facilitator. It’s a great break from the stress of schoolwork.”

For more information, contact Eliana Hall, Director of Education at 203-629-0018 or eliana@grs.org.

Temple Sholom Learning Center Adds “Color War” Style Sholom Games

The Temple Sholom Learning Center hopes to re-create the excitement of the summer camp experience for its religious school students by incorporating a new, “color war” style competition into the school year. Known as The Sholom Games, this friendly Maccabiah will offer an alternative method for delivering religious education and fostering strong Jewish identities and connections. Students in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade will be divided into three teams, each named after a region in Israel. The blue team will be Team Golan; the green team will be Team Galilee; and the yellow team will be Team Negev.

“We think The Sholom Games will not only give our students the opportunity to problem solve together, but will also help create a tighter sense of community,” says Barry Gruber, Director of Congregational Learning. “Together they will push each other to be creative and innovative in a cooperative manner.”

Teams will have the opportunity to earn points for activities such as doing mitzvot (good deeds), having extra ruach (spirit) or showing derek eretz (respect). Holidays will have a role in The Sholom Games, beginning with the Temple’s community-wide Erev Simchat Torah celebration on Monday, October 1 at 6:30 pm, where students will decorate a Torah, prepare a banner, or create a song for their team. At the end of the year, the team with the most points will be the Sholom Games Champion.

Religious school registration is still open for the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, please contact Barry Gruber at 203-542-7157 or barry.gruber@templesholom.com.
Helping Hands – PJ Library Community Service Project for Young Kids

We all remember our first community service project. It was a special feeling to come together as a group helping people in need. The time was spent performing useful tasks, thinking about others and reflecting on how the work enabled us to grow. Through the soup deliveries, clothing drives and midnight runs, we were also having fun with friends.

UJA-JCC Greenwich heard the call from parents who want to begin tikun olam (repair of the world) practices with their children at an early age. For that reason we’re planning more family service projects for kids and families. The PJ Library Helping Hands initiative is being spearheaded by “PJ” chairman Jessica Rickert and her devoted Social Action Committee, whose members include Alona Altman, Romy Cohen, Stephanie Esquenazi and Jamie Kesmodel.

“Young kids can’t go on midnight runs,” says Rickert, who’s focused on projects for children ages 4 to 8. “So the task at hand is to find meaningful activities and to provide support for parents to talk with their kids about helping others.” She adds: “to advance this exciting mandate, we’ve identified some great age-appropriate programs and are seeking more.”

The social action projects underway are consistent with the themes children learn in school, including homelessness, hunger, helping elders, and saving the environment. The first Social Action program this fall will be an apple picking adventure at Stewarts Farm in Granite Springs, NY on Sunday, October 14, from 1:30 – 3 pm. The goal of this outing is to provide an abundance of fresh produce for the Schoke JFS Kosher Food Pantry of Fairfield County. Two additional programs will follow later on, including a visit with community elders, and a spring excursion to inspire environmental awareness.

Before families set out to make their mark, UJA-JCC Greenwich will host an evening gathering on Wednesday, October 10, to help prepare parents for leading their young children into the helping field. The session, “Preparing Children for Community Service & How to Talk with Them about Difficult Subjects,” will be led by UJA-JCC’s new JTAC Advisor and PJ Library Parent Planner Erika Brunwasser, a Certified School Counselor and LiveGirl Group facilitator, with years of experience working with grade school children and guiding parents to tackle difficult subjects. UJA-JCC Greenwich CEO Pam Ehrenkranz will provide a Jewish perspective on community service and giving to others.

“Judaism has a strong tradition, even a legal system, around helping those in need,” says Ehrenkranz, “It would be great if our children were able to understand their own giving and service through a Jewish lens.”

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Community Service for Kids and Families

**PJ Library Apple Picking for the Pantry**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 1:30 – 3 PM**

Stuart’s Farm, 62 Granite Springs Road, Granite Springs, NY (30 minute drive) $15 per family includes bags to pick apples to donate to local food pantries

How many apples can your family pick? Help gather them for local food pantries serving our region. Teach your kids about hunger and empower them to give the fruits of their labor to others. Everyone will get to take some apples home, too!

Social Action Committee: Alona Altman, Romy Cohen, Stephanie Esquenazi, Jamie Kesmodel and Jessica Rickert.

**Elect to Serve**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 | 10 - 11:30 AM**

One Holly Hill Lane 45 drive to advance, $30 at the door For elementary school-age kids.

Come meet other volunteers, celebrate the spirit of tikun olam and have fun as you create your mask helping to serve those in need. We’re partnering with local organizations on projects ranging from soup jar to read making. You can be a part of it by joining our community service day!

This is a drop-off program best for kids in elementary school. All kids will need to have a current emergency form on file to participate.

**Preparing Your Children for Community Service**

A evening conversation for parents

**Wednesday, October 10**

**Save these dates for service projects this year**

PJ Library Visits Our Elders, Sunday, February 24

The Picking Project, Sunday, March 31

For more information and to register visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.
Bi-Cultural Day School and Jewish High School of Connecticut are now one.

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut

One Community.
One School.

~ Dedicated to academic excellence
~ Devoted to Torah, Israel and Tikkun Olam
~ Committed to embracing all members of our Jewish Community

Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade

 Thronea Madoth Meser Zionot

David Pitkoff
President, Board of Trustees
Bi-Cultural Day School
203-229-2186

Geoff Erickson
President, Board of Trustees
The Jewish High School of Connecticut
203-867-0850
THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

From the Field
At the Gaza Border

Your gift to UJA-JCC Greenwich supports residents enduring months of rockets, mortars and firebombs.

by Alan Hoffmann, CEO & Director General, The Jewish Agency for Israel

For several months, residents of Israel’s south have suffered relentless rocket attacks, mortar fire and arson kites making what we would think of as normal life impossible.

Times like these bring into sharp relief the work The Jewish Agency does each and every day in southern Israel generally and the Gaza perimeter in particular.

- Some 100 children from the Gaza perimeter attended two weeks of our Fund for Victims of Terrorism summer camp in August.
- Youth Futures mentors are identifying at-risk children showing signs of trauma and referring them to the services they need – or just giving a hug and a kind word.
- The staff of our Absorption Centers are on hand 24/7 for security and emotional support, and are running summer camps for new immigrant children.
- Amigour staff are also there around the clock to help elderly residents get to safe shelter as quickly as possible when air raid sirens go off.

These Jewish Agency programs and more ensure that communities near Gaza remain resilient.

Visiting Loan Fund Recipients

Shir Lengy and Idan Kadosh are residents of Sderot. They opened the Pasta v’Zehu restaurant with a Jewish Agency Loan Fund. The area has growth potential, but now fewer people go out.

They are considering starting food delivery to bomb shelters, but it hasn’t occurred to them to leave. “We’re dealing with the difficulties,” they declared proudly, “and hoping to grow the business by offering catering services.”

Hearing from Children Near Gaza

At an absorption center in Ibim, children recount their nightmares, needing to think twice before playing outside – matters no child should ever have to consider.

There is also courage at levels we would expect from top soldiers. We wish kol hakavod (good job) to the staff at our absorption centers in the South for providing safe, educational and responsive routines for these children.

We are proud that The Jewish Agency has a comprehensive presence in southern Israel so that we can respond swiftly to provide support. Recently, The Jewish Agency held management meetings near Gaza as an act of solidarity. We continue to provide assistance, so that residents of Israel’s south have quality resources even in times of crisis.

If you would like to help, please donate at UJAJCC.org.
This New Year, Let’s Help Our Children 
Envision a Sweeter Jewish Life at Home and 
Around the World

UJA-JCC Greenwich is here to make that vision a reality. We care for people in need wherever that need occurs. We nurture and sustain our Jewish community.

WITH YOUR HELP, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!

We wish you and yours a sweet, happy, and healthy New Year.