From Head of the Boardroom to Head of the Class
with Alon Futterman

UJA-JCC Greenwich Annual Meeting

When UJA-JCC Greenwich sits down for its annual meeting this November 30th at 7 pm, at Carmel Academy, 270 Lake Avenue, you can be sure the spotlight will shine on the local and global impacts achieved during 2016-2017 through the collective efforts of Jewish Greenwich. Also on the agenda will be the election of the board slate. And, as the final curtain falls on the year, President Scott Simon will look ahead to the coming year.

But as ever with UJA-JCC Greenwich, it’s not all annual reports and Board matters. Rather, the annual meeting provides an opportunity for members to engage with leading doers and thinkers. This year the honored guest speaker is Alon Futterman, co-founder of Israel’s Yesh Atid (There Is a Future) Party and founding Director of the El Al Ambassadors program. Alon will reflect on the centrist political party co-founded with Yair Lapid in 2012, and share insights from his experiences across entrepreneurship and aviation. He will also delve into the education sector, drawing on his work as Senior Advisor to the Israeli Minister of Education, as former Secretary of the national committee on Israel’s special education policy and as CEO of his non-profit initiative TALMA, devoted to transforming the lives of low-income Israeli students, and ranked by YNET News as the #1 educational program in Israel.

The UJA-JCC Greenwich annual meeting is open to the Greenwich community at a suggested donation of $18 per person. For additional details visit ujafedgreenwich.org or jccgreenwich.org or call the office at 203-552-1818.

WHY

DOES YOUR GIFT TO UJA-JCC MATTER?

• We support the most vulnerable Jews around the world, from children to Holocaust survivors, with food, medical care, social services, and dignity, where they are most needed.

• We bring Jewish Greenwich together, providing the resources for a wealth of outstanding programs for everyone from babies to grandmothers. Please be part of our outreach efforts and make a contribution to UJA-JCC before the end of the year.

WE CAN’T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.
PJ Library

Every Picture Tells the Story—
of Story Time at Greenwich Library!

Our thanks to PJ Library Planner and Story Time Chair Erika Brunwasser, Special Guest Reader Morah Diane Holsten from Carmel Academy and Deirdre Sullivan and friends at Greenwich Library for making PJ Library Story Time super fun and engaging.

PJ Library Parent Planners are back in the saddle and coordinating another year of great “PJ” programs for Greenwich families. At the September meeting they also wrapped recycled “PJ” books (donated by Ellen Jane Moss and family) and wrote note cards to be delivered to Chai Lifeline, an agency that helps children and families cope with serious pediatric illness. Thank you, PJ Library Planners for your hands-on service and warm messages to the 32 kids who will receive these classic books and personal cards! If you would like to recycle and pass along some of your own PJ Library books, call or email tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org.

PJ Library Story Time Returns to Greenwich Library!

3:45-4:45pm | Greenwich Library
101 W. Putnam Ave

Save these Thursday afternoons for playdates enriched by skilled guest readers, classic PJ Library stories and crafts! Best for ages 2-4. Grandparents, friends and siblings welcome.

DECEMBER 14 | FEBRUARY 15
MARCH 15

Sleepy in Greenwich: Better Sleep for Your Entire Family

Shhh, we’re sleeping. Or at least that’s the hope in bringing Brooke Nalle to JBabies on Monday, December 11, at 10 am. Nalle, founder of Sleepy on Hudson, is a pediatric sleep consultant who works with families and children from birth to preadolescence. Whether you’re desperately sleep deprived or among the lucky few who gets sufficient winks, no doubt someone in your family could use some tips on sleep hygiene. Nalle helps parents create healthy habits for themselves and their little ones as well. A firm believer in “sleep teaching” — rather than “sleep training” — she aims at developing a sleep relationship for the whole family, while meeting each child’s cognitive, physical and socio-emotional needs.

JBabies Chair, Rebecca Cooper introduced Brooke to our community and brings her back now by popular demand. According to Cooper: “Brooke Nalle is a successful sleep coach because she takes the time to get to know you as a family and your child as an individual. Her plans are adjusted with lifestyle and personalities in mind. There is never one formula for sleep, and Brooke knows that.”

Nalle earned her Masters in Education from Bank Street College of Education and is one of the first 50 graduates of Kim West’s Gentle Sleep Coach program. She is trained in basic counseling and child development, sleep science, behavioral modification techniques and secure attachment theory.

JBabies is for new and veteran parents and children up to 24 months. The group meets every six weeks to connect and share about children and family around enrichment activities. Sleepy in Greenwich will take place at One Holly Hill Lane in Greenwich.

Further details are available at jccgreenwich.org or by contacting Tracy Daniels at 203-352-1818 or tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org.

PJ Library Parent Planners Behind the Scenes

PJ Library Parent Planners are back in the saddle and coordinating another year of great “PJ” programs for Greenwich families. At the September meeting they also wrapped recycled “PJ” books (donated by Ellen Jane Moss and family) and wrote note cards to be delivered to Chai Lifeline, an agency that helps children and families cope with serious pediatric illness. Thank you, PJ Library Planners for your hands-on service and warm messages to the 32 kids who will receive these classic books and personal cards! If you would like to recycle and pass along some of your own PJ Library books, call or email tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org.
Yafit: An Ethiopian-Israeli Woman of Valor

When Yafit was seven, she and her family began to walk. This journey to escape famine and persecution took them from their village in Ethiopia to Israel. For a month and a half, they scaled the mountains and forded rivers, moving in silence to avoid the attention of robbers and kidnappers.

When they arrived in Sudan, the family slept in a tent city, biding their time and fending off mosquitoes and dysentery. But when Yafit and her younger sister became too weak to travel further, their parents left them behind, promising that they could get on their feet with our support. We share meals, laugh, play, and go on outings together. I learn from them and they learn from me. They trust me and I trust them. A true friendship is being formed.

I try to use my personal experience to provide this family with advice and reassurance that while it can be difficult to adjust, in time they will fit in and have opportunities to do whatever they wish. Some of the volunteers who helped me and my family are still in my life and I hope to continue being this family’s friend and mentor for many more years and open up their eyes to the countless opportunities America has to offer.

With help from UJA Greenwich, Lina’s family was resettled here in 1992, when she was 9 years old. She is now married with two little girls of her own, living in the Boston area and committed to assisting in her synagogue’s efforts at Syrian resettlement.

The Meaning of Success

Now, as head of JDC’s Southern Region’s Career Advancement Program, Yafit works with dozens of Israeli women one-on-one, assessing their potential and helping them plan and reach goals for a better future. The program is a part of TEVET, JDC’s comprehensive employment initiative forged in partnership with the Israeli government.

“Some women worry about childcare, and some already have many personal and communal responsibilities. They take care of everyone else and have no time to take care of themselves,” she says. “My work is to help them show how that by improving their careers, they are in fact strengthening their families and communities.”

And it is in doing this work – helping others find success through wisdom she learned the tough way as an immigrant working mother of three – that Yafit truly shines as her own Israeli woman of valor.

JDC is a beneficiary of your gift to UJA-JCC Greenwich.

Paying It Forward

by Lina Musayev

Paying it forward is the best way to describe why I chose to join the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Team and become a family for a very special family of six.

In 1992, my family and I left Baku, Azerbaijan (a majority Muslim country squeezed between Russian North Caucasus and Iran) as refugees. After the Russian Revolution in the 1920s, nobody could practice any religion and while I didn’t realize it at the time, having the word “JEW” printed in our passports had a significant negative impact on my family, which only got worse with Perestroika in the 1990s. The country became ardently nationalistic. Leaflets were distributed around the city stating, “Armenians first, Jews second.” That’s when my parents decided we must leave.

We were lucky to be sponsored by HIAS, JFS, and Temple Sholom in CT. Although the adjustment wasn’t easy, especially for my parents, coming to America was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. I will never forget the volunteers’ smiling faces, as well as their continued warmth, acceptance and support when we arrived and for many years later.

When I heard Rabbi Sisenwine talk about the Resettlement Team during the [5777] high holidays, I jumped at the opportunity to pay it forward. After I met the family, my assumptions were right on. Despite being of different faiths, our stories are amazingly similar. We communicate using charades, pointing, hand gestures, pictures on our phones, and the Google translate app. It is remarkable to watch their English improve in a short time and exciting to see their smiling faces as they begin to get on their feet with our support. We share meals, laugh, play, and go on outings together. I learn from them and they learn from me. They trust me and I trust them. A true friendship is being formed.

I try to use my personal experience to provide this family with advice and reassurance that while it can be difficult to adjust, in time they will fit in and have opportunities to do whatever they wish. Some of the volunteers who helped me and my family are still in my life and I hope to continue being this family’s friend and mentor for many more years and open up their eyes to the countless opportunities America has to offer.

With help from UJA Greenwich, Lina’s family was resettled here in 1992, when she was 9 years old. She is now married with two little girls of her own, living in the Boston area and committed to assisting in her synagogue’s efforts at Syrian resettlement.

Reprinted with permission from Temple Beth Sholom
Bi-Cultural Day School Receives Prestigious National Blue Ribbon – the Only Jewish School in the U.S. to Be Honored

Bi-Cultural Day School of Stamford has been selected as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. In winning this award, Bi-Cultural becomes one of 342 schools nationwide – only 50 of which are private schools (and the only Jewish day school) – one of five schools in Connecticut, to be so honored.

“National Blue Ribbon Schools are active demonstrations of preparing every child for a bright future,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in an online address to honorees. According to the Department of Education, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. Bi-Cultural was recognized for its overall academic excellence which has placed it among the nation’s top-performing schools.

Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School Pushes Full STEAM Ahead

Since its unveiling in August, the new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) Lab at the Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School has become a colorful and imaginative space for creativity and discovery. Areas like robotics, wind resistance, weights and measures, and woodworking have already been explored by 3’s and Pre-K classes during their weekly visits to the dedicated classroom, making the addition of the STEAM curriculum a big hit with children and parents alike.

Upon hearing the news, Head of School Jacqueline Herman was thrilled but not surprised. “This coveted award affirms what we at Bi-Cultural have long known – that the commitment and expertise of our talented faculty and staff and the dedication and support of our families and communities have worked together to create a safe, nurturing environment in which our students continue to grow intellectually, spiritually and emotionally,” she said. David Pitkoff, chairman of Bi-Cultural’s Board of Trustees, echoed Mrs. Herman’s sentiment. The Blue Ribbon designation, he noted, is recognition that Bi-Cultural is “not only one of the finest Jewish day schools in the metropolitan area, but one of the finest schools, both private and public, in the entire country.” Those responsible for this achievement, he said, include Bi-Cultural’s “incomparable” Head of School Jackie Herman, as well as the school’s group of administrators, associate principals, faculty and staff, “whose commitment, dedication and talent has enabled our school to stand out as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.”
The Greenwich Historical Society’s landmark exhibition: “An American Odyssey: The Jewish Experience in Greenwich,” opens on November 15th. This is a not-to-be missed and captivating collection of historic memorabilia and first-person accounts from Jewish residents of Greenwich. The exhibition chronicles the previously untold story of Greenwich’s Jewish community dating to the turn of the last century. It examines how Jews, like other immigrants, struggled with the pull to integrate into American society and yet also the desire to remain distinct.

The significant contributions of Greenwich Jews to the cultural and economic vitality of the town, despite their humble beginnings, low numbers and episodes of discrimination and restrictions on worship, employment and housing opportunities, are all explored. Seven over-arching themes depict their journey, each supported by richly evocative stories, original objects, documents and photographs, and first-person quotations and audio recordings. These themes are: Jews in Colonial Greenwich; Mass Migration of Eastern European Jews; The Town the Settlers Found; Gaining an Economic foothold 1880-1930; The Founding of Temple Sholom; Immigration Ends, Anti-Semitism Intensifies 1924-1940s; and Postwar Greenwich Jews Suburbanize.

“This is among the most significant exhibitions in the history of the Historical Society,” says Debra Mecky, executive director. “Despite its relatively small but growing population, the Jewish community has had an outsized influence on Greenwich. Many of the stores on Greenwich Avenue were established by Jewish immigrants who came here from Eastern Europe with little or no money. From their humble beginnings as street peddlers, they helped shape our thriving retail sector. Many Jewish families have made their mark through generous philanthropy, which has contributed enormously to the town’s vitality. The story of this Jewish community is integral to understanding Greenwich’s legacy and prominent stature in the United States.”

Organization and Support

The exhibition is curated by Dr. Ann Meyerson, a nationally recognized independent museum curator who most recently co-curated “The First Jewish Americans: Freedom and Culture in the New World” at the New-York Historical Society.

Generous support is provided by Lawrence Benenson, The Blavatnik Family Foundation, Jessica and Drew Guff, Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr., Isabel and Peter Malkin, Mrs. David A. Messer, Ruth and Harold Newman, Davidde and Ron Stackbein, and the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation. The Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the Greenwich Library Oral History Project and the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County for their significant contributions to the exhibition.

“The American Odyssey follows on exhibitions that explored the contributions to Greenwich from its Italian and Japanese communities,” says Peter Malkin. “The reimagined Greenwich Historical Society’s campus, scheduled to open in 2018, will permit the Society to host more and larger exhibitions and contribute even more to our Town, upon the successful conclusion of the Historical Society’s Capital Campaign.”

The exhibition, which opens on November 15 and runs to April 15, is located at the Greenwich Historical Society, 39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807. See greenwichhistory.org for additional details.
The Post-ISIS Void: The New Realities of Today’s Middle East

with Guest Speaker Robert Ford
Former U.S. Ambassador to Syria
Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 pm
at Temple Sholom
300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT

Ambassador Ford is a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington after serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Syria from 2011 to 2014. In this role, Ambassador Ford was the State Department lead on Syria, proposing and implementing policy and developing common strategies with European and Middle Eastern allies to try to resolve the Syria conflict.

RSVP Required to Alice Schoen, 203-542-7165, alice.schoen@templesholom.com.

Free and open to the community.
From the Rabbi

🌟 The Sukkot–Thanksgiving Connection: Finding a Way Home 🌟

by Rabbi Jordie Gerson, Greenwich Reform

In this season of thanksgiving, it’s not uncommon for rabbis to draw a line between Thanksgiving – the American holiday of harvest and gratitude – and Sukkot – the Jewish harvest holiday of joy. And although historians can’t say for sure if the two share historical roots, the opportunity they give us to express our gratitude for the abundance in our lives, reflect on our blessings, and think about those who may not have the same is unparalleled.

With this in mind, I want to share a story about the most beautiful sukkah I have ever seen. A few years back, when I was living in New York City, the organization Reboot – an invitation-only organization for young Jews high up in the media, arts and politics – hosted a sukkah competition in New York City. It was a contest to see who could build the most beautiful, innovative and meaningful sukkot. Held in Union Square, Jewish artists, architects and designers from all over the world were given a year to design and construct sukkot that adhered to the traditional and meaningful sukkot. Held in Union Square, Jewish artists, architects and designers from all over the world were given a year to design and construct sukkot that adhered to the proper halachic, or legal, standards. The sukkot would then be placed in the center of Union Square for a number of weeks, where ultimately, they would be voted on by a panel of judges.

The competition sukkot were, by and large, beautiful. They were works of art. They were constructed from bamboo, or were entirely biodegradable, or made of rough-hewn pine or dyed fabrics. They had a variety of schach (the greenery that forms the ceiling to allow us to see the stars at night in a sukkah) on top, and they were breezy and shaded, large and strangely quiet inside, even in the middle of downtown Manhattan. But the most striking of them was none of these things, and inside, offered precious little peace.

You see, one of the artists in the competition had taken it upon himself to learn not just about the laws of building sukko, but about the history of the holiday. And in the midst of his learning, one of the things he’d come across was that sukkot were only ever intended – and allowed – to serve as temporary dwellings for a people who, although they may have lived in seemingly permanent dwellings, did not, for much of their history of diaspora and exile, feel as if they had a permanent and safe home. And so the artist had traveled the country and in every city he visited had collected cardboard signs from the beggars and runaways and homeless. And he had constructed a sukkah entirely from these cardboard placards. And so the inner and outer walls of his sukkah, were covered in words; words that read: “Hungry, please help.” Or “Living on the streets with my three children, anything helps.” Or, “Please, just enough money for a place to stay.”

It was impossible to stand in that sukkah and not feel a part of the transience and fragility of Jewish history. It was impossible to stand in that sukkah and not feel a small piece of the terror of exile, of wandering toward homecoming. It was impossible to stand in that sukkah and not understand, if only for a moment, how terrifying and destabilizing it must be to be homeless anywhere in America, from New York City, to Connecticut, to Los Angeles.

That sukkah did not win the competition, but I believed then, as I do now, that it should have. Over the past few centuries, there has developed a certain custom among Hasidim of inviting the most destitute members their communities into their sukkot for a good meal and a place to sleep. It is a throwback, in some ways, to the custom of inviting Elijah to our seder tables, and it evokes the language of Passover, of wandering home: “Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are needy come and celebrate.”

This Thanksgiving may we, as we sit and eat in our own homes, as we sleep and rejoice in them, remember those for whom temporary dwellings are not cause to celebrate, those for whom a home open to the sky lasts more than the length of a holiday, and as we do, may we endeavor this Thanksgiving, next Sukkot, and always, to do what we can to help them find a way home.

Kein Yehi Ratzon. May this be God’s will and may it be ours as well.

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 fall marks a momentous milestone for Carmel Academy, as the Greenwich school kicks off a yearlong celebration in honor of its 20th Anniversary. “Our anniversary theme is ‘20 Years of Daring,’ which reflects our founders’ pioneering spirit, and the innovative culture that remains a core value of the Carmel Academy educational experience,” said Head of School Nora Anderson. The ‘20 Years of Daring’ theme will be integrated into the curriculum, as students and faculty will be encouraged to take on academic and personal challenges, as well as pursue a variety of endeavors, such as studying daring figures in history. In honor of this significant year, Carmel Academy will take a step back into 1997 for a “1997 Day,” gather for a 20th Anniversary Erev Tov Annual Dinner and formally honor the architects of the school with a Founder’s Day Celebration. “Two decades ago, a group of 20 parents gathered to do something quite extraordinary – launch a new kind of Jewish day school,” said Anderson. “Our founders had a clear vision of a school that would embrace and celebrate religious diversity; a school whose philosophy would champion a true child-centered educational journey; and a school that would be fully committed to an innovative educational approach. Our founders were aspirational and ambitious – qualities that I am proud to say are a legacy that continues to make Carmel Academy the exceptional school it is today.”

“As we celebrate this notable anniversary, we do so as we proudly welcome our largest incoming early childhood class this fall and graduate our largest class this upcoming spring – a true testament that our founders’ dream of creating a thriving Jewish day school has come to fruition,” Anderson said. “Twenty years later, we have graduated 12 classes – close to 200 students – many whom are now young adults taking the roots they planted at Carmel and making a difference in the world.”

Carmel Academy, which was founded as Westchester Hebrew Academy in 1997, opened its doors on one floor of a synagogue with 14 kindergarten and ten first grade students. Today, the school serves students from transitional kindergarten through 8th grades and is located on a 17-acre historic campus in central Greenwich, attracting more than 225 students from throughout Fairfield and Westchester counties, as well as Riverdale and New York City. Carmel’s commitment to innovation has earned the school prestigious academic invitations including being one of the first schools in the country to pilot and then adopt the renowned E2K STEM program, as well as being selected to pilot the Judaic and general studies Standards and Benchmark programs.
Every Donor Matters – Every Dollar Counts

Have you made your gift to the 2017* Campaign?

Your gift to UJA-JCC Greenwich makes a direct impact on enhancing a safe and vibrant Jewish community locally, in Israel and overseas.

Call: 203-552-1818, Mail: One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830, Visit: www.ujafedgreenwich.org

Thank you for your generosity!

*Campaign ends December 31, 2017

---

Shir Ami Szydloowiec Torah to Be Included in Greenwich Historical Society Exhibit

Congregation Shir Ami’s Torah will be on view as part of the Greenwich Historical Society exhibit, “An American Odyssey: The Jewish Experience” scheduled to run from November 15, 2017 through April 15, 2018. This historic Torah was saved from destruction in the Holocaust and hidden by a Catholic family in the village of Szydlowiec, Poland, from the day the Jews were deported until it was discovered and brought to Congregation Shir Ami by member Barry Stein. Because it had been wrapped in a horse blanket and hidden in the family cellar, the Torah was preserved in excellent condition.

Experts date the Torah from the 1880’s and were impressed by the quality and artistry of the parchment and ink. Barry Stein made contact with survivors from the village of Szydlowiec who now live in the United States. At a luncheon with Barry Stein and Rabbi Axe, the survivors expressed disbelief, and then awe at the discovery of their Torah. They attended the Service of Dedication, which took place during Shabbat Services in May 2005, and they participated in a ceremonious passing of the Torah from one generation to another.

“Every Torah holds secrets hidden within the sacred texts that will never be revealed,” noted Rabbi Axe. “The secrets that are common to all Torah scrolls are the untold parts of the stories of our ancient Biblical ancestors. The unique journey of each Torah scroll holds the secrets of every member of every community where the Torah has found a home. This sacred Torah has had a rich journey, some of it tragic, all of it noble. Congregation Shir Ami is honored to be part of the journey, and it is our prayer that our Torah has found a joyous and worthy home with us.”

On loan for the exhibit are the original Breast Plate, Yad, and Torah Cover which was restored and is on permanent display at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Greenwich where Shir Ami holds Shabbat services.

---

Hebrew Wizards

118 River Rd, Cos Cob • www.Hebrewizards.com • Rabbi Deb 203-249-4036 • rabbiwizard@gmail.com

Classes for ages 2 to 18

---

DON’T JUST DREAM IT…

JOIN TEMPLE SHOLOM ON AN INTERFAITH EXPLORATION OF ISRAEL

with Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz & The Rev’d Dr. James B. Lemler

February 12–20, 2018

Highlights of the trip include:

• Tree Planting at Neot Kedumim
• ATV Rides in the Golan Heights
• Nature Walking in Upper Galilee
• B’nai Mitzvah Ceremony
• Exploring the Mystical City of Tsfat
• Visit Mount of Beatitudes and Ancient City of Capernaum
• Swimming in the Dead Sea
• Ascending Masada
• Desert Camel Rides
• Volunteer Project in Tel Aviv
• Shabbat with Local Families
• Mount of Olives and Western Wall Tunnels
...and so much more!

LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

Reservations are now being accepted at:
www.israelmaven.com/minisite/greenwich_interfaith/

For more information, contact Lori Baden, 203-542-7172, lori.baden@templesholom.com.
ADULT EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies

A Voice of Conscience: Uncovering Mass Murder from the Holocaust to Today
With Fr. Patrick Desbois, Commission for Relations with Judaism of the French Bishops’ Conference
Quick Center for the Arts – Wednesday, November 15, 8:00 pm

How American Jews Mobilized to Free Soviet Jewry: Lessons for Activism Today
With Dr. Shaul Kelner, Associate Professor of Sociology & Jewish Studies, Vanderbilt University
Dolan School of Business Dining Room – Tuesday, November 28, 7:30 pm

Chabad of Greenwich

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

Parsha with Classic Commentaries – Thursdays, 9:45-10:45 am
Chassidic Philosophy Class – Shabbat, 8:45-9:30 am

Congregation Shir Ami

Shabbat Talks: Experience Worth Sharing with Homegrown Experts
“The Story of Adolph Schwimmer, Winner of the 2006 Israel Prize”
With Stanley Gratt – Friday, Dec. 1, 7:30 pm
“Compassion, Fatigue, and Spiritual Resilience”
With Marie Orsini Rosen – Friday, January 5, 7:30 pm
“A Change of Heart: Exploring Ways to Help Ourselves and Others Move from Hate and Fear,”
With Susan Nisinzweig – Friday, February 2, 7:30 pm

Greenwich Reform

Ethical Issues in Judaism
With Rabbi Robert Rothman – Sundays, 10:30 am
To register, call 203-629-0018 or email info@grs.org

UJA-JCC Greenwich

UJA-JCC Greenwich Annual Meeting – Thursday, November 30, 7 pm
“From Head of the Boardroom to Head of the Class” with Alon Futterman
Carmel Academy, 270 Lake Ave., Greenwich

Current Event Series with Alfred Hunt – America and Americans: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
“American Exceptionalism” – Friday, December 8
“Quo Vadis?” – Friday, February 9
One Holly Hill Lane, 10-11:30 am. Register at jccgreenwich.org or call 203-552-1818.

Shabbat Study with Temple Sholom Clergy – Saturdays, 9-10 am
Lunch & Learn – Tuesdays, 12pm-1pm
Kosher lunch provided

Jewish Meditation – Wednesday, November 15, 7-8 pm
The Post-ISIS Void: The New Realities of Today’s Middle East – Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 pm
With guest speaker, Robert Ford, Former U.S. Ambassador to Syria
Presented by Temple Sholom and AJC
Registration is required to Alice Schoen at alice.schoen@templesholom.com.

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!

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

Talmud Lunch and Learn
Interactive Learning from Great Teachers

Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 pm
Free lunch, open to the community
One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich

Sponsored by Rita Edelston

Foreign Affairs
Rabbi Avram Mlotek .................................................. November 30
Stars, Stripes and Lights
Rabbi Yossi Deren ................................................... December 7
The Jewish Mother
Sarah Kelly, PhD .................................................... December 14
Deadly Issues - Part II
Chaim Lauer .......................................................... December 21
No class - Tenth of Tevet ............................................. December 28
In Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls
Joseph Angel, PhD .................................................. January 4
Moses and the Burning Bush
Rabbi Menachem Feldman ........................................ January 11
Iceberg, Goldberg
Michael Feldstein ..................................................... January 18
Tu B’Shvat
Meredith Leric .......................................................... January 25
Prayer As Conundrum
Chaim Lauer ......................................................... February 1
Love and Consent in Judaism
Rabbi Daniel Gropper ................................................ February 8
Yitro and the Ten Commandments
Rabbi Elisha Paul .................................................... February 15
Purim Powwow: How Green Is My Queen?
Chaim Lauer .......................................................... February 22

Check JCC calendar for updated schedule
Sunday Funday TOTS – little people with BIG hearts making stuffed bears and cards for children who are served by the MetCouncil on Jewish Poverty.

J.T.A.C.

Jewish Teen Action Committee

Sundays
Jan 7, Feb 25, Mar 18, Apr 22, May 6

5:30-7pm | $12 per session includes dinner at meetings
$150 for the year includes all meetings & projects
One Holly Hill Lane, unless otherwise noted

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

DECEMBER 3

Chanukah Helpers at the Dreidel Ball
3-5pm | Carmel Academy, 270 Lake Avenue

Volunteer at our annual kids Chanukah party. Help the DJ keep the party going with activities, games, snacks and projects.
Women’s Philanthropy
Honoring Carolyn Surgent
Fall Brunch—October 11

Heartfelt thanks and kudos to Fall Brunch 2017 Event Chairs Suzanne Katz, Allison Jackson and Mugs Zales for a wonderful event and Mazel Tov! to honoree Carolyn Surgent.

Gems from Carolyn’s Inspiring Message

I am happy and deeply honored to be here today. How did I get here? If you count backwards, it seems like a thread, a clear path, but of course, it’s not. Its more like a web woven by so many who helped me, a web of values, service, tzedakah, and support for being part of this tribe.…

Today I stand on a foundation firmed up by people who matter a lot, you did a lot for me. I’m here having set an intention to live with love as a guide, with openness to what came next, with strength from my husband and my beautiful girls, Kate and Josie, and always following what’s at my center. By caring for the things that matter, the right things seem to happen.…

What we’re doing in this room today – bridging the past, present and future – in a line that reaches from thousands of years ago to the work some of the women in this room did to pave the way for us here in Greenwich and the glue that is the UJA. We are all the keepers of this gift. We all share the hope that this community and all the communities we touch will endure for our children and our children’s children.…

Its a privilege to belong here. I’m deeply grateful and honored for this moment. Let’s find solace and strength in the values that we hold at our center. We are all privileged to belong. And we can save the world by caring for it.
Ladies Night Out with Author Orli Auslander

BIG thanks to our hosts, the Tipermas family!

All Beers Considered with Chef Geoff Lazlo
Thank You to All Our Fall Brunch Supporters

Raffle Donors

Horseneck Wines
Indulge Salon & Beauty Bar
Jaafar Salon & Beauty Bar
JenW Collection
Julie Brimberg Photography
Maison D’Alexandre
Mill Street Bar & Table

The Old Greenwich Social Club
Pino’s Palette
Dr. Dale Atkins Rosen
Sephora
Shoes-n-More
Threads & Treads
Trends Unlimited
World Of Beer

Patrons

Bonnie Citron
Romy Cohen
Alice Delikat
Rita Edelston
Andi Fern
Joanne & Franklin Friedman
Marlene Gilbert
Joui Hessel
Bryanna Kallman
Judith Kallman
Suzanne Katz
Pat Laus
Robin Zisson Leader
Abby Levy
Dina Klein Lunder
Amanda Miller
Jill Oberlander
Ellen Schapps Richman
Dr. Dale Atkins Rosen
Alma Rutgers
Cori SaNogueira
Debra Shore
Debbie Simon
Madeline Simon
Sandy Soule
Helen Stark
Deborah Steyn
Ronna Sussman
Christine Toback
Jane Weitzman
Mugs Zales
Nancy Zisson

Carmel Academy Students Create Dale Chihuly-Inspired Art Installation

A Sukkah Decoration Like No Other

When Carmel Academy’s art teacher Lori Amer visited the breathtaking Dale Chihuly exhibit at the New York Botanical Garden last spring, she knew immediately that she had to bring the magic of the groundbreaking artist back to her students. Amer did just that – with a school-wide Chihuly-inspired art installation that was displayed in Carmel Academy’s Sukkah.

“Chihuly is such an approachable artist,” Amer said of the world-renowned glass sculptor. After learning about the artist – his life, his unusual works and his trailblazing techniques – the entire student body came together to create their own Chihuly-inspired art using recycled plastic, acrylic paint and permanent markers. The colorful pieces were then assembled in Chihuly-like chandeliers and hung in the Sukkah.

All the students – from the school’s youngest to oldest – contributed to the project, Amer said. “The students also learned about the two mitzvot they were performing in making this art: beautifying the Sukkah and Bal Tashchit (recycling),” Amer said.

“The enthusiastic reaction to this project by the students, parents and wider community is unprecedented,” Amer said. “In my 15 years teaching at Carmel Academy, this has been the most talked about art project. Many Carmel Academy families have since visited the New York Botanical Garden to see the Chihuly show, and I am still getting excited questions and comments from my students about the project and the exhibit.”
What happens when you mix together a little bit of paint with a lot of love? According to the Class of 2018 at Bi-Cultural Day School, you come up with a formula for spreading a plow-full of positive energy and warm feelings throughout the community. In other words, you make a difference.

The Bi-Cultural students learned that lesson in September when middle-school teacher Adrienne Robinson heard about Paint the Plow, a community outreach program designed to foster friendship and good will throughout the community. The project, which was met with great success in towns in states outside of Connecticut, invites students to paint snow plow blades with original artwork that promote a positive, feel-good message.

Bi-Cultural contacted the Connecticut Department of Transportation – and before you could say “snow storm,” six plow blades were delivered to the Stamford day school, ready to be painted by members of the Class of 2018, making Bi-Cultural the first “Paint the Plow” school in the state.

Divided into groups during the students’ leadership training program – an integral and annual part of the Bi-Cultural eighth-grade curriculum – the students brainstormed meaningful one-word messages they felt were important to share with the community.

Then, on a recent Sunday they got together on the Bi-Cultural campus, and each group painted its message on a plow. Now, when the first snow falls this winter, Stamford residents will receive uplifting messages like “Unity,” “Kindness,” and “Humanity” along with cleared roads.

Stay in the know about the happenings in our Greenwich Jewish Community.

Send your email address to wendy@ujafedgreenwich.org.

We will keep you up to date on everything you need to know – about kids, teens, young families, travel, PJ Library, newcomers, films, Lunch and Learn, Women’s Philanthropy, Israel and other Greenwich Jewish organizations.
Bi-Cultural Welcomes Preschoolers to “Gan Ahava”

Preschoolers and first-graders at Bi-Cultural Day School arrived back at school in September to find a surprise right outside the Early Childhood Center. Called “Gan Ahava” – Hebrew for “Garden of Love,” the beautiful new plot was all ready for planting. Enthusiastic young students were aided by their teachers in planting a variety of vegetables, including beets, lettuce, broccoli, carrots, radishes and so much more.

Not only will the preschoolers get to watch the vegetables take root and grow throughout the fall, they will also enjoy lessons related to gardening and the environment, as well as the Jewish values of feeding the hungry and tikkan olam.

Better Together--Hebrew Wizards Mitzvah Moments

What’s Jewish about pumpkins?

We found out with our Senior buddies as we decorated and celebrated Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

REVERSAL OF FORTUNE?

NOT ENOUGH FOOD? FINDING A NEW JOB?

GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT FINANCIAL TIME?

FOOD DELIVERED QUARTERLY WILL BE PROVIDED TO THOSE IN NEED.

A PROJECT OF CHAIAD GREENWICH IN COOPERATION WITH JHS OF GREENWICH

BEEKEEPER BETH BOYER AND CHEF GEOFF LAZLO WHO TREATED BOARD MEMBERS TO A SEASONAL TASTING OF APPLES AND HONEY AT THE SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING.
Upcoming Programs

HOME SAFETY: ONE OF THE MOST OVERLOOKED ASPECTS OF AGING AT HOME
Home safety tips, checks, and recommendations.
Tuesday, 11/14, 7:00 pm

JFS BOOKBEAT: FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ
Share thought-provoking books with Jewish themes
Wednesdays, 11/29, 1/24, 3/7, 5/2, 6/27; 7:30 pm
Next up: Stolen Beauty by Laurie Lico Albanese, November 29

INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS
Explore the opportunities and challenges of interfaith living.
Monday, 11/13; 7:00 pm

GREENWICH HOSPITAL SHABBAT
Welcome Shabbat in partnership with the Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, in the hospital's Chapel, broadcast LIVE on Channel 75 in all patient rooms. Every Friday at 1:00 pm

RENEWAL OF BODY, RENEWAL OF SPIRIT HEALING SERVICE
Heal together in a supportive community, led in partnership with the Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, in the hospital's Chapel.
Mondays, 11/13, 12/11, 1/8, 2/12; 12:15-12:45 pm

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Friendly Visitors / Grocery Shopper
Make a difference in the life of a Greenwich senior. Volunteers are needed to visit and/or grocery shop for homebound residents. Time commitment is two hours per week.

Bikur Cholim
Visit Jewish patients in Greenwich Hospital. Time commitment can be as little as two hours semi-monthly.

All program information is available at www.jfsgreenwich.org or call 203-622-1881 for more information.

New Fall Discussion Groups

WORK LIFE BALANCE...IS IT ATTAINABLE?
For working moms! Discuss your feelings and concerns with others who understand. Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm

NEW TO TOWN?
Let’s talk about adjusting to suburban life. Fridays, 9-10 am

NEW MOM?
Overwhelmed with your new baby? Want to talk with others but can’t leave home? Join others to discuss online. Tuesdays, 9-10 am

STRUGGLING WITH FAMILY DYNAMICS
Having trouble with your in-laws? It happens a lot! We’ll help you understand and manage the relationships. Tuesdays, 11 am-12 pm

MOTHERLESS DAUGHTERS
Cry, laugh, and talk about what it feels like to lose your mother at a young age. There is no more powerful way to heal.
Wednesdays, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

PARENTS OF LGBTQ
Unsure how to chart the new waters of your child’s identity? Learn how to help them and yourself to build mutual understanding. Wednesdays, 12-1 pm

WHAT IS YOUR WHALE?
We will examine the Book of Jonah as a template for contemporary life. Fridays, 12-1 pm

All groups are facilitated by JFS staff.
Contact us at 203-622-1881 to register.

ONGOING DISCUSSION GROUPS INCLUDE:

Bereavement Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am
Divorce Tuesdays, 11:30am-12:45pm
Living Well in Later Life Tuesdays, 10:30-11:45 am
Fractured Families, Healing Hearts Tuesdays, 1-2:15 pm

With JFS – You Are Never Alone

Greenwich Woods Residents Celebrate Simchat Torah
Supermarketing for Seniors:
So Much More than Shopping!

A Supermarketing for Seniors shopper confirmed with one of her clients that she would come by the next morning. The call in this case was to remind the client, to be prepared with her shopping list ahead of time, since impaired memory is only one of her significant health issues.

At 8:30 the next morning the client didn’t answer the phone. Her shopper called for more than an hour, increasingly concerned that the client was in distress, not just in the shower or visiting a neighbor. After consulting with the JFS office, the shopper went to the apartment and had the property manager (the Greenwich Housing Authority) open the door. They found the client on the floor, unable to get up or call for help. After a call to 911 and a few days’ stay in the hospital, the client was once again brought safely back home. A happy ending!

If you or someone you know would benefit from our grocery shopping services, please call Elyse Brown, Program Director, at 203-622-1881. How can we help you?

Supermarketing for Seniors Took Part in the Greenwich Commission on Aging Health & Wellness Expo

SPECIAL DONATIONS

to Jewish Family Services

In Honor of:
Alexander Vitale, by Susan and Jerry Davis

In Memory of:
Mildred Kaplowitz, by Sandy and Steven Soule
Max Kneller, by Sandy and Steven Soule
Max Kneller, by Joan and Robert Mann
Max Kneller, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner

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.

More from Supermarketing for Seniors

On November 17th, Patsy Schumacher, LCSW, case worker with the Greenwich Department of Human Services, will address Supermarketing for Seniors shoppers on “How to Help People Who Are Hard to Help.” SFS shoppers attend periodic meetings that give them the opportunity to socialize over refreshments, share tips and techniques they may use with their clients, and to learn from outside experts about topics that will help them as SFS shoppers and in their daily lives. Some past topics of discussion have included reading nutrition labels on packaged food, identity theft prevention, and how to talk with people diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer shopper with Supermarketing for Seniors, with a commitment of as little as two hours per week, contact Elyse Brown, Program Director, at 203-622-1881.

Temple Sholom Teens Engage in Yom Kippur Tikkun Olam

On Yom Kippur morning, Temple Sholom held a special social action program for its teen community. Teens sorted donations from the temple’s Annual High Holiday Food Drive and carried them next door to Neighbor to Neighbor to help stock the pantry shelves.
Bi-Cultural Creates a Unique “Junior Makerspace” For Preschoolers

Since it was unveiled in February 2106, the Makerspace Lab at Bi-Cultural Day School has become a breeding ground for student creativity; a place where budding young inventors in grades 1 through 8 can bring their imaginative, innovative ideas to life. The success of Makerspace in stimulating learning and fostering creativity among older students prompted Bi-Cultural administrators and faculty to think outside the box. And so, over the summer Bi-Cultural built an activity-filled Makerspace for preschoolers – the first of its kind in Connecticut.

“We created this new early childhood Makerspace because it’s a natural fit for this age group. These early ‘makers’ naturally have creative and vivid imaginations,” says Beth Fritz, a third-grade teacher at Bi-Cultural. Fritz, together with middle school teacher Adrienne Robinson, was responsible for setting up the school’s first Makerspace and brought their expertise to bear on the conceptualization and construction of the early childhood space. “Children at this age have been ‘makers’ long before the rest of the world caught on. Our job is just to give them the space to unlock their own creativity,” says Robinson. According to Fritz, “We want them to find solutions to problems by trying something different. The ‘trying something different’ is what led to the Makerspace to begin with.”

Bi-Cultural plans to give young families an opportunity to see the space “in action” at a Grand Opening and other events, to be scheduled for later this fall. For more information contact Denise Rafailov at drafailov@bcds.org or 203-329-2186 x1310.

PJ Library Story Walk at Greenwich Reform

PJ Library visited Greenwich Reform for a Story Walk based on chapters in the “PJ” book First Gift. First Gift introduces the tradition of naming and names of the world. We explored our heritage through Story Walk stations including: hospitality in Abraham and Sarah’s tent, an imaginary journey with Adam on his exit from Gan Eden, and the creation of each person’s family tree. Rabbi Gerson, Eliana Hall, Greenwich Reform’s Director of Education, Hebrew school staff and madrichim-youth leaders all helped to make the Story Walk interesting and fun!
Join us for a Special Celebration: Wizards Winter Carnival, Concert & Talent Show.

Date: Sunday, December 17
Time: 9:30 am-12 pm
Where: Wizards Building
118 River Road
Cos Cob
Why: Hebrew Wizards Celebrates its Bat Mitzvah Year!
The Dreidel Ball

Looking for a great family party? Your best bet is the Dreidel Ball on Sunday, December 3rd, 3:30-5 pm right here in Greenwich. Families are invited to dress up in their Hanukkah finest and go wild to jams by our DJ. As any Sunday schooler will tell you, a gambling game with a dreidel-like spinner was big in the second century BC, when Antiochus IV ruled. But nevermind the history lessons – go straight for the latkes and sufganiyot. Event Chairs Rebecca Cooper, Stephanie Esquenazi and Hillary Rosenthal have a wonderful event in store.

Besides fun and games, the annual Hanukkah bash presented by UJA-JCC Greenwich PJ Library invites partygoers to bring gently used children’s dress clothes for the MetCouncil on Jewish Poverty’s Children’s Clothing Closet. “This event will be a great way to bring together children and parents from across the Jewish community for a spirited, joyful party celebrating Hanukkah. We are also teaching them the importance of tzedakah by providing other children with the opportunity to get dressed up and feel special,” says Stephanie Esquenazi. Rebecca Cooper agrees. “The 2017 Dreidel Ball is unique this year because it’s about giving back. As much as it’s important to celebrate, it’s also important to recognize those children who aren’t as fortunate. That was the motivation behind encouraging the kids to not only dress up but to be aware of those children who don’t have the same luxury.” Hillary Rosenthal adds, “Doing good is an essential value we want to instill in our children. Having fun while doing good is a winning combination. We look forward to celebrating these traditions with our friends and families in the community. And it’s going to be a great party!”

For additional details call 203-552-1818 or visit jccgreenwich.org.

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, November 19
UJA-JCC Greenwich
Community Cares
A day of family hands-on service
to benefit Schoke JFS Kosher Food Pantry
YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Ave., 3:30-5 pm

Thursday, November 30
UJA-JCC Greenwich
Annual Meeting
“From Head of the Boardroom to Head of the Class”
With Alon Futterman
Carmel Academy, 270 Lake Avenue, 7 pm

Sunday, December 17
Chabad of Greenwich
Chanukah Concert
With the Maccabeats
GHS Performing Arts Center, 10 Hillside Road, Greenwich, 11:15 am

Sunday, January 7
Temple Sholom
Party Planning Showcase & Mitzvah Project Fair
Temple Sholom, 11 am-1 pm

Saturday, January 27
Temple Sholom
Annual Gala
Honoring Travis Azous, Beth Cutler, and Phyliss Rakowitz
Temple Sholom, 7 pm
CURRENT EVENT SERIES WITH ALFRED HUNT

America and Americans: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Discussions about our place in this globalized world

FRIDAYS, DECEMBER 8 AND FEBRUARY 9
10am-11:30am | $40 per session, $110 for the series
One Holly Hill Lane

Alfred Hunt is Professor Emeritus at Purchase College-SUNY, where he was the Dean of Letters and Science and professor of History for 30 years. He has twice been a Fulbright Scholar teaching at the University of Venice, Italy and at the University of the West Indies in Barbados, and has recently taught four semesters of the Semester-at-Sea program through the University of Virginia, where he taught while circumnavigating the world on four semester-long voyages. Professor Hunt is a recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Teaching and author of books and articles on slavery and American culture.

DECEMBER 8
American Exceptionalism
America’s self-proclaimed uniqueness as a global culture: Delusional historical myth or realistic reflection of our continued international role? How does the rest of the world view us today?

FEBRUARY 9
Quo Vadis?
Where do we Americans go from here? George Orwell’s dystopian novel 1984 has once again become very popular. Was it prescient? What does the future hold for us given our rapidly changing world?

DAVIS FILM FESTIVAL

7pm | $15 per film, $125 for the season
Bow Tie Cinema, 2 Railroad Ave

DECEMBER 6
On The Map
Dani Menkin / Documentary / USA / 85 min.
Still demoralized after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Israel was hungry for a collective, uplifting event. See how one Tel Aviv basketball team no one thought could win toppled the four-time defending European champions and put Israel firmly on the map.

JANUARY 17
The Women’s Balcony
Emil Ben Shimon / Comedy, Drama / Israel / 96 min.
The collapse of a women’s balcony in an Orthodox synagogue sets off a major rift in its devout Jerusalem community.

FEBRUARY 21
Moos
Job Gosschalk / Comedy-Romance / Netherlands
Moos has always dreamed of going to acting school, but was held back by her grieving father after her mother’s death. Now that Moos’s best friend comes back to town, she wants to prove that she can achieve her dreams. But obstacles abound. There’s the handsome singing teacher, her father’s new girlfriend, the fact that she didn’t actually get accepted to acting school and her growing affection for her childhood friend.

MARCH 14
The Quiet Heart
Eitan Anner / Drama / Israel / 92 min.
Naomi is a secular young woman who seeks refuge from her life as a concert pianist. She makes two unexpected connections—one with a musically gifted Ultra-Orthodox young boy and the other, a charismatic Italian monk and organist; both of which make Naomi a target in her new community. Faced with escalating isolation and violence, she must learn to use music as a bridge to overcome religious barriers.

Members of JTAC Picking Apples at Stewart’s Fruit Farm – More Than 200 lbs. Donated to Bronx Jewish Community

Journalist Samuel G. Freedman Shares Insights on “Front Page News: The War Against the Media”
This Hanukkah,
DO GOOD EVERYWHERE. FROM ANYWHERE.

It’s Hanukkah! You’re in the kitchen frying up latkes. You’ve lit the menorah, and given out gifts to the kids. These are good things you do every year for your family.

But while you’re doing them—why not do good things for your global family as well? Things like: nurturing and strengthening Jewish life, helping vulnerable populations, inspiring youth, and safeguarding our people.

This Hanukkah, change Jewish lives for the better everywhere. You can do it from anywhere, even your own kitchen.

Please give generously to UJA-JCC Greenwich.