Newsworthy

PJ Library Around Town
Storytime at Greenwich Library came to life when Carmel Academy’s Morah Diane Holsten led a special Purim story time. JBabies moms visited with Rabbi Deborah Salomon in Hebrew Wizards’ joyful space.

Ariel Berger on Witness at Carmel Academy
UJA-JCC sponsored award-winning author Berger to talk with 6th, 7th and 8th graders about his book, Witness. Fully engaged students left with a deep knowledge of Elie Wiesel’s legacy.

Chloe Valdary at GHS
As part of Diversity Week at Greenwich High School, UJA-JCC brought in Valdary, a pro-Israel advocate with an inspirational message, to address more than 100 students with her framework for conflict resolution and how it might be applied to Israel and the Palestinians.

Women’s Education Symposium
More than 75 women attended a morning of enrichment and social connection at Greenwich Reform Synagogue, sponsored by UJA-JCC Greenwich and UJF of Greater Stamford. See photos on page 11.

From Lerner & Loewe to Leonard Cohen, Ideas & Arts Abound This Spring!

An Evening of Lerner & Loewe
Wednesday, May 29

Lyricist Alan Jay Lerner and composer Frederick Loewe created some of the most iconic musicals on Broadway and the silver screen including Brigadoon, Camelot, Gigi and Paint Your Wagon. On the evening of Wednesday, May 2, as Lincoln Center dances all night to the twosome’s legendary My Fair Lady, UJA-JCC Greenwich will honor Lerner and Loewe with a similarly dazzling show at Greenwich Library’s Cole Auditorium (101 West Putnam Avenue).

The program highlights their work from the Golden Age of Broadway, featuring smash hit numbers such as “The Rain in Spain,” “I Could Have Danced All Night” and “Almost Like Being in Love.” Guest artists Rebecca Cooper, Regina Elliott, Daniel Frankel and Jacob Litt, alongside director Marissa Cortese and musical director Zachary Kampler, will bring these and other Lerner and Loewe show tunes to life, accompanied by a three-piece orchestra.

To further salute the evening’s namesakes, Broadway producer Jack Viertel will introduce their featured songs, provide historical context and share engaging anecdotes about their collaboration. Rebecca Cooper, Artistic Director and singing quartet member, said: “In developing this program, it only seemed natural to highlight the music of Lerner and Loewe. Their iconic music is a natural appeal to so many generations who grew up listening to some of the most beloved musicals of all time. The commentary by Broadway producer Jack Viertel provides an extra insight to the men behind the music.”

An Evening of Lerner and Loewe opens with a 7 pm reception followed by the 7:30 performance. Tickets are available at ujajcc.org, with levels as follows: Patron: $613 (includes four tickets); Sponsor: $360 (includes two tickets); Event: $36 in advance, $50 at the door.

Private Museum Tour: Leonard Cohen: A Crack in Everything

On Wednesday, June 5, beginning at 10:30 am, UJA-JCC Greenwich will enjoy a private tour with Curator Kelly Taxter.

“‘There is a crack, a crack in everything. That’s how the light gets in.’ These powerful lyrics from Leonard Cohen’s song 'Anthem' inform the title of a much-anticipated exhibition at The Jewish Museum, Leonard Cohen: A Crack in Everything. On Wednesday, June 5, beginning at 10:30 am, UJA-JCC Greenwich will enjoy a private tour with Curator Kelly Taxter.

Thank you for your generous support of the Annual Campaign for UJA-JCC Greenwich, your center for Jewish community, culture and caring. Your contributions enable us to fulfill our commitment to the greater Jewish community, whenever and wherever our help is needed. To see where your money goes, refer to Allocation Report on pages 14 and 15.
**Party in the Park**

**JUNE 12 | 10 - 11:30 AM**

Location: **Bruce Park** | Free

We're stretching, jumping, climbing and tumbling with pros from My Gym of Stamford who will play lovingly with the kids in a My Gym set-up of fun, physically engaging activities. Children love to tumble! Come out for the fun and invite your friends. Snacks included.

Event Chairs: **Rebecca Cooper & Jamie Kesmodel**

---

**Purim Story Time at Greenwich Library**

After an exciting Purim Story Time with Carmel Academy educator, **Diane Holsten**, PJ Library friends made Purim masks together and tested their new personas. Many thanks to our friends at Greenwich Library for hosting four action-packed PJ Library story times this season. BIG THANKS to Story Time Co-Chairs **Erika Brunwasser** and **Rita Teichner** for helping to create welcoming, creative story time experiences for all.

---

**PJ Library at GRS for Purim Program**

UJA-JCC Greenwich brought the PJ Library spirit to Greenwich Reform with Purim story time and fun projects. After Purim stories, little friends made crafty goggers, while the big kids prepared Hamentashen from scratch. We enjoyed our time together with GRS families and teachers!
Join Joui & Friends for MORE Stimulating Conversation, Ideas & Connections

Joui, also known as Rabbi Hessel, was ordained by HUC-JIR in 2001. Prior to her consulting work she served Washington Hebrew Congregation for thirteen years. Joui continues active service in Greenwich as a Vice President of UJA-JCC Greenwich Women’s Philanthropy and an Executive Board member of the Greenwich United Way. She lives in Old Greenwich with her husband, Jimmy Hexter, and their daughter.

This series is a gift to the community sponsored by UJA-JCC Women’s Philanthropy

The Book of Ruth

What Really Happened on the Threshing Floor?

Friday, June 7 - 9:30 am

Our conversation continues with a new twist on text. Join us as we study The Book of Ruth and delve into the love and sex between Ruth and Boaz. How did this archetype of conversion to Judaism influence the future of the Jewish people through her determination, acts of kindness, and calculated mischief? What can we learn from Ruth’s journey?

Joui, Hessel, and friends met for Living Room Learning, The Masks We Wear, in the spirit of Purim. (L-R) Yael Rosen, Andi Fern, Carolyn Sargent, Bonnie Citron, and Joui Hessel.

Martini Madness Fundraiser in January at the Home of Abby and Guy Levy

The event raised funds for PJ Library subscriptions and sandwiches for the Afula Sandwich Club for youth at risk.
Family Community Service – Bring a Stuffy, Make a Stuffy in February

Coordinated by the PJ Library Social Action Committee, our kids had loads of fun, while doing good together, making stuffies for less fortunate children who live in conditions of insecurity and uncertainty. Our little ones were proud to help.

Our latest JBabies get together gave Moms and babies alike the chance to meet Rabbi Deb of Congregation Kehilat Shalom and enjoy playtime with new friends and one another. Chair Alexandra Saltis invites moms and babies for our next visit to Chabad in May.

J Babies Get Around in April

PJ Library Mini Seder in April

UJA-JCC’s family friendly seder, generously sponsored by Kelly and Scott Freishtat and led by Diane Holsten of Carmel Academy, introduced our young PJ Library kids to holiday traditions of matzah, maror, and a whole lot more.
Private Museum Tour:
Leonard Cohen: A Crack in Everything

Continued from page 1

Leonard Cohen: A Crack in Everything marks the first major show entirely devoted to the imagination and legacy of the late songwriter, poet, novelist and singer from Montreal, whose work is celebrated worldwide. Tour participants will enjoy an immersive experience exploring Cohen’s poetic aesthetics of art and life and its enduring impact on the international arts community. A half-century of writing and music making, from his debut in the 1960s and continued creativity right into the 21st century, earned him a fan base across generations.

On display are commissioned works by a selection of artists from around the world, whose work draws inspiration from Cohen’s style and running themes. Participating artists include the Israeli filmmaker Ari Folman, British media artist Tacita Dean, Japanese-German animator Kota Ezawa and Parisian pianist and composer Christophe Chassol.

Beyond the works produced especially for A Crack in Everything, the exhibition also showcases multimedia projections, in which Cohen’s songs are performed over his own drawings, based on audio and visual material he generated in the past five decades. Artists from Lou Doillon and Moby to Ragnar Kjartansson and The National with Sufjan Stevens are among the voices covering Cohen’s music.

Space is limited: tickets ($50 per person) are available at ujajcc.org on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests are requested to check in with UJA-JCC Greenwich staff in the Jewish Museum lobby (1109 5th Avenue, entrance at 92nd Street, New York) 15 minutes before the tour begins.

For further details contact Kelly Goldstein at 203-552-1818.

Carmel Academy 7th Grader Heads to State Geography Bee

Which of these countries does not border the Indian Ocean: Tanzania, Indonesia or Uzbekistan? What state straddles the Tropic of Cancer – Hawaii or Alaska? These are the types of challenging questions Carmel Academy students answered as part of the 2019 National Geography Bee, an annual competition organized by the National Geographic Society designed to inspire students’ curiosity about the world.

For a third consecutive year, one of Carmel Academy’s middle school students qualified for the National Geographic GeoBee State Competition, which will take place at Central Connecticut State University. Carmel Academy seventh grader Micah Taffet’s near-perfect score earned him a spot at the State Geography Bee, one step away from reaching the National Championship, which will take place in Washington, DC this May. “Geography is very interesting, I really like learning about new places, especially cities,” said Micah, adding that learning about geography spans politics, science, history, nature and culture.

Carmel Academy seventh grader Micah Taffet earned a near-perfect score. Carmel Academy eighth grader Sophie Citron, Teacher Darren Bahar, sixth grader Judah Goldemberg and seventh grader Micah Taffet. The trio are the top finishers for the school’s National Geography Bee competition.
Three students at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy-Upper School became filmmakers recently, when they wrapped up a semester devoted to the study of Holocaust history with the production of their documentaries that shed a powerful light on different aspects of the Holocaust. In working on their individual documentaries, the students – seniors Jonathan Agabs and Ella Feuerstein and sophomore Joshua Terr, all of Stamford – were aided by IWitness, a unique program created by the University of Southern California’s Shoa Foundation.

Using the IWitness program, each student created a narrative that was augmented by the first-hand accounts of survivors and witnesses. Through IWitness, the students had access not only to clips of survivor and witness testimonies, but also to voiceover technology. The result is three compelling documentaries on a range of Holocaust-related topics, including “Antisemitism in Europe,” “Diseases in the Ghettos,” and “Auschwitz Behind the Gates.”

The ability to see and hear survivors tell their stories in their own words made the project all the more powerful for the young filmmakers. “When learning about such a traumatic time in history, it was really helpful to hear stories of those who survived and those who helped them start again,” said Ella Feuerstein of her experience.

For the BCHA-Upper School students, the documentaries served as the capstone project of a five-month elective course in which they traced the roots of antisemitism and racism in Europe, the rise of Nazism, and the twisted road to Auschwitz. Upon completion of their documentaries, the students published their videos on IWitness.

Bi-Cultural Upper School Students Create Holocaust Documentaries with the Help of “IWitness”

With All My Heart

THE JEWISH ART OF PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

Wanna Be a Wizard?

Wizards Better2b Community Service Program

Great For All Ages...

EVENING OPTION
Six Tuesday evenings
Beginning May 14
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

MORNING OPTION
Six Wednesday Mornings
Beginning May 15
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Chabad of Greenwich
75 Mason Street

Greenwich Library Exhibits
Carmel Academy Student Artwork

The current exhibition at Greenwich Library showcases the artwork of Carmel Academy students. On display are works created by the school lower and middle school students. Carmel Academy’s transitional kindergarten students explored the colors of the rainbow with paint, paper, stamping and other mediums. First-graders painted watercolor mandalas, while second- and third-graders created radial weavings. The school’s fourth grade studied Impressionist artist Berthe Morisot’s flower paintings and created their own impression of a vase of flowers.

In celebration of Purim, the school’s seventh-graders created colorful ceramic hamantaschen groggers.

The exhibit will be running in the library’s main branch at 101 West Putnam Avenue through the end of April.

Sterling Care
Beyond home care. Life care.

Companions & Personal Care Attendants • Visiting Nurses • Occupational & Physical Therapists • Geriatric Care Management • Alzheimers & Dementia Care

Our Sterling Team
We work with you and your family to provide the healthiest, personalized life in the privacy of your home or residence.

Questions about a loved one? Call for a FREE consultation.

Steven Katz, JD, MBA, LLM, MPH, CPA, CMC, CDP
(203) 532-0500
Tennis Teshuvah: Life Lessons I Learned from the Game of Tennis

by Rabbi Deborah Salomon, Congregation Kehilat Shalom

We are constantly being judged by our actions. How we conduct ourselves in our daily lives tells us a lot about us as individuals. If you are a supervisor, your subordinates are watching. If you are a teacher, your students are taking notes. If you are a parent, your children notice everything and will emulate you. Whether you are a figurehead, a sports icon or superstar, CEO or top official, the world watches and expects a certain demeanor. That is why last year's controversy that surrounded Serena Williams' match made me think long and hard about what it is to be an admired world class tennis player.

Tora and its secret messages must be practiced religiously, on and off the tennis court. Tennis has always been known as a "Gentleman's Sport." There are no slamming into plexiglass, or drawing fouls like on a basketball court. Refs don't break up fist-fights between players, and fans don't beat up on each other. Tennis is one of those games where players are supposed to conduct themselves with a certain amount of dignity and grace.

The upset of 20-year old Naomi Osaka over Serena's two-turbulent matches made me recall the year's controversy that surrounded Serena Williams' tantrums. Women, like Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova, wished to be number one in the world. As his attitude improved, his coach tragically died in a car accident. To honor his beloved friend, Federer made a pledge to be better, and apologizing for his angry words. Her excuse was: "Men do this all the time." She explained, "The umpire deserved to be disrespected." As an outsider observer, the question I have is: "Do two wrongs make a right?"

There have been many players in the game of tennis whose egos and ill-mannered behavior caused tennis to question whether it was in fact a "Gentleman's Sport." Examples are Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Novak Djokovic, Jeff Tarango, and women, like Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova. But none compared to Serena Williams' tantrums.

The Torah teaches us that Teshuvah is not a term used just for the High Holidays but a practice we use every day. Returning back to G-d, making our U-turn and pledging to be better, and apologizing to those we have wronged and trying to do our best not to make those same mistakes twice. Roger Federer is one great example of Tennis Teshuvah, a phrase I have coined. Back in his teens, he used to throw and kick his racquet. His saving grace was his coach, Peter Carter, who taught him how to be polite and gracious. After years of remolding his character, Federer finally became the person he wished to be. Sadly, just as Roger turned 21, his coach tragically died in a car accident. To honor his beloved friend, Federer made a pledge to be humble and kind and put the "gentleman" back into the game of tennis. As his attitude improved, he climbed to number one in the world.

13 Life Lessons I've Learned From Torah to Tennis

#1. Compete, don't cheat. Lesson: Be fair and honest, not just sometimes but every time.

#2. Always have two racquets with you. Topspin and slices may break your strings. Lesson: Life sometimes throws you a curve ball. Be prepared for anything that comes up.

#3. Lines count. Lesson: Keep proper boundaries in your life.

#4. Doubles is a partnership. Lesson: Work together, stay on your side and know when you have to set each other up.

#5. You always get a second serve. Lesson: Life is filled with second chances.

#6. Don't wait for the ball to come to you. Lesson: Don't hesitate; take advantage of every opportunity.


#8. Don't think about the end result; each point counts. Lesson: Life isn't only about arriving at your destination but enjoying the journey.

#9. Be able to adjust to all the different surfaces. Lesson: Life is filled with challenges and obstacles – make sure you can adapt to any and all of them.

#10. It's not how hard you hit but where you place the ball. Lesson: Be strategic and channel your energy patiently and thoughtfully.

#11. Make each point count. Lesson: Each day is a new opportunity.

#12. Practice makes perfect. Lesson: Grit and perseverance can make you a champion. As Aristotle said: "You are what you repeatedly do; therefore excellence is a habit not an act."

#13. Treat the ball boys and court keepers with respect. Lesson: Every person matters.

In life, you win some and lose some, but it's how you play the game that counts the most. After all, tennis is filled with the sacred mitzvot of the Torah, as the key to life. How else can you explain it when your best score is to win, "Love and Love?"

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.

Welcome to Greenwich! We'd Love to Hear From You!

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

We will extend a hearty “Welcome!”

Bonnie Citron, Chair, UJA-JCC Greenwich Newcomer Committee

Results Driven Real Estate

Whether you are a seller looking to maximize your profit in a complex market or a buyer looking for the right house at the best value, Gila Lewis brings marketing expertise, strong negotiating skills and in-the-trenches knowledge of the Greenwich market to each client. She is committed to meeting all your real estate goals.

GILA LEWIS
Real Estate Salesperson
M 203.249.0858
G.Lewis@houlihanlawrence.com
gilalewis@houlihanlawrence.com

2 SOUND VIEW DR | GREENWICH, CT 06830
GREENWICH BROKERAGE | HOULIHANLAWRENCE.COM

Advanced Electronic Systems, LLC

Howard Friedman
President
Phone (203) 846-0700 www.aessalarm.com
Fire and Burglar Alarms Serviced Locally Since 1973
Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School Launches Summer Program

Adds Second Full-Day Pre-School Class for Fall

The Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School is making a splash this summer by offering rising 3’s, 4’s and Kindergarteners the opportunity to experience the same great curriculum in a new summer format. “Summer at SMNS” will run from June 11 through August 16, and will be offered as five, two-week sessions to provide flexibility for parents. The program will meet Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and will be led by experienced and professional teachers and staff.

“Over the past few years, many parents have inquired about adding a summer program,” said David Cohen, Nursery School Director. “This new summer program will not only provide consistency and structure for children currently enrolled, but will serve as a nice entry point for families who are new to SMNS.”

In addition to launching the summer program, SMNS has also added a second full-day, mixed age pre-school class for the 2019-2020 school year to accommodate the school’s growth. “Our new scheduling options make SMNS available to so many more families,” said Eileen Robin, Temple Sholom’s Executive Director.

To learn more about “Summer at SMNS”, or to inquire about registration for full-day or part-day for the fall, contact David Cohen at 203-622-8121 or david.cohen@templesholom.com.

Shir Ami Names Cantor Jill Abramson as Successor to Rabbi Axe

Great things are ahead for Congregation Shir Ami, as Cantor Jill Abramson becomes the new Spiritual Leader in August 2019. Cantor Abramson has served as the well-loved Senior Cantor and an inspiring teacher at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, for the past twelve years.

“We are thrilled and feel very lucky to have found each other,” noted co-president Dahni Nisinzweig, in speaking about Cantor Abramson. “And we are grateful that she is such a good fit for us, has embraced our mature congregation, and is excited about leading Shir Ami starting this summer!”

Cantor Abramson was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2002, where she now serves as Adjunct Faculty and coaches cantorial students in music preparation. She brings a strong international commitment to her social justice work, having lived in Cameroon, West Africa, taught English in Indonesia, and conceived an Israeli and Arab teen-age choir as part of the international peace program, Building Bridges for Peace.

Expressing her excitement, Cantor Abramson said: “After serving a 1200-family congregation, Shir Ami will be a big change but is exactly what I am looking for at this time in my life. I’m no stranger to the Greenwich Community since my son is a student at Carmel Academy.” Cantor Abramson is married to Rabbi Jonathan Malamy, Director of Spiritual Care & Religious Life at The New Jewish Home on the upper westside of Manhattan. They reside in lower Westchester with their seven year-old son.

Reflecting the general opinions of Shir Ami members, co-president Rick Mason observed: “It was hard to imagine a life beyond Rabbi Axe, but we found that our community was stronger than any one person. Members of Shir Ami stepped into roles of leadership, and now we are ready to forge our future with Cantor Abramson as our new spiritual leader.”

To learn more about Congregation Shir Ami visit www.congregationshirami.org or call 203-900-7976.
Temple Sholom’s Purim festivities included the annual Purim Carnival for all ages, an “Esther Saves the Day” Puppet Show, a family-friendly Hamantaschen Bake, and a Peter Pan-themed Megillah Reading/Shpiel. To view more photos, visit www.templesholom.com/gallery.

Carmel Academy Actors Present “Romeo and Juliet: The Comedy!”

Carmel Academy’s Middle School Theater Troupe proudly presented their debut production of “Romeo and Juliet: The Comedy!” The play was directed by Carmel Academy teacher Maayan Loewenberg, a trained thespian, who wrote the comedic interpretation of this classic Shakespeare drama.

The production was the culmination of Carmel Academy’s afterschool theater program in which the students learned various theatrical techniques and methods. Their main focus was on the Meisner Technique which stresses the actor’s ability to do instead of act, work together with scene partners, and live from one unanticipated moment to the next on stage. The students also practiced stage presence, body language and basic vocal training.

Close to 100 people attended the laugh-out-loud rendition of Romeo and Juliet, and plans are underway for an expansion of the popular theater program.

Steven & Hersh Batkin
Personal & Commercial Insurance

Steve and Hersh Batkin

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

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson CT & NY
917.816.6733 | stacyyoung@raveis.com
stacyyoung.raveis.com

Greenwich Brokerage
45 Field Point Rd,
Greenwich, CT

Scarsdale Brokerage
1 Palmer Ave,
Scarsdale, NY

Scholarships Available for Summer Camp!

To learn more about need-based scholarships, email jewishgreenwich1@gmail.com to request a Rogath camp scholarship application.

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!
ADULT EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

CARL AND DOROTHY BENNETT CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES

26th Annual Holocaust Remembrance Service
Featured speaker: Betty Knoop, survivor of Westerbork and Bergen Belsen
Wednesday, April 24, 4:30 pm, Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola
Co-sponsored with Campus Ministry

CHABAD OF GREENWICH

Sunday Morning Torah Study – 9:30-10:30 am
Email RabbiFieldman@ChabadGreenwich.org for information.
Parsha with Classic Commentaries – Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 am
Chassidic Philosophy Class – Shabbat, 8:45-9:30 am

GREENWICH REFORM

Jewish Ritual from Birth to Death and Beyond
Rabbi Robert Rothman
Sundays, 10:00 am
Introduction to Judaism
Rabbi Jordie Gerson
Two Tuesdays a month, 7:00 pm
To register for these free classes, call 203-629-0018 or email info@gri.org

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
“An Unusual Jewish Journey Out of this World”
Astronaut Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman, the first Jewish American man in space
$18 per adult (children under 18 may attend free with paying adult).
Register at www.templesholom.com
Sunday, April 28, 3:00 pm, Temple Sholom

UJA-JCC GREENWICH

Yom Hashoah Commemoration
With Holocaust survivor Esther Geishals
Wednesday, May 1, 6:00 pm film; 7:00 pm Commemoration
Temple Sholom, 300 E. Putnam Ave., Greenwich

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

Mainstreaming of Anti-Semitism
Yair Rosenberg in conversation with Oren Segal
Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 pm
Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd., Cos Cob
Co-Sponsored with ADL

Davis Film Festival – Bow Tie Cinema Greenwich, 7:00 pm, $15 per film
“Working Women” – Wednesday, June 12, 7:00 pm
2 Railroad Ave., Greenwich

Are you considering taking a class or attending a lecture this Spring?
Look no further!
Here’s 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 Holy Hill Lane, Greenwich
Sponsored by Rita Edelson

The Heroless Haggadah: What Happened to Moses?
Alex Troy____________________________________April 18
The Passover Seder text minimizes Moses’ role in delivering the Israelites from Egypt. Why?

April 25 Passover – No Class

Like Dreamers: When a Jewish Dream Becomes a Reality
Rabbi Shalom Hammer..................................May 2
Assessment of a famous Aggadic story and portion from the Talmud and the significant message for Jewish life, which it offers. Explore how the dream of creating a State of Israel persevered, and how enhancing Jewish unity and preserving a Jewish nation endure.

The Jewish State
Martin Flashner..............................................May 9
It’s Yom Ha’Atzmaut, just the moment to explore Israel’s declaration of statehood.

The Stranger Amongst Us
Rabba Dr. Carmella Abraham..........................May 16
An exploration of the Torah’s exhortation regarding treatment of the stranger.

Mystical Mountain
Rabbi Shmuel Lynn........................................May 23
The 33rd day of the Omer count, the source of all mystical Judaism, is the ideal occasion to consult the Zohar for what transpired at Mt. Meron.

Contemporary Civility in the Age of Hatred
Rabbi Moshe Edelman..................................May 30
Time to brush up on Judaism’s eternal lessons of “Derekh Eretz”: proper behavior, ethics and refinement of the mensch. Texts from Torah to Talmud to today.

Automatons, Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Jewish Identity
Dr. Liz Shayne..............................................June 6
Our smartphones are not yet smart enough, but might the day come when Rabbi Siri is answering questions of Jewish law, and Jewish robots sit at our Shabbat table?

Essential Questions
George Robinson...........................................June 13
The author of “Essential Judaism and Essential Torah” flags two questions that go to the heart of Judaism as a faith tradition: Why do we pray? Why do we do the Torah again and again?

Intuitive Ethics and Subversive Spirituality
Tanya Farber ..............................................June 20
Deep dive into teachings of Sages to transform our daily interactions into sacred moments.

Check UJA-JCC Greenwich calendar for updated schedule.
Women’s Education Symposium, March 2019

The 2019 Annual Women’s Education Symposium, jointly sponsored by the Jewish Book Council, UJA-JCC Greenwich and United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, was held at Greenwich Reform Synagogue. More than seventy-five area women enjoyed a social breakfast and presentations by three Jewish Book Council authors followed by engaging Q&A sessions. Kudos to Honorary Chair Joan Mann, Event Co-Chairs Vivienne Braun and Kim Sands and Women’s Philanthropy Presidents Andi Fern, Silvina Knoll of Greenwich and Tara Shapiro of Stamford for helping to create an engaging morning of learning for community women.

This program was generously sponsored by:

Debra Fram          Debbie Simon
Marlene Gilbert     Sandy Soule
Gila Lewis          Helen Stark
Joan Mann
Alma Rutgers
Laurie Siegel

An Evening with Palestinian Journalist Bassam Eid at the home of Yael and Josh Rosen
UJA-JCC Celebration on April 11
Honoring Alice and Michael Delikat

Photos by Marilyn Roos
UJA-JCC Impact Report

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

Thank you for being the “power of change” with your support of UJA-JCC Greenwich. We are always at work, powering the Jewish community in ways you might not think of, in places you’d never suspect. We’re there in times of crisis and there in quiet moments that transform lives. Your gift makes you part of something powerful. Here’s where your money goes.

Our Overseas Partners:

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

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

Local Organizations:

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, located in Stamford, provides a thorough foundation in secular and Judaic studies. UJA-JCC supports scholarship funding for high school students, now that the Jewish High School merged with Bi-Cultural.

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

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

Jewish Senior Services, located in Bridgeport, is a leader and trusted provider of skilled nursing and senior care services.

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

Local and Global UJA-JCC Programs Supported by Your Contributions:

- Adult Jewish Education
- Chicken Soup Project
- Emerging Leadership Program
- Family Community Service Projects
- Greenwich Jewish News
- Ideas & Arts Programs
- Israel Independence Day
- J Babies
- JFACT
- Jewish Teen Action Committee (JTAC)
- Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning
- Newcomers Network
- Partnership 2gether for Afula Partnership, Our Sister City in Israel
  - Haifa Rape Crisis Center
  - Medical Clowns – Haemek Hospital in Afula
  - Sandwich Club Afula
- PJ Library Books & Events
- Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance
- Yom Ha’atzmaut Celebration

Supported by Donors’ Designated Gifts through UJA-JCC:

- Aharai (for Youth at Risk)
- ATZUM (Combating Sex Trafficking in Israel)
- Birthright Israel
- Carmel Academy
- Davis Film Festival
- Emunah Afula Children’s Center
- Flood and Disaster Relief
- Israel Center for Excellence Through Education
- JDC
- Leket Israel
- Maale Film School Videotherapy Program
- ORT
- United Hatzalah
- Vibe Israel
- Yemin Orde Youth Village
UJA-JCC Mission to Israel, February 2019

Strategic tour of Jerusalem with Dr. Efraim Inbar.

Meeting with a victim of terror and a recipient of the Jewish Agency.

R&D Agricultural tour of Ramat Hanegev.

We met with Holocaust survivors in JDC’s program Photography With Joy.

Private tour of Herzl Museum with Jewish Agency deputy chairman David Breakstone.

Text and tour with Shulie Mishkin at Tel Azeka.
UJA-JCC Mission to Israel, February 2019

911 Memorial near Jerusalem, the only one outside the U.S. to include all victims. Listed here is Greenwich resident, Jason Sabbag.

Rabbi Mois Navon of Mobileye.

A fun stop at Buster’s Cider Factory.

Gush Etzion Memorial for Ezra Schwartz and 3 teens kidnapped and murdered in 2014.
**Yom Ha’Atzmaut Israel Independence Day**

**POP UP CONCERT with Israeli-American Performer Gilad Paz**

**SUNDAY, MAY 5**

Gilad Paz has thrilled audiences in both his native home and the U.S. for over two decades. With fellow Israeli Micha Gilad on keyboards, the duo will perform Israeli and Jewish music favorites alongside classic rock hits, for this year’s Yom Ha’atzmaut celebration with the Greenwich community. **This performance is for the whole family and audience participation is highly encouraged.** Our celebration continues with the Israeli flag raising and Yom Ha’atzmaut crafts for all ages. Free and open to the whole community courtesy of UJA-JCC.

**Yom HaShoah Commemoration**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1**

at Temple Sholom 300 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich

6 pm Film

The Barn
Phil Berger / Documentary / USA / 60 min.

In this captivating and achingly honest film, Barnard student Rachel Kastner and her grandfather Karl Schapiro embark on an emotional journey back to the forgotten barn in Eastern Galicia where a courageous neighbor saved Karl’s life during the Holocaust. Co-produced by Nancy Spielberg and Matthew Hiltzik.

7 pm Commemoration

Esther Geizhals was born in Lodz, Poland in 1929. At the age of 10, she and her family were moved to the Lodz ghetto, where they lived under terrible conditions until 1944. After surviving Auschwitz and Bergen Belsen, Mrs. Geizhals escaped during the death march and ultimately was liberated by the Russian army.

**Author Series**

**War Widow With Author Ziva Bakman Flamhaft**

Wednesday, May 8 | 10 am | YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Avenue | $25

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.

**Honoring our Elders**

**Community Service for Kids & Family**

**MAY 19 | 3:30 - 5:00 PM**

King St. Rehab, 787 King Street, Rye Brook, NY | $36 per family

Did you know that many seniors have few family members with whom to share their life? Help your children understand that they have the power to make a difference. A quiet conversation, smile or hug can mean a great deal to a lonely senior. Come and help uplift elders at King Street Rehab. Together we’ll plant seeds for spring flowers that will blossom in their windows long after our visit! We are thankful to our friends at King Street Rehab for providing this opportunity for our family community service and to the PJ Library Social Action.

Committee: Alona Altman, Romy Cohen, Stephanie Eskenazi, Jamie Kesmodel and Jessica Rickert, PJ Library Chair.

**Private Studio Tour with Ron Agam**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 27**

11 am - 12 pm | $50 per person

Long Island City studio address provided upon registration.

Take in the distinct vocabulary and energy of Ron’s mesmerizing kinetic art and hear how the former fine art photographer opted to follow in his father’s footsteps and pick up a paintbrush.

---

As Israel turns 71, UJA-JCC Greenwich invites the community to celebrate on Sunday, May 5th at Greenwich Town Hall. The event will feature a concert with the talented and energetic Gilad Paz. In addition, we invite families to help raise the Israeli flag. Enjoy And the children will proudly display them! Israel Independence Day festivities are open to the public and free of charge. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors: Meirav & Eyal Alon, Bran & Stuart Berni and Dassi & Noah Yechiel.

Show your support for Israel and sponsor this celebration! Jerusalem: $350; Tel Aviv Builder: $180; Israel Ambassador: $72.

Sponsorship available online at ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.
Rabbi Shimmy Trencher has been appointed principal of the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School, it was announced recently by the school’s President David Pikoff and Head of School Jacqueline Herman. A native of West Hartford, Trencher previously served as principal of the Rabbi Moshe H. Levinson Upper School Hebrew Academy in Rockville, Maryland.

"Rabbi Trencher’s administrative and teaching experience coupled with his extensive student engagement programming make him an outstanding choice for the Upper School Principal at BCHA," said Ms. Herman. "Rabbi Trencher is passionate and dedicated to bringing out the best in each student. I look forward to welcoming him to our dynamic faculty and staff.”

As BCHA Upper School principal, Trencher replaces Rabbi Elisha Paul, who recently announced that he will leave the Stamford high school this summer to become head of school of a Jewish day school located in the south. “We are truly grateful to Rabbi Paul for his dedicated leadership of our high school, for his warmth and kindness and for all he has done and meant to our students and families these past four years,” wrote Mr. Pikoff and Ms. Herman in a letter to the BCHA school community.

JCC Preschool at Greenwich Reform
Open For Enrollment

Greenwich Reform and the Stamford JCC are pleased to announce the opening of their new preschool. The school, operated by the JCC at the brand new-state-of-the-art Cos Cob synagogue, will open in September for the 2019-2020 school year. Utilizing a developmentally appropriate, play-based curriculum for children ages 2-5, the school will recognize and celebrate individual differences and the unique pace at which each child learns. The school director will be Sarah Gregoire, a passionate early childhood educator, who has spent her career shaping young minds. Most recently Sarah was a lead teacher in Bedford Corners and Mount Kisco, at Temple Shaaray Tefila and Bet Torah. Sarah also has extensive experience working in summer day camps. She holds a master’s degree in education from Smith College.

The newly completed playground was designed by Environment Design, a locally owned company that has built playgrounds for the Stamford Nature Center and many area preschools.

Contact JCC for a tour at 203-487-0944 or email JCCatGRS@stamfordjcc.org.

New Parent Association at Temple Sholom Learning Center Strengthens Jewish Connections

Parents have always played an integral role at the Temple Sholom Learning Center, and the school’s new Parent Association is taking their involvement to a whole new level. Founded in September, the Parent Association’s mission is to support the Jewish education of the school’s students, while building a tight-knit community through programming that will enhance the experience for both parents and students alike.

In February, members of the Parent Association hosted a Family Bingo Bonanza with prizes and lunch as a way for parents and children to enjoy a fun afternoon together. More recently, parent volunteers gathered in Temple Sholom’s kitchen during Purim to prepare and bake 500 hamantaschen to be distributed in “Mishloach Manot” gift bags for all of the students.

For April, the Parent Association planned a casual Moms’ Night Out at The Spread in Greenwich, as well as a Sunday morning Dads & Bagels breakfast at the temple. “The hope is that through the various programs provided by the Parent Association, both our parents and their children will feel a true sense of belonging, as well as pride in their Jewish upbringing,” said Hillary Rosenthal, chair of the Association.
The Changing Face of JFS

Jewish Family Services (JFS) has been a pillar of strength in the Greenwich community for 36 years. JFS was founded by an altruistic group of Greenwich residents, with a goal of meeting the growing social service needs of the Jewish community in town. As we embark on our double chai anniversary, we show kavod, honor and respect.

Historically, JFS of Greenwich has been a beacon of light for those facing life challenges. We continue to embrace kavod through the many services JFS of Greenwich has become known for. And, a little more!

Our double chai anniversary brings a refurbished office space to emulate the goal of our seasoned clinicians – to exude a place of warmth, healing, and growth. The new Center for Wellbeing is dedicated to providing meaningful resources to the community. JFS wants to be a part of changing the trajectory of lives from day to day struggles, to living to one’s fullest potential. This new initiative will bring a series of learning opportunities for those interested in taking steps toward health and wellness.

Faces may change, but the core values and mission of Jewish Family Services of Greenwich remains the same. Our history shows that JFS has always been a refuge of comfort to the most vulnerable members of our community. We have always and will continue to provide life-changing support and healthy living services to all residents of Greenwich and beyond. Our double chai year is just another reminder of our strong and honorable history in the Jewish community, JFS is here for you – and we mean you too!
Executive Director’s Corner

As the new Executive Director of Jewish Family Services of Greenwich, the first question most people ask me is: “Why JFS of Greenwich?” After eighteen years supporting the mental health needs of disenfranchised children and families in New York City, JFS was an obvious choice. JFS is truly the little engine that could. There is a misnomer in the Greenwich community that JFS is only for those who cannot afford other avenues for support. A small but powerful social service agency tucked atop Holly Hill Lane, JFS of Greenwich serves those in Greenwich in need, regardless of their ability to pay.

We now accept most major medical insurance, and getting help at JFS of Greenwich has never been easier! Our seasoned therapists have extensive training on all of life’s stages and welcome the opportunity to meet you where you are. Their goal is to provide the outlet to begin managing your emotional, spiritual and physical needs. JFS is known for our Bereavement, Divorce, and Fractured Families Mindful Healing support groups. With new group ideas forming daily, we encourage suggestions from the community to ensure we addresses your needs. Our new Center for Wellbeing has created the forum for us to learn together how to increase our focus on health and wellness in our daily lives. One out of three adults suffers from anxiety. We want to be a part of helping our community change that narrative and lead more fulfilling lives.

So, why JFS? This organization has changed countless lives for the better for 36 years, and I am thrilled to be a part of such a tried and true organization. I intend to carry on the legacy of those before me, creating a truly non-judgmental and open environment upon which the Jewish community, and beyond, can rely in times of need. I look forward to being a continued agent of change in support of increasing mental health awareness and treatment for all those who need it. Our support is a phone call away!

Respectfully,
Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL
Executive Director
Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

Bikur Cholim, a Mitzvah Like No Other!

The Bikur Cholim Program operates in partnership with the Spiritual Care Department at Greenwich Hospital. Translated, visiting the sick, our Bikur Cholim Program reaches out to and engages every Jewish in-patient at Greenwich Hospital. This program offers a volunteer training program to equip each visitor with the tools to provide comfort and support to those they encounter. A monthly healing service provides a warm community with which to process this altruistic service while continuing to learn new skills of engagement with all those providing Bikur Cholim Services.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a young adult looking for a mitzvah project. If you or someone you know is looking for an impactful volunteer experience with our Bikur Cholim Program please contact Lisa Goldberg at lmsgoldberg@jfsgreenwich.org for further information.
Carmel Academy’s Students Delve into Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, Carmel Academy’s students learned about the contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout our nation’s history. Each morning in February, as students entered school, they were greeted with an informative slide and video featuring a famous black American including: choreographer Alvin Ailey, Olympic athlete Jesse Owens, jazz musician Duke Ellington, medical researcher Dr. Charles Drew, abolitionist Harriet Tubman, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, and writer Zora Neale Hurston, to name a few. While in music class students were introduced to musical genres from black culture including blues, jazz and soul.

“It’s never too early to learn about the important influence African Americans have had on the country we are today,” said Jennifer Gensior, Carmel’s Director of General Studies Curriculum. Carmel Academy’s youngest students in transitional kindergarten learned about Ella Jenkins, a children’s educator and musician who is famously known for her use of call-and-response singing, according to Transitional Kindergarten teacher Diane Holsten.

Fifth grader Eden Citron said learning about black Americans who influenced history is an important lesson for her and her classmates. “There is not a lot of racial diversity at school, so this is so important to learn about African Americans. I am really thankful to have this opportunity.” “We are very privileged with the opportunities we have, and we need to remember that most of the people we are learning about faced a lot of challenges,” said fifth-grader Arielle Seligmann.

Bi-Cultural ‘Scientists’ Excel at Statewide Science Fair

Seventh-grade students at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford had an impressive showing at the 2019 Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF), bringing home a treasure trove of medals and honors from the prestigious statewide event, including several top awards. Approximately 320 prizes and scholarships worth $225,000 were awarded to students from across Connecticut at the Fair’s 71st annual award ceremonies held at Quinnipiac University in March.

Seven Bi-Cultural students were among the finalists taking home awards. For their science fair projects, the Bi-Cultural students were tasked with choosing a research topic related to life science – the focus of the seventh-grade science curriculum. In addition, said the middle-schoolers’ science teacher Christopher Graseck, the project had to be one that students “thought would be helpful for mankind or the world in general.”

Students Charlotte Moreen and Jason Kwalwasser won first place in the Jackson Life Sciences Award for their project “Drought Tolerance of Herbs,” making the team a CSEF Life Sciences Middle School finalist. Other Bi-Cultural award winners included: Ella Hecht and Nily Genger, who earned second place honors for their project “Is Salt Beneficial for Plant Growth?” Seventh-graders Teresa Wiener and Samuel Sendersky also took home a second place ribbon for their project “Salt Tolerance of Plants.” And Esther Goldstein won third place for her project “What Nutrients Help Azolla Grow? How Can We Use This to Fight Climate Change?”
The leadership team at Congregation Shir Ami worked diligently to find the right spiritual leader to fill Cantor and Rabbi Axe’s shoes. On March 3rd, we warmly welcomed Cantor Jill Abramson to a gathering at the home of Jenny and Rick Lake, for our congregants to have the opportunity to meet, talk, sing and of course eat with our next inspirational and caring leader.

The Search Committee Chair, Susan Nisinzweig said “We feel very lucky to have found Cantor Abramson, who will lead and inspire us in this new chapter.” Rabbi Axe sent her blessings in a note that said: “Mazel tov to Shir Ami for this ‘Shehecheyanu moment’ as we welcome my very worthy successor. May we continue to go from strength to strength as a sacred community.”

Cantor Jill Abramson also led a Shabbat service at Shir Ami on April 5th as a second opportunity for the congregants to meet her. In August she will officially begin, in time for Shir Ami’s beach service at Tod’s Point.

Bi-Cultural Teens Learn about Israel Advocacy at AIPAC Conference

Now in its third year of existence, the Israel Advocacy Club (IAC) of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut—Upper School brought 17 students to the 2019 AIPAC Policy Conference held in Washington, D.C. in mid-March. In addition to listening to the remarks of a host of dignitaries, including U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the students had the opportunity to learn in depth about the efforts of AIPAC to support and strengthen the Israel-United States relationship. On the final day of the conference, students headed up to Capitol Hill to speak with members of Connecticut’s congressional delegation about the need for full support of Israel at the highest levels of the American government.

“The AIPAC Policy Conference was a great place to learn about the United States-Israel relationship,” reported Bi-Cultural junior Andrew Yakubovich of Stamford, who serves as co-president of IAC with Sarah Hanna. “Through hearing House, Senate, and other influential speakers, I was happy to learn that the relationship has never been stronger.”

Under the guidance of IAC advisor and Judaics teacher Ari Lieberman, as well as IAC co-presidents Hanna and Yakubovich, IAC members spent several months preparing for the conference. Now that they’re back home, students are already preparing themselves for next year’s event.

Carmel Academy Hosts Seder Plate Basketball Tournament

Carmel Academy capped off an exciting basketball season by hosting its annual Seder Plate Basketball Tournament in February. The five-school tournament included Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Ezra Academy, Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford, and Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy. More than 70 varsity athletes competed in games throughout the day. Each year, on the Friday prior to the Seder Plate tournament, the entire school gathers for a pep rally and the annual Faculty vs. Student Basketball game.

Carmel Academy’s girls’ varsity took the first place trophy, winning all of their tournament games, including a game that went into triple overtime. Carmel’s boys’ varsity team also placed in the tournament, taking home the 2nd place trophy. “There was a wonderful sense of community, with athletes throughout Connecticut congregating on our campus,” said CA Athletic Director and tournament organizer Phil Goldberg. “Our students were filled with such pride to be the tournament host. Our young athletes worked hard throughout the season and played with tremendous heart, compassion, pride and spirit. They showed exemplary sportsmanship and respect for one another and their guests.”
Lending a Hand in NOLA: A Reflection on Temple Sholom’s Teen Service Trip

By Rabbi Chaya Bender

During Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, I accompanied several teens from Temple Sholom and J-Teen Leadership of Westchester on an immersive service trip to New Orleans, LA. The mission of the trip was to make a direct impact on communities that are still struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Our weekend of service began with cleaning and organizing at the Adinkra NOLA School, and a visit to the Poydras Home to spend quality time with senior residents. On Sunday, we assisted the nonprofit SBP, in finishing to build two homes, which will be sold to victims of Hurricane Katrina. And, $1,000 worth of gift cards collected by the teens was donated to the future homeowners.

Our trip concluded with a visit to the Lower 9th Ward. We volunteered with the Lower 9 Resilient by weeding 9,000 square feet of community gardens, and we also gave them donated gift cards to support the local residents and to aid with the success of the community gardens.

Our group also enjoyed Shabbat services and dinner at the historic Touro Synagogue; connected with J-Teen Leadership alumni at the Tulane Hillel, decorated masks at Mardi Gras World; ate beignets in the French Quarter; and explored downtown New Orleans. It was a whirlwind experience for all of us. In just four days, we helped to foster relationships and were able to show NOLA that we are still here to lend a hand, and to continue to share their story.

If your teen is interested in participating in future community service trips with Temple Sholom, please email me at rabbichaya@templesholom.com.
Two Former DHS Secretaries Join ADL and JFNA to Protect Vulnerable Religious Communities from Violent Threats

Former DHS Secretaries Michael Chertoff and Jeh Johnson will co-chair a new Community Safety and Security Task Force convened by the Anti Defamation League (ADL), a leading anti-hate organization, and the Secure Community Network (SCN), the homeland security and safety initiative of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The task force will work to enhance the safety, security, and resiliency of religious communities.

Following the October 27th attack on the Jewish community in Pittsburgh, the ADL and SCN came together to address hate, anti-Semitism and threats as well as violence targeted at the Jewish community in the United States. The Task Force will develop best practices that can enhance the safety, security, and resilience of all communities. Building from the experience and expertise developed within the Jewish community, and inclusive of other faith-based communities, the Task Force will make recommendations to more effectively address hate crimes while enhancing safety and security for all institutions.

---

Mainstreaming of Anti-Semitism

Yair Rosenberg in conversation with Oren Segal

TUESDAY, MAY 14

7:30 pm | Greenwich Historical Society
47 Strickland Road, Cos Cob | $18 per person

Guest speaker Yair Rosenberg is a senior writer at Tablet Magazine, where he covers the intersection of politics, culture and religion. His work has also appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic and The Guardian, and his writings have received awards from the Religion Newswriters Association and the Harvard Center for Jewish Studies. He has covered everything from misrepresentations of Orthodox Jews in the media to Muslims and Jews in comic books, and in his spare time he creates bots that troll anti-Semites on Twitter.

Yair will be in conversation with Oren Segal, Director of the ADL's Center on Extremism, which combats extremism, terrorism and all forms of hate in the real world and online. The Center provides resources, expertise and training which enables law enforcement, public officials and internet and technology companies to identify and counter emerging threats.

Community Sponsors: Bryanna and Jonathan Kallman, Silvina and Jonas Knoll, Helen and Robert Stark, Michele and John Stuart and Nancy and Bill Zisson

Co-Sponsored with:

Community Partners: Carmel Academy, Chabad of Greenwich, Congregation Shir Ami, Greenwich Reform Synagogue, Hebrew Wizards and Temple Sholom

---

Bassem Eid at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

UJA-JCC Greenwich and UJF Stamford co-sponsored a special appearance by Bassem Eid at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford. Eid addressed high school students on many topics, including antisemitism, Israel-Palestinian relations, the BDS movement, and human rights in general. Eid, chairman of the Center for Near East Policy Research and founder of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, is an outspoken advocate against Palestinian human rights abuses who supports a democratic and pluralistic Palestine. He is often seen on Israeli television as a commentator on Palestinian politics. As a proponent of Palestinian accountability and self-change, his talk was very well received by students in attendance. This was a great opportunity for the BCHA students to begin to prepare themselves for difficult conversations and criticisms of Israel that they may encounter once they arrive on college campuses.
JTAC - Teen Action Committee

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

JTAC Meeting
Sunday, May 19 | 5:30 - 7 pm | One Holly Hill Lane | $12 includes dinner

Calling All Teens:
Help families in the Greenwich community celebrate Israel’s birthday!
Volunteer to assist with set up, entertainment, snacks, and more!

Sunday, May 5 | Greenwich Town Hall, 101 Field Point Rd.
Event runs 11:45 am - 1:00 pm | Teens arrive at 11:00 am
RSVP to Kelly Goldstein at Kelly@ujajcc.org by April 29

A Highly Successful “Packing Project” with JTAC Teens

In a truly inspiring event, people of all ages from our community came together to pack 10,000 meals for hungry people in Fairfield and Westchester counties, and New York City! In line with UJA-JCC’s mission to help Jews around the world, our teens met their goal and raised $2,500 to feed both Jewish and non-Jewish people in the area.

Recipients of the meals were: Bronx Jewish Community Council…Schoké Jewish Family Service of Lower Fairfield County’s Kosher Food Pantry…Neighbor to Neighbor…Pacific House, Stamford…Inspirica…Feeding Westchester

An incredible nonprofit organization, The Outreach Program, made it possible to hold this event and to make the cost of each meal only 25 cents. Matthew Martin from Outreach came to lead our event, brought nutritious meals for us to pack, and educated our community about hunger and food insecurity in the U.S., and especially in Fairfield County. One in six children in the U.S. is hungry, and Fairfield County is the fifth hungriest county in Connecticut.

Thank you very much to the JTAC teens, donors and sponsors who helped us reach our goal, and to all the families who participated in this unforgettable experience.

JTAC Teens Help the Homeless

Jewish Teen Action Committee teens went on a “Midnight Run” on Saturday night, March 2. Midnight Run in a nonprofit organization based in Dobbs Ferry, NY. It coordinates more than 1,000 relief missions per year, in which volunteers distribute food, clothing, blankets and personal care items to homeless individuals on the streets of New York City. Our teens met at the UJA-JCC office Saturday night to pack meals, organize materials, and pack up the vehicles. They then headed to NYC where they helped the homeless population. Through Midnight Run, the teens have a chance to see people on the streets as real people, and to interact with them in a meaningful way. We want to say a special thank you to parent volunteers, families, and community members who donated their time and resources. With your support, we served many grateful men and women.

Ali Buchsbaum, one of the JTAC volunteers at Midnight Run, offered her take on the experience: “The Midnight Run is a volunteer experience that everyone remembers. When you give someone a coat or hot bowl of soup and see the happiness spread across their face, you are instantly gratified. There is nothing that these people have done wrong, they are just looking for a little help. Hearing their stories and talking with them one-on-one makes the Midnight Run even more special. Connecting with people whose experience is so different has taught me to be thankful for all that I have and also to not judge a book by its cover. I am excited to participate in the Midnight Run again next year. It is truly magical.”

And a very special “thank you” to all of the local businesses who graciously and generously made this event possible:
Balduccis…Costco…Dunkin Donuts…Fairway Market…Garelick and Herbs…Greenwich Dental Group - Dr. Steve and Mrs. Alona Altman
Community members packed 10,000 (!) meals, which were distributed to food pantries nearby. See page 26 for details.
I make a difference in Jewish lives.

Why do I give? I believe in supporting the Jewish community.

When I donate to UJA-JCC Greenwich, I know my gift is used wherever it’s needed most. I may be helping a Holocaust survivor to live with the dignity he deserves. I may be assisting someone right here in Greenwich or Connecticut — someone I don’t even know — to get a job so she can take care of her family. Maybe I’m helping a college student confront serious misinformation about Israel from his peers. Or I’m helping young children in Eastern Europe reclaim their heritage.

The important thing is, I’m doing something vital to help every single day.

Give today.