

# UJA★JCC | JEWISH NEWS greenwich

Volume XXIX, Number 4

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## HOW CAN WE HELP?

We hope you are safe and in good health. As we navigate through these surreal days of social distancing and attempting to “flatten the curve,” it’s impossible not to feel isolated, anxious and probably a little stir-crazy. In the midst of school closings, employees being told to work from home and public spaces shutting their doors, **UJA-JCC remains committed to keeping the Jewish Greenwich community connected. We never close. We never stop caring for the whole community. Now more than ever – WE ARE HERE TO HELP.**

### Tell Us What You Need!

How can we help you? Do you need someone to shop for you? Teach you how to use FaceTime, Zoom, etc.? Do you need someone to talk to or periodically check in with you? If you need something, please email [pam@ujajcc.org](mailto:pam@ujajcc.org).

Are you feeling anxious? Would you like to be connected to a licensed therapist from **Jewish Family Services of Greenwich** for Telehealth Services?

### Are You Able to Help?

Would you like to call, email or shop for members of the Jewish Community? If you are interested in volunteering your time, please email [pam@ujajcc.org](mailto:pam@ujajcc.org).

If you’d like to donate to the **Kosher Food Pantry** at **Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County** (bonus points for toilet paper!), they are in need of:

- Meats (fresh kosher meat, canned & fresh fish including tuna & salmon)
- Soups & soup mixes
- Boxed milk, bottled juices
- Breakfast items (cereal, oatmeal, grains)
- Boxed rice mixes, wacky mac
- Coffee & teas

Please drop off at 196 Greyrock Place in Stamford (phone is 203-921-4161 and a staff member will pick up curbside if arranged via phone in advance, during business hours.) You may also arrange to drop off items at One Holly Hill Lane in Greenwich by contacting us in advance at 203-552-1818.



# LIVE from Greenwich– It’s PJ Library Zoom Storytime!

Realizing in early March that social distancing was the new normal, UJA-JCC staff jumped into action to create a time and place where families could visit safely, and Zoom Storytime was born! Nearly every weekday at 3 pm parents, caregivers and kids have joined other families for PJ Library Storytime remotely via Zoom meetings and live streaming on Facebook.

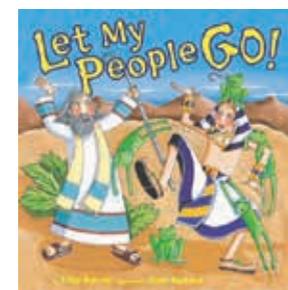
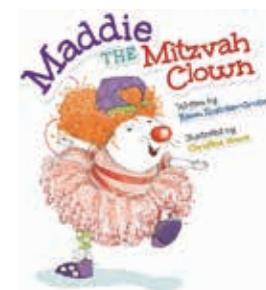
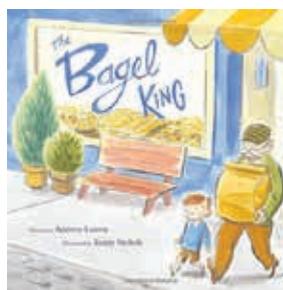
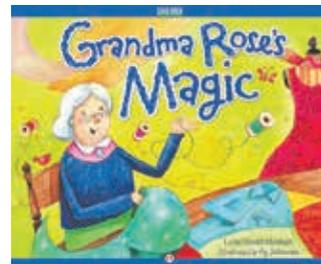
From playrooms, kitchens, dining room tables and home offices, children, parents, caregivers and grandparents have been learning, singing, baking and visiting while doing a simple project together like making a bird-feeder, personal Seder plate or ten plagues finger puppets. **Randi Singer**, Director of Engagement and former Jewish educator, taught the Aleph Bet,



the Sheheyanu prayer and the Shabbat candle-lighting blessing. Sing-alongs with movement, easy crafts and simple baking projects have kept little hands busy.

Sharing Zoom PJ Library Storytime with special guest readers – **David Cohen**, Director of Schools at Temple Shalom, **Maryashie Deren**, Educational Director at Chabad of Greenwich, **Sarah Gregoire**, Director of the Stamford JCC and Greenwich Reform Synagogue Preschools, and **Rabbi Deborah Salomon**, Rabbi and Director of Education at Hebrew Wizards/Kehilat Shalom – was a highlight for children and families. We thank our community partners for their time and collaborative spirit!

As long as social distancing continues, we will continue to offer uniquely enriching Zoom programming for our young friends. Do you have a program idea to share? Send your suggestions to [Randi@ujajcc.org](mailto:Randi@ujajcc.org).



## Get Ready to Visit Bubbe’s House!

*A live, interactive alternative to screen time!*

The show, designed for ages 3-8, starts with a trip to 36 Chutzpah Lane where larger-than-life “Bubbe” teaches about holidays, values, and life lessons with visits from a variety of hilarious and informative “neighbors.” This is a new show featuring the best of Mainstage’s interactive games, storybook theater, and fun puppetry. Children can watch from the floor or participate as part of the “live studio audience” engaged in the fun!

Date: Thursday, June 18

Time: 4:00-5:00 PM

Place: Carmel Academy Campus

270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich

Ticket: \$25 per family



*This program is Co-Sponsored by:*



## PJ Library Resources for Quarantined Families

Check Out [PJLibrary.org](http://PJLibrary.org)



As communities seek to lower the impact of COVID-19, many families are spending a lot of time at home with their kids. One great way to pass time with your little ones is to read PJ Library books! Here are other ideas for ways to stay busy and have fun at home.

For guidance in talking with your children about quarantines and pandemics, visit our page on [How to Talk to Your Kids About Scary Situations](#).

- Family Together Time
- Babies and Toddlers
- Learning Languages
- Arts & Crafts
- Unplugged Time
- Kids in the Kitchen
- Book Activities
- More Resources

### Family Together Time

Check out [PJ Library Listen](#) for hours of free audio content for the whole family.

[Storytelling Games to Play With Kids of All Ages](#)

[Printable: Story Blocks and Games](#)

Listen to our podcast: [Have I Got a Story for You!](#)

Save the Date to Pick for the Pantry!  
*(A Family Community Service Project)*

Join PJ Library and Friends and help provide fresh produce to the Schoke JFS Kosher Food Pantry

When: Sunday, September 13

Where: Silverman’s Farm  
(451 Sport Hill Road, Easton CT)

Time: 3:00-5:00

Event Chairs

Michaelan Cohen, Romy Cohen, Alexandra Saltis

## Here's What Was Happening at UJA-JCC Greenwich Prior to Social Distancing

### Are Your Kids Naked Online?



Internet safety expert and author Lisa Good, along with her husband Chris spoke about how to protect tech savvy kids from online dangers on January 29.

### Lunch and Learn



Thirty people from near and far came to hear Rabbi Gordon Tucker's fascinating talk on "God and Truth in a Time of Falsity" at Lunch and Learn on February 27.

### Women's Education Symposium



More than 100 women attended the March 4 Women's Education Symposium at the YWCA, co-sponsored with UJF Stamford. See photos on page 16.

## Congratulations to Rebecca Tipermas

We at UJA-JCC Greenwich are pleased to announce that **Rebecca Tipermas** has been accepted to the National Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). The National Young Leadership Cabinet is the premier leadership and philanthropic program of the JFNA and the greater Jewish world. Cabinet has a 58-year tradition of leadership rooted in Jewish values that create transformative, life-long bonds of friendship and community. Cabinet alumni – more than 4,000 leaders strong across the U.S. and Canada – have become important changemakers in virtually every Federation and partner organization, including JFNA, National Women's Philanthropy, American Joint Jewish Distribution Committee, and The Jewish Agency for Israel. We commend Rebecca on this illustrious appointment and for her commitment to the Jewish community.



## Betsy Korn, New National President of AIPAC

Congratulations to Greenwich's very own Betsy Korn, who assumed the role of National President of AIPAC at the AIPAC Policy Conference. UJA-JCC Greenwich CEO Pam Ehrenkranz, along with many Greenwich residents and UJA-JCC Greenwich members, look forward to supporting Betsy in her important new role at AIPAC.

AIPAC is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and its mission is to strengthen the US-Israel relationship. The pinnacle of pro-Israel activism is the conference an incredible three days of education, inspiration, and activism that truly moves the policy needle. This year's conference took place on March 1-3, bringing together 18,000 pro-Israel Americans in Washington, DC to lobby Congress on Capitol Hill.

In today's divisive political atmosphere, AIPAC is the one place where Republicans and Democrats come together with a common goal. This is a unique and historic time for the United States and Israel. During this year's conference, both the Israeli elections and Super Tuesday primaries were taking place within a few short hours of each other. The AIPAC Policy Conference offered direct access to top political pundits and analysis of both elections from one stage.



## COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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- High School (203) 357-0850
- Carmel Academy (203) 863-9663
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- Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich
- Camp Gan Israel of Greenwich (203) 629-9059
- Gan of Greenwich Preschool (203) 869-1742
- Congregation Shir Ami (203) 900-7976
- Greenwich Reform (203) 629-0018
- Congregation Kehilat Shalom Hebrew Wizards (203) 249-4036
- Jewish Family Services of Greenwich (203) 622-1881
- Jewish Senior Services (203) 365-6400
- Temple Sholom (203) 869-7191
- Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School (203) 622-8121

## SHABBAT & HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

- Eve of First Day of Passover –*
- Weds., Apr. 8..... 7:10 pm*
- Thurs., Apr. 9..... 8:11 pm*
- Fri., Apr. 10..... 7:12 pm*
- Eve of Last Day of Passover*
- Tues., Apr. 14..... 7:17 pm*
- Last Day of Passover*
- Wed., Apr. 15..... 8:18 pm*
- Fri., Apr 17..... 7:19 pm*
- Fri., Apr. 24..... 7:26 pm*
- Fri., May 1..... 7:34 pm*
- Fri., May 8..... 7:41 pm*
- Fri., May 15..... 7:48 pm*
- Fri., May 22..... 7:54 pm*
- Fri., May 29..... 8:00 pm*
- Fri., June 5..... 8:05 pm*
- Fri., June 12..... 8:09 pm*

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Clergy's Corner

# ☆ We Shall Overcome! ☆

by Rabbi Mitchell Hurvitz, Temple Sholom

As I write this column, we are amidst the immense challenges that humanity confronts in the face of the Covid-19 virus. For us, as Jews, it is especially challenging. Our collective instinct is always to gather as a community, but the medical need for “social distancing” is the rallying cry of the day. It is as if we live within the ninth plague of darkness, worrying for the final plague that the Angel of Death threatens all of us.

But, Jewish history has found us in many dark

places before, and we have always been able to see God's light, hope, and comfort. Our Passover celebration ritually codified the real lesson of Jewish history. Almost 2000 years ago, the rabbis asked and answered: “Why the Pesach (the Passover sacrifice)?” – Because we must recall how God passed over (Pesach) the houses of our spiritual ancestors in Egypt during the tenth plague, sparing the death of our firstborn.

“Why the matzah (the eating of the unleavened

bread)?” – Because matzah is our reminder that from our Egyptian bondage, God redeemed us.

Why the maror (the eating of the bitter herbs)? – Because with the eating of bitter herbs, we recall how the Egyptians embittered the lives of our ancestors during our slavery.

The rabbis further instructed us:

“In every generation, you are to regard yourself as if you had personally gone forth from Egypt...every generation of Jews is obligated on Passover to thank,

praise, glorify, honor, exalt, worship, and bless God... Do all of these things because it was God who performed for our ancestors and gave us all these miracles. So, this is why we say before God, Halleluyah!”

Two thousand years ago, the rabbis took our Exodus story and commanded us to guarantee our Jewish continuity, our Jewish remembrance, our constant religious posture of gratitude.

After the trauma of the Romans' destruction of Jerusalem and the Holy Temple, the rabbis directed the Jewish community to continue offering the Passover sacrifice through our words, the words of the retelling of the Passover story, which recalls the Passover sacrificial ritual by which our ancient ancestors prepared for freedom.

Whether we are with or without Jerusalem, with or without the Great Temple, with or without our freedom, we will celebrate Passover. Past, present, and future, we will always prepare joyously for the Exodus through our observance of Passover. We will always perceive that it was “we” who were liberated from

Egypt by God and Moses.

Passover became for us the anchor story of our Jewish continuity. Passover is the marker that we shall always raise from any traumatic experience and transition from slavery to freedom, and we shall maintain our constant religious posture of gratitude.

The lesson of our Jewish history, the teaching of our Passover celebration, is that no matter what – “we shall overcome.” And, we will not merely survive, we will thrive. Our Judaism directs us to the path we shall always pursue, and it not only gives us purpose as Jews, but it's also what gives us dignity as human beings.

God brought us forth from slavery to freedom, anguish to joy, grieving to a festival, darkness to great light, and subjugation to redemption. This is why we said then, now, and always: Halleluyah!

*Editor's Note: The spiritual leaders of Greenwich alternate in providing messages for each issue of the Greenwich Jewish News. These comments are those of the author alone and are not meant to reflect the opinions of UJA-JCC Greenwich.*

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## Applications Available for the Weitzman Youth Award for Jewish Philanthropy

The Weitzman Youth Award for Jewish Philanthropy was founded by Jane and Stuart Weitzman, whose hope it is to ensure that the next generation is inspired to become involved with helping their fellow Jews in need.

The award will be given to those who exhibit the most creativity and personal commitment to Jewish philanthropy. UJA-JCC Greenwich is available to advise potential applicants on suitable projects. Applicants must be in the fifth through twelfth grades and residents of Greenwich or children of families active with UJA-JCC Greenwich. All funds raised from the projects must be donated through UJA-JCC Greenwich. Projects may not be political in nature. The award committee will make all final decisions regarding recipients of the award.

For more information, contact Pam Ehrenkranz at 203-552-1818 or pam@ujajcc.org.

## Temple Sholom Honors Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz for 25 Years of Service

On Saturday, January 25 more than 350 people gathered to celebrate Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz on the occasion of his 25 years with Temple Sholom. The silver anniversary gala was held at the Performing Arts Center at SUNY Purchase. The event was co-chaired by Hillary Rosenthal and Beth Cutler with a committee of more than 50 couples and individuals. The committee was comprised of people who volunteered to help honor Rabbi Mitch because he has touched each of their lives on a personal basis. Numerous multi-generation families attended the gala with individuals flying in from places like California and Florida for the event.

It is estimated that Rabbi Mitch has officiated at 1500 bar and bat mitzvah services over the last 25

years. Rabbi Mitch has reflected joyously on the many times he has officiated at a baby naming or bris, then a bar/bat mitzvah and then a wedding for the same person. During the celebratory evening, Rabbi Mitch was toasted and honored with a brief video and words from several members of the congregation. The emcee for the evening was Stacey Delikat, Fox 5 News reporter and anchor. Stacey had the unique perspective of having grown up at Temple Sholom. She recalls being a student in the religious school when Rabbi Mitch joined Temple Sholom. Since then, Rabbi Mitch also officiated at her wedding. Temple Sholom president, Alexandra Hochman, presented Rabbi Mitch with several special commendations, including a beautiful Official Statement from Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont.

Rabbi Mitch addressed those in attendance: "As Rabbi of Temple Sholom, I feel as if I've grown up here. It is truly a sacred marriage – a relationship full of reciprocity, compromise and patience. I cherish the connections I have made and am grateful for the love and support I have received over the past 25 years. May we all go from strength to strength."



Rabbi Mitch with his family



Rebecca Levine, Hillary Rosenthal co-chair, Jamie Eisenberg, Randi Pollack, Jana Friedman, and Lara Damashek



Gila Lewis with her daughter Vanessa (left) with Amanda Whitacre and her mom Roberta Tunick. The Tunicks are one of the founding families of Temple Sholom.



Deborah Steyn, Michele Stuart and Bryanna Kallman at the Gala

Rabbi Mitch has been blessed with his wife of more than 30 years, Roseanne and their four children, Simon, Naomi, Ezra, Faith and a son-in-law Cody.

## Purim "Story Slam" at Shir Ami

by Nancy Heller

One of the core values at Congregation Shir Ami is to practice a Judaism that stimulates the mind and enlivens the soul. With this concept in mind, our spiritual leader, Cantor Jill Abramson, and the ritual leadership team planned a community dinner and storytelling event to celebrate the holiday of Purim. Since Purim affirms the importance of identity, congregants were invited to tell personal stories about a formative experience that shaped their identity or a time when they advocated for something they believed in strongly, as Esther did when she revealed her identity to King Ahasuerus and asked for his help in saving the Jewish people.

Shir Ami's Purim "Story Slam" took place at a congregant's home on Sunday, March 8. It was the last in-person event that Shir Ami held before caution dictated going virtual. Some congregants came in costume, in keeping with the holiday. If there had been a costume award, it would have gone to David Green, who came dressed as the coronavirus with a virus-themed head band, a face mask, and shirt-pocket with wet wipes!

After a delicious dinner with main course

provided by hosts, Julie and Richard Preng, and sides and desserts by the other 25 participants, five congregants shared their personal stories. The first storyteller, Rabbi Jon Malamy, spoke of his journey to become a Rabbi that began with a congregant recommendation at his Bar



Mitzvah that his 12-year-old self said would never happen. Then host, Julie Preng talked about her life-long quest to make the perfect potato knish, like her grandmother, who never shared her recipe.

In the course of his travels, Joel Collamer spoke of his surprising interactions with airplane

passengers, who mistook his Camp Gan Israel duffel bag as their own. Co-President Susan Nisinzweig told the group about her first trip to Israel at age 20, where she found a new Jewish identity and her future husband, Dahni! Their son, Eytan then shared how facilitated communication has enabled him to relay the depth of his intelligence and feelings as an adult with autism. Finally, Barry Stein read a beautiful poem based on the theme of Humpty-Dumpty, which he had written back in the 1980's.

Storytelling is a powerful vehicle for bringing people together and creating community through tales of shared humanity. Whether through stories, song, study, or prayer, Shir Ami welcomes one and all to join in our congregational family to discover meaningful connections and experience joy during good times and challenging times.

Please visit [www.congregationshirami.org](http://www.congregationshirami.org) to find out how you can participate in our online services and programs, as well as community outreach initiatives.

# Thank You and Good Luck, Tracy!

After a dozen years of dedicated service, Tracy Daniels will be taking on a new role as Case Manager at Schoke Jewish Family Service of Lower Fairfield County. At UJA-JCC, Tracy grew our PJ Library from a fledgling program to one that offered more than 30,000 books to children in our community, all the while engaging hundreds of young families at our many and varied PJ Library events. As Women's Philanthropy Director Tracy has helped create and implement initiatives and

additional engagement opportunities, including the new Emerging Leaders program. Tracy has been an integral part of everything that happens behind the scenes at UJA-JCC, from fundraising to strategic planning, from marketing to fulfilling our mission. We are going to miss her winning smile, insight and her warm presence, and we wish her much success in her new position. Pam will be working with new team members Randi Singer and Claudia Brenner to make sure all bases are covered!

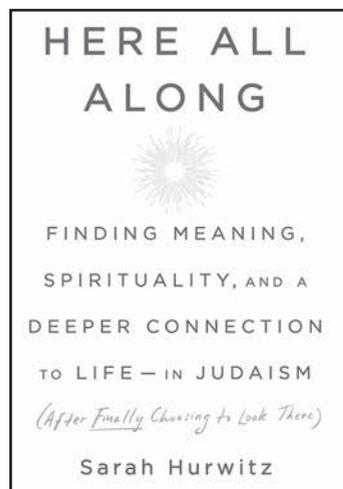


## GRS Reads Open to All

All are welcome at Greenwich Reform for the late May meeting of GRS READS, for spirited discussion of *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life – in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)*, by Sarah Hurwitz.

After a decade as a political speechwriter – serving as head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama, a senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama, and chief speechwriter for Hillary Clinton during her 2008 presidential campaign – Sarah Hurwitz decided to apply her skills as a communicator to writing a book...about Judaism.

Hurwitz was the quintessential lapsed Jew – until, at age 36, after a tough breakup, she attended an introductory class on Judaism. She was blown away by what she found: beautiful rituals, helpful guidance on living an ethical life, nuanced conceptions of God – none of which she had learned in Hebrew school or during High Holy Day services. That class led to a years-long journey during which Hurwitz visited rabbis, attended Jewish meditation retreats, shared Shabbes with Orthodox families, and read numerous books about Judaism – all in pursuit of answers to her biggest questions. In transforming her life, she wondered: How could there be such a gap between the richness of what Judaism offers and the way so many Jews understand and experience it?



Sarah Hurwitz is closing this gap by sharing the profound insights she discovered on everything from Jewish holidays, ethics, and prayer to Jewish conceptions of God, death, and social justice. In this entertaining and accessible book, she shows us why Judaism matters and how its message is more relevant than ever; and she inspires Jews to do the learning, questioning, and debating required to make this religion their own.

*All are welcome to attend this free discussion. Contact GRS for details on the specific date and time at 203-629-0018.*

## From Bima to Broadway with Congregation Shir Ami

Celebrating Jewish composers from the Great American Songbook, accompanied on a 100-year-old piano from a member's Jewish boyhood, Congregation Shir Ami gathered for Havdalah and fellowship on February 8th. Participants were regaled by our spiritual leader, Cantor Jill Abramson, our Rabbi Emerita and cantor in her own right, Rabbi Vicki Axe, and other songsters, as we celebrated the Jewish soul in America's greatest show tunes.

After ushering out the Shabbat with song, wine, spices and candle light, we enjoyed a sumptuous dinner, then moved on to a sing-along with such traditional favorites as: *If I Were a Rich Man*, *Blowin' in the Wind*, *What I Did For Love*, *There's No Business Like Show Business* and more, with a special shout-out in "The Alto's Lament" to the role of supporting vocal parts! In typical Shir Ami fashion, pervasive song and a delicious pot-luck spread were shared in intimate community.

Since we now must "go virtual" for our Shabbat Services, our Second-Night Seder, and our other programming, we'll be "Zooming in" to share these important and meaningful moments together. *If you would like to join us and feel connected, visit [CongregationShirAmi.org](http://CongregationShirAmi.org) to see our upcoming schedule of events.*



**The JCC Preschool**  
at Greenwich Reform Synagogue

a program of The

**Come learn with us!**  
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Please contact Sarah Gregoire  
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## Utilizing the Lessons Learned from My Autistic Son to Cope with Social Distancing

By Susan Nisinzweig from Congregation Shir Ami

Coming from a family and a congregation that loves to hug, kiss, be together, talk, worship and eat together, I've had to make so many adjustments in life along with my other family members, fellow congregants and I'm sure with all of you who are reading this. We aren't used to just hanging out at home by ourselves or with the same one, two or three people day after day. We aren't comfortable with feeling isolated and cut off from others. We aren't happy with canceling events that we had looked forward to attending.

What I have learned from my autistic son Eytan (age 34), who has always been my best teacher, was that if I just accepted that I couldn't do those things, said it out loud, and crossed it off the calendar, then we could all move on and be more in the moment. I also learned that there are other satisfying ways to connect with people that don't involve hugging and kissing or being together in person. I understand better his ability to be more focused when looking at a screen than at a person, as I've learned to enjoy the connections and conversations I'm having with friends and family through Zoom and FaceTime – they are not impersonal at all!

Eytan is so good at being alone and finding things to keep himself busy. But being home together so much has also given me time to help him discover the pleasures of doing things together, such as reading books aloud, doing art projects, going for walks, listening to music, singing together, baking, watching old and new movies and exploring new adventures through the Internet together. After collecting ideas of things we could do together online, I realized that others might benefit from this list, and I shared it on our Shir Ami website for others to enjoy and add to.

Visit: <http://www.congregationshirami.org/resources.html> to view the list.

Hopefully by the time this article is published, life will be getting back to normal, but just in case it isn't, or if you're looking for things to do on a rainy day, this resource list provides some good ways to be busy, inspired and to keep growing.

## Shir Ami Adapts Social Action Goals to Meet the Needs of Today

With the festival of Pesach, we are mindful that we have been facing our own modern-day plague of Covid-19; it has forced us to live and behave in ways we couldn't have imagined. As such, Congregation Shir Ami decided to shift some of our social action efforts in response to this crisis.

This past year, we made the commitment as a synagogue to work closely with Building One Community (B1C), a local organization based in Stamford, which helps meet the needs of immigrants. Under the leadership of our two social action co-chairs, Peggy Sturman and Wendy Nadel, we hoped initially to work in person with B1C. However, the call for social distancing has prevented us from

gathering together with their families. After a little detective work, we learned that B1C had created an Amazon "wish list," with items most needed by the clients they serve right now. By directing our congregation to this wish list, we hope to respond to the immediate and very real needs of local immigrant populations, while still maintaining the practice of social distancing.

We applaud B1C for their leadership and the many other nonprofits that are working hard to persevere in this time of great uncertainty. We will remain committed to a path of *tikkun* or repair, as we seek to work outside our usual sphere of influence to help in ways that matter.

## 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

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## PARENTING CONFERENCE



Slovie Jungreis-Wolff

**Raising a Child With Soul:**  
How to Raise Children With an Attitude of Gratitude and Compassion in a Selfie World

Thursday, July 23  
Carmel Academy,  
270 Lake Ave, Greenwich

Cocktails and Dinner 7:00 pm  
Workshops (by children's age) 7:45 pm  
Keynote Address 8:30 PM

Ages Preschool through High School

Chairs: Marissa Cohen,  
Rebecca Tipermas, Jenna Weinberg

Slovie Jungreis-Wolff is a noted teacher, author, relationships and parenting lecturer. She is the leader of Hineni Couples and daughter of Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis. Slovie is the author of the parenting handbook, *Raising A Child With Soul*. She gives weekly classes and has lectured throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Panama, and South Africa.

REACHING OUT TO CONNECT ONLINE

Temple Sholom Finds New Ways to Create Connection

During these unprecedented times of social distancing and self quarantine, Temple Sholom is finding new ways to connect with its members and students. Clergy, staff and teachers are using a number of different ways to communicate with the Temple Sholom community including video conferencing, short video snippets, live streaming of classes and good old fashioned phone calls.

Clergy members and members of the Board of Directors have been calling every congregant of Temple Sholom, checking in and making sure that despite social isolation, there is a connection with the outside world. Teachers from the Temple Sholom Learning Center have been scheduling one on one tutoring sessions with students to work on

Hebrew reading and prayers. And, in the event of a long term religious school closing, there are plans in place to hold online group classes.

“I am most impressed with our nursery school teachers,” said David Cohen, Temple Sholom’s Director of Schools. “They are coming up with incredibly creative ways to connect with even our youngest community members.” In addition to



David Cohen, Temple Sholom Director of Schools, videotaped himself reading a book and sent it out to all students at the Selma Maisel Nursery School.

Zoom and videos, teachers are sending parents ideas for daily schedules to help maintain a semblance of normalcy.

Rabbi Mitch is taking his regular weekly Lunch ‘n Learn program online. “We’d want to make sure we are reaching everyone and giving

our congregants a sense of community and belonging. At times like this we don’t want anyone to feel isolated, which can lead to feelings of depression and anxiety,” said Rabbi Mitch. “It is very important for each of them to know we are here.” Rabbi Mitch has encouraged all of

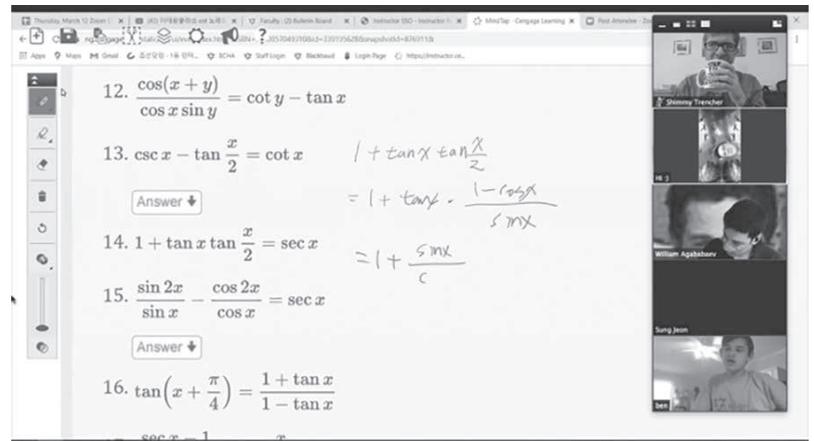
Temple Sholom’s members to email him, just to touch base and let him know how they and their loved ones are doing. “I intend to respond to every single email I receive, and I look forward to each personal connection.”

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Switches to Distance Learning

Like so many other schools in Connecticut and across the country, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford took heed of the advice of health care officials and, with the health and well-being of its students, staff, and all their families in mind, closed its campus on March 11.

But that did not signal even a brief pause in the education of students at the pre-K through grade 12 school. Instead, the school transitioned students to a distance learning program that got off and running smoothly and successfully.

“Our successful transition from the physical to the



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School math teacher, Sung Jun Jeon, conducts an distance learning pre-calculus honors class with BCHA Upper School students.

virtual classroom is in large part thanks to our team of outstanding teachers who did not hesitate to swing into action and have gone above and beyond to prepare innovative and meaningful online lessons,” BCHA Head of School

Jackie Herman told parents in a letter. “The teachers’ unwavering and energetic commitment to providing students with the kind of excellent education that is the hallmark of BCHA is a testament to our strength as a school.”



Teachers Deb Schwartz and Lisa Levine got together with their 3-year-old students for some songs and circle time.

Greenwich Reform: Bringing Community Together Online

Our needs for community, comfort, and consolation are high, but Covid-19 is preventing us from gathering in our regular synagogue settings. To keep us strong in these challenging times, Rabbi Gerson and Cantor Dunkerley of Greenwich Reform offer these programs and services for both children and adults to everyone in Greenwich and beyond:

For children:

Sing-along with Cantor Dunkerley, Tuesdays through Thursdays at 10 am. This happy half-hour of laughter and music will lift everyone’s spirits.

Settle the kids down with bedtime stories and short evening prayers with Rabbi Gerson, Tuesdays through

Thursdays from 5:30 - 6 pm.

Help the little ones celebrate Shabbat with tot services led by Rabbi Gerson and Cantor Dunkerley, on Fridays from 5:30 - 6 pm

For adults:

Rabbi Gerson teaches a half-hour of Jewish meditation and text study, daily at noon, Tuesdays through Thursdays and on Saturdays.

Rabbi Gerson and Cantor Dunkerley lead our Shabbat services at 7 pm on Friday, including key prayers and a moving sermon; no prayer-books needed.

For login details to join these free streaming events, visit [grs.org](http://grs.org), contact [HadasElias@GRS.org](mailto:HadasElias@GRS.org) or call 203-629-0018.



Wizards Zoom Shabbat



Social Distancing at its Best

## UJA-JCC Greenwich and Greenwich Library Plan to Co-Sponsor Evening with Carl Zimmer

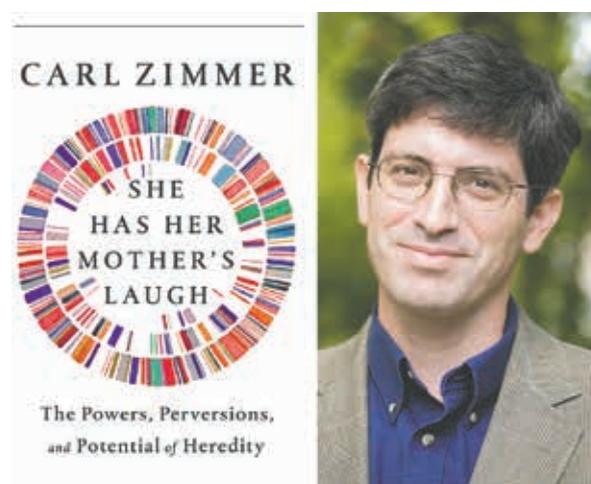
With so much disruption in our lives, it's comforting to consider what's passed along from generation to generation. That's what Carl Zimmer will be doing on Tuesday, June 2 at 7 pm, when he presents his newest bestseller *She Has Her Mother's Laugh: The Power, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity* under the joint auspices of UJA-JCC Greenwich and Greenwich Library. The event will take place in the Library's Flinn Gallery (101 West Putnam Avenue). Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase.

The noted *New York Times* columnist and science writer will share his provocative take on heredity. In addition to genes, we inherit genomes, microbes and other equally – if not more – powerful drivers of who we are and how we live our lives. A new definition of heredity is required, and Zimmer gamely takes up the gauntlet. Armed with the latest science and fortified by his personal stories as a parent of two daughters, he will explode age-old presumptions about our specie's emergence, and he'll advance a fresh narrative on global affairs from prehistoric times to posterity.

Along the way, Zimmer will unveil his take on how DNA editing may transform our world – and ourselves. He fearlessly tackles controversial issues

(Do races actually exist? Is success inherited?) in light of current breakthroughs in DNA analysis, and he will explore the ways that heredity has been twisted throughout history to justify racism and social inequality.

Carl Zimmer writes the "Matter" column for *The New York Times* and regularly contributes articles to *National Geographic*, *The Atlantic* and *Wired*, among other magazines. He is also the author of 13 widely praised books about science. In the words of *The New York Times Book Review*, which named *She Has Her Mother's Laugh* a Notable Book of the Year, Zimmer is "as fine a science essayist as we have." Zimmer's latest book was selected for Publisher's Weekly Best Ten Books of 2018 and the 2018 shortlist for Baillie-Gifford Prize for Nonfiction. *The Guardian* named it the best science book of 2018. Zimmer's trophies further include the National Academies Communication Award and three Science Journalism Awards from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In addition, he was awarded the Stephen Jay Gould Prize, and the National Association of Biology Teachers gave him their Distinguished Service Award. Zimmer is adjunct professor in the Department of Molecular Biophysics and



Biochemistry at Yale University, where he teaches science writing.

"We are thrilled to partner with Greenwich Library in bringing one of today's most riveting thinkers to our community," says UJA-JCC Greenwich CEO Pam Ehrenkranz. "Carl Zimmer's science writing is accessible, intriguing and takes you on a journey of human discovery."

*The presentation is free and open to the community. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. RSVP at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org), required to hold a seat. Due to Covid-19 concerns, please confirm date closer to the event at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org).*

### Davis Film Festival

Bow Tie Cinemas, 2 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich | \$15 per film

Film showing subject to change.

Visit [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org) for updates.



#### The Keeper

June 10 | 7 pm

This engrossing drama tells the true story of Bert Trautmann, a German POW who becomes Manchester City's goalkeeper

as the British nation and its Jewish community grapple with post-war outrage and trauma. Equally affecting is the soccer icon's love story with an Englishwoman, from their first forbidden *frissons* through the trials of fate.

### Save the Date

#### UJA-JCC Celebration Honoring Scott Simon

Rescheduled for October 22

Arch Street Teen Center | 100 Arch Street

Co-Chairs

Bonnie & Manny Citron | Yael & Josh Rosen

### An Evening of the Gershwins GOLDEN TICKET SERIES

Rescheduled for Wednesday, November 18

Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT

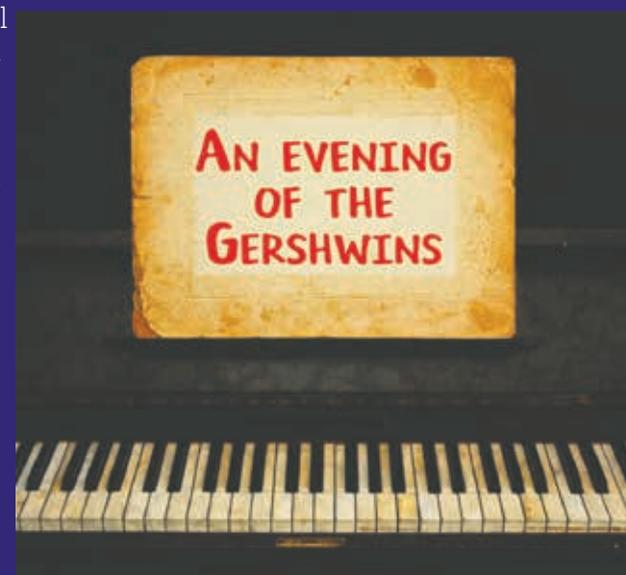
Patron: \$613, includes 4 tickets

Sponsor: \$360, includes 2 tickets

Event tickets: \$36 in advance, \$50 at the door. Register at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org).

Join us for the next part of this Golden Ticket Series, An Evening with the Gershwins, featuring the singing quartet of Rebecca Cooper, Marissa Cortese, Daniel Frankel and Brian Rosenblum, who will be accompanied by a three-piece orchestra.

Also back for an encore is Broadway producer, Speaker/Historian Jack Viertel, who will give commentary on the music, lyrics, plays and history of George and Ira Gershwin. Enjoy this incredible evening orchestrated by Event Director, Rebecca Cooper, Artistic Director, Regina Elliott and Musical Director, Zachary Kampler.



# KEEPING JEWISH GREENWICH CONNECTED

## What's Happening in the Community Your Guide to (Virtual) Jewish Greenwich!

### UJA-JCC Greenwich

#### Programming & Events You Can Enjoy From Home

As part of our efforts to keep us all connected, UJA-JCC is developing at-home programming to keep children, families and individuals engaged, stimulated and entertained. This includes daily Zoom Storytime, featuring PJ Library stories, activities & crafts, Virtual Coffees and A Taste of Text Study via Zoom.

Please check our website at [www.ujajcc.org](http://www.ujajcc.org), read our emails, like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram to stay updated on the latest happenings as well as what's taking place in and around Jewish Greenwich.

**Tuesday, April 14 at 10:30 am**

[Virtual Studio Tour with Artist Ron Agam](#)

**Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 pm**

[Virtual Yom HaShoah Commemoration](#)

**Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 pm**

[Virtual Jewish Book Club featuring \*The Third Daughter\* by Talia Carner](#)

### Chabad of Greenwich

**Rabbi Yossi Deren & Andy Wels - Tanya, Daily Inspiration, Maimonides' Mitzvahs**

All Weekday (S-F) mornings 8:30 am

<https://zoom.us/j/4881360762>

**Rabbi Feldman - Torah Class**

Sunday Mornings 9:30 am

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCc6ID9IQknxtOniQIYNr4Q>

**Rabbi Feldman - Talmud**

Tuesday Mornings 10:00 am

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCc6ID9IQknxtOniQIYNr4Q>

**Maryashie Deren - Tanya**

Tuesday Mornings 12:15 - 12:45 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/4045802626>

**Maryashie Deren - Parenting**

Wednesday Mornings 9:15 - 9:45 am

<https://zoom.us/j/4045802626>

**Rabbi Feldman - The Rebbe's Teachings**

Wednesday Mornings 10:00 am

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCc6ID9IQknxtOniQIYNr4Q>

**Rabbi Feldman - Parsha**

Thursday Mornings 9:45 am

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCc6ID9IQknxtOniQIYNr4Q>

**Fairfield County United!**

Join the Chabad rabbis of our region for some pre-Shabbat inspiration

Thursday Evenings 8:30 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/9425111239>

### Greenwich Reform Synagogue

To attend meetings on Zoom, please email [info@GRS.org](mailto:info@GRS.org) for the ID number during regular business hours.

**Wine & Schmooze with Rabbi Jordie**

Every Thursday at 8:00 pm

Check-in with fellow congregants; see faces you're missing and talk.

**Jewish meditation and text study with Rabbi Gerson**

Tuesdays at noon

**Storytime for Kids with Rabbi Gerson**

Tuesday - Thursday at 5:30 pm

**Kids Sing Along with Cantor Dunkerley**

Monday - Thursday at 10:00 am

**Tot Shabbat with Rabbi Gerson and Cantor Dunkerley**

Fridays at 5:30 pm

### Hebrew Wizards

**Virtual Shabbat each Friday night.**

Visit YouTube channel:

[youtube.com/watch?v=q2b0YVazSOg&feature=share](https://youtube.com/watch?v=q2b0YVazSOg&feature=share)

### Temple Sholom

**Lunch 'n Learn with Rabbi Mitch**

Every Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/453537080>

**Developing Resilience with Dr. Dale Atkins**

Monday, April 13, 11:00 am

<https://zoom.us/j/140296266>

**Shabbat Sing-A-Long with Rotating Clergy**

Fridays, 12:00 noon

email [Lori.baden@templesholom.com](mailto:Lori.baden@templesholom.com) for the link

**Tot Passover with Rabbi Chaya**

Friday, April 10, 12 noon

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7786413847>

**Interfaith Prayer Service with the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy**

Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/247865114>

**An Evening with Comedian Pamela Schuller**

Comedian, Speaker, Advocate

Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/363037615>

UJA-JCC GREENWICH ADULT EDUCATION



**MAY 14**

*Rabbi David Silber*

**King David: Messianic Dream, Harsh Realities - Part I**

Session one of a three-part part exploration of King David.

**MAY 21**

*Rabbi Aviva Richman*

**Beyond Charity: Doing Hesed, Creating the World**

We'll study an essay by the late scholar and philosopher R. Isaac Hutner, a disciple of Rav Kook, on the fundamental power of doing acts of care and kindness, without which our world, and even God, cannot exist.

**MAY 28**

**NO CLASS - SHAVUOT**

**JUNE 4**

*Marty Flashner*

**Yom Yerushalayim**

Let's look at the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War.

**JUNE 11**

*Rabbi Moshe Edelman*

**Why Do Jews Pray for a Good Month?**

What does the monthly prayer say? Who wrote it? Does it work?

**JUNE 18**

*Rabbi David Silber*

**King David: Messianic Dream, Harsh Realities - Part II**

We continue our three parter about Israel and Judah's third monarch.

**JUNE 25**

*Rabba Dr. Carmella Abraham*

**Working 9 to 5**

Jewish ethics in the workplace.

**JULY 2**

*Chaim Lauer*

**Pigs, Plagues and the Rabbis: A Talmudic Response**

How did the Talmud understand and react to the intermittent plagues and epidemics that struck the mid-East?

**JULY 9**

*Rabbi Howard Goldsmith*

**Love Your Neighbor**

...as yourself, through history and today.

**JULY 16**

*Rabbi David Silber*

**King David: Messianic Dream, Harsh Realities - Part III**

And...it's a wrap for our King David mini-series.

**Check UJA-JCC Greenwich calendar at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org) for updated schedule.**

# Yom HaShoah

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION

### Via Zoom with Speaker: Michael Delikat, Second Generation | April 21 | 7pm

Otto Delikat was born in Vienna in 1922, a firsthand witness to the increasing terror of anti-Semitism as Hitler rose to power in Depression-era Europe. Arrested by the Gestapo at the age of 17, he suffered six years of imprisonment in such death camps as Auschwitz, Warsaw, Dachau and Muhlendorf. His story of survival is one of both luck and hope. Above all, Otto's story of strength, dignity and optimism has an even more relevant and important message for today's youth and our entire Jewish community.



**Free and open to all. For a link, register at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org).**

## Famous Father Girl with Author Jamie Bernstein

*The Maestro's most famous songs performed by Rebecca Cooper and Dan Frankel with piano accompaniment by Zachary Kampler, Greenwich Arts Council, February 27*



## Israel and the Water You Drink: A Surprising Story with Seth Siegel

January 30, Bruce Museum



## CUTLER ANDREWS

CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

I am pleased to announce the launch of my investment company providing investment strategies and planning services to families, individuals and businesses.

- Discretionary Portfolio Strategies
- Separately Managed Account(s)
- Private Equity
- Hedge Funds
- Alternatives/Managed Futures
- Generation Planning
- Trust Accounts
- Retirement Accounts
- Charitable Giving

I look forward to servicing my friends in the community from my new company.

Beth F. Cutler  
President, Co-Founder  
203-344-2400  
beth@cutlerandrewscm.com



Main Phone: 203-344-2400  
Fax: 203-344-2409  
1700 East Putnam Avenue, Suite 211  
Old Greenwich, CT 06870  
[www.cutlerandrewscapitalmanagement.com](http://www.cutlerandrewscapitalmanagement.com)

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## The Mead School

LEARNING THAT LASTS

### Introducing *Kesher* at Mead

The Mead School is delighted to announce the inauguration of our new Kesher (connection) program for Jewish life and learning.

- Kesher* is an elective track launching in Fall 2020, and will include
- Hebrew language instruction
  - Study of texts and exploration of Jewish and Israeli culture and holidays in multidisciplinary coordination with art, music, literature, and social studies curricula

#### The Mead School

Mead is an independent day school in North Stamford serving students Nursery-8th grade. The Mead School helps children grow into engaged and accomplished lifelong learners.

- A Mead education provides several unique elements including
- Child-centered educational approach
  - Inquiry-based, experiential learning
  - Robust interdisciplinary structure
  - Deliberately small class sizes
  - Uniquely low student to teacher ratios
  - School-wide Social Emotional programming and curriculum

To learn more, please reach out to  
Joanne Costello, Director of Admissions & Community Relations  
[joanne\\_costello@meadschool.org](mailto:joanne_costello@meadschool.org)

**Please Consider Donating to UJA-JCC Greenwich**

UJA-JCC Greenwich remains committed to our community and to the immediate social, emotional and financial needs of its members. Although the Covid-19 situation is evolving, we know that these needs will increase in the months to come, and we are dedicated to always being here to help. Like many small businesses and service industries, this crisis hits nonprofits and community organizations particularly hard. We recognize that it is a difficult time for everyone, but if you are in a position to help us, please consider donating to UJA-JCC Greenwich today.

**Bi-Cultural Students Enjoy 'Bagels and Board Games'**

Children learn better when they're having fun. Why? Because when they're having fun, they are more creative, motivated, better engaged, and likely to absorb what they're learning. Since studies suggest this is true, the second-graders at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy learned a lot recently (and had a boatload of fun while at it) as they engaged in an educational experience that culminated in the creation of their very own board games. The students learned all about games; then invented their own, choosing their own themes, pieces, color schemes, etc. When they were done, they invited their parents to school to enjoy playing their games while noshing on bagels.



BCHA second-grader Emmet Shamsi plays his game "Monsters of Terror" with his parents, Angela and Josh Shamsi.

**FAILED PARTNERSHIPS & SUCCESSFUL TEAMWORK:**

**What We Can Learn From King Saul, Samuel the Prophet, Esther and Mordechai**

**With Rabbi David Silber**



**THURSDAYS  
10:15 AM  
MAY 14  
JUNE 18  
JULY 16**

**ONE HOLLY HILL LANE  
\$50 FOR THE SERIES  
Register at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org)**

Rabbi David Silber is the Founder and Dean of Drishna Institute for Jewish Education, the world's first center for women's advanced study of classical Jewish texts. He is the recipient of the prestigious Covenant Award for excellence in innovative Jewish education and the author of *For Such a Time as This: Biblical Reflections in the Book of Esther* and *A Passover Haggadah: Go Forth and Learn*.



**JEWISH BROADCASTING SERVICE**

*Expanding Jewish Understanding*

Visit [www.jbstv.org](http://www.jbstv.org)

A free Jewish educational and cultural television network.

For information and support during the Covid-19 crisis.



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## Krav Maga and Lighthouse Live: How to Protect Yourself

It's time to take control of our safety. This is why UJA-JCC Greenwich teamed up with self-defense expert and entrepreneur Gus Bottazzi to offer Krav Maga classes, as well as Lighthouse Live, his mobile app to protect users on the go. Over the course of four evenings, Bottazzi will instruct adults in tactical striking, abduction defenses and ground defense, the "Self-Defense Essentials" he teaches under his Corporate Krav Maga aegis. [See dates below.]

"How do I keep myself protected without having to learn self-defense?" was the challenge Bottazzi identified when he set out to create a digital solution, as CEO of Lighthouse Protection Corp. Lighthouse Live instantly connects users with certified conflict experts who guide them, step-by-step, in what to do. "Our advisers are trained in de-escalation and evasion tactics. A quick screen tap will activate speech, text and/or chat. Lighthouse Live also keeps watch from afar. It activates the user's mobile camera and streams the unfolding scenario to the advisor. "Attackers don't want to be known, and they don't want to be caught," Bottazzi observed. The ability to see and hear gives the advisor real-time knowledge that has been shown to stop an event in its tracks." The GPS-enhanced app also offers a simultaneous link to emergency services that can dispatch physical help ranging from police officers to ambulances.

Bottazzi has first-hand experience of such vulnerability. Back in the 90s he was mugged

three times (including while strolling on Park Avenue in Manhattan.) So began his 14-year Japanese karate practice followed by another 16 years of Krav Maga. "When seconds count, the police are still minutes away," Bottazzi said by way of explaining his app's premise. "With all the anti-Semitic attacks, here is one extra tool in the Jewish community's tool kit that would enable people to get out of a threatening situation when it happens," said Bottazzi.

Bottazzi is pleased to offer the UJA-JCC

Greenwich community a promotional discount of \$5.99 per month vs. the \$9.99 per month price tag. Further information and contact details are available at [lighthouse-protection.com](http://lighthouse-protection.com).

*To register for Krav Maga (May 20 and 27; June 10 and 17, 7:30 – 9 pm), visit [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org). As the situation unfolds with the Covid-19 pandemic, we may alter the dates as necessary; please check our website for updates.*



**KRAV MAGA**

The effectiveness of Krav Maga in self-defense is so well known it has become the most searched martial arts industry term on Google. Join us for four classes run by Corporate Krav Maga, a self-defense instruction company dedicated to training people across the United States.

**SELF DEFENSE ESSENTIALS**

**Session 1: Tactical Striking**  
Learn the proper targets, range and structure of attacks on your attacker's body.

**Session 2: Abduction Defenses**  
Learn ways to thwart attackers grabbing you from the front, from behind, and by your hair.

**Session 3: Ground Defense**  
Learn how to escape attacks of all kinds and useful evasion and escape techniques.

**Session 4: Practical Review**  
Review of all material covered in the 1st 3 sessions. Each participant will be able to demonstrate ability to defend against attacks.

**KRAV MAGA 101**

## Virtual Studio Tour with Artist Ron Agam

Tuesday, April 14, 10:30-11:30 am.



Join Ron Agam for an online spin through his Manhattan studio, and learn how this former fine art photographer-turned kinetic artist opted to pick up a paintbrush in the footsteps of his iconic father.

Free • Registration Required

Register today at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org) to receive Zoom link!



## Scholarships Available for Summer Camp!

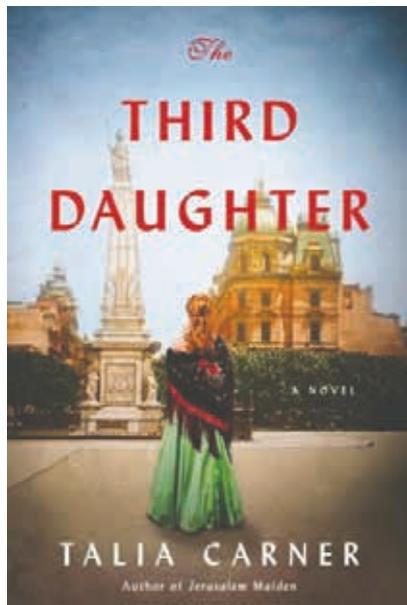


To learn more about need-based scholarships, email [jewishgreenwich1@gmail.com](mailto:jewishgreenwich1@gmail.com) to request a Rogath camp scholarship application.



## The UJA-JCC Greenwich Virtual Jewish Book Club! Join Us When We Discuss *The Third Daughter* by Talia Carner

“An unforgettable story of strength and survival.” –Jillian Cantor, Bestselling author of *In Another Time*



Enjoy the Book  
Share Your Thoughts  
Catch up with Friends  
“Meet” New People

Thursday, April 23 • 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Free • Registration Required  
[Click Here To Register](#)  
**Spots Are Limited**  
RSVP Today for Zoom Link!

Special Thanks to Our Committee:  
Debby Fram, Gaby Isman, Bryanna Kallman, Silvina Knoll, Heidi Lobel and Maura Smotrich

Inspired by Sholem Aleichem’s short story, *The Third Daughter* is the tale of a young woman lured from Russia into prostitution in Buenos Aires in the late 1800s — and her courageous struggle to free herself from this bondage while bringing down those responsible for it.

A powerful novel about finding courage in the face of danger and hope in the face of despair, *The Third Daughter* brings to life a dark period of Jewish history and gives a voice to victims whose truth deserves to finally be told.

*The Third Daughter* was a finalist in the 2020 Jewish Book Council Award (Book Club category).

### CALLING ALL ARTISTS:

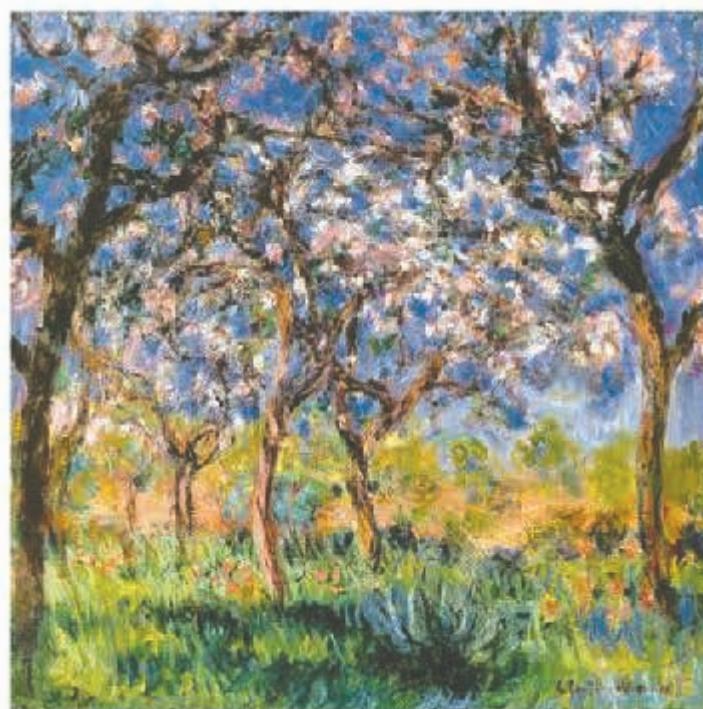
Help Us Create a Virtual Art Gallery!

**Spring has sprung**, so step up and show us your creative side! We’re looking for artists of ALL ages and art of any type (poetry, photography, painting or any medium) that we can share in our **UJA-JCC Virtual Art Gallery**.

Help us brighten people’s days with your **Spring-inspired creativity!**

Please email your work (highest-res jpeg file preferred) to [randi@ujajcc.org](mailto:randi@ujajcc.org), and be sure to include your name, age (if you’re under 18) and the town you live in.

We look forward to seeing your creativity!



# UJA-JCC Women's Education Symposium March 4 at Greenwich YWCA



## Women's Philanthropy Helps!

UJA-JCC Women's Philanthropy is helping to stock the pantry at the Schoke JFS Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry, which provides more than 28,000 meals per year to individuals and families in Southern Connecticut who experience food insecurity. In the current environment of job loss, the kosher food pantry is especially necessary. Want to help? [CLICK HERE](#) to make a donation of any amount.

Many thanks for the extra serving of kindness from these generous supporters.

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Bonnie Citron       | Silvina Knoll  |
| Marissa Cohen       | Yael Rosen     |
| Stephanie Esquenazi | Debra Rosmarin |
| Andi Fern           | Kim Sands      |
| Gaby Isman          | Debra Shore    |
| Yvette Kahn         |                |

## Stamford Students Lobby CT Congressmen at AIPAC Conference

A delegation of 28 students from Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School was among 18,000 Israel supporters who arrived in Washington D.C. in March to attend the 2020 AIPAC Policy Conference. The teens – one of the largest high school delegations at the conference -- were all members of the school's Israel Advocacy Club.

It was the fifth consecutive year the school sent a delegation of students to the annual pro-Israel conference. In addition to listening to the remarks of dignitaries and spending a few days in the nation's capitol rubbing elbows with national and world leaders, 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, the delegation headed up to Capitol Hill to speak with members of Connecticut's congressional delegation – including Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and Congressman Jim Himes – about the need for full support of Israel at the highest levels of the American government.

The BCHA Upper School's Israel Advocacy Club was founded five years ago

to take the students' burgeoning belief in the ideal of Zionism and transform it into their advocacy for the American-Israel relationship. Through multiple speakers and work-shops, the club teaches students how their small voices can grow louder when raised in concert with the rest of AIPAC's pro-Israel community.

"The Jewish people have been persecuted throughout history, and we have finally returned to our ancestral homeland and now stand strong as a sovereign nation," said BCHA Upper School principal, Rabbi Shimmy Trencher. "As Americans and Jews, we proudly stand with Israel, a strong strategic partner of the United States. It was uplifting to join together with 18,000 pro-Israel Americans – Democrats and Republicans, Jews and Christians, young and old – in support of the U.S.-Israel partnership." For BCHA sophomore Shira Haron the conference was not only an immersive educational opportunity, but a bonding experience as well. Said Haron: "My love for Israel intensified after attending the AIPAC Policy Conference and seeing thousands of other students from all backgrounds coming together for one common purpose: standing up for Israel's rights."



Members of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School's Israel Advocacy Club at the 2020 AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. The group was accompanied by BCHA Upper School principal, Rabbi Shimmy Trencher (far left) and BCHA Upper School history teacher David Giver (far right).

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**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**

Join us at 5:30 for pizza, followed by a short Havdallah service. While the kids enjoy an animated feature film, the adults can relax with wine and cheese. Kids can come in PJs and bring sleeping bags.

**Call for more details  
RSVP Required!**

Greenwich Reform  
A Synagogue For Generations

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info@grs.org

**Wizards Better2B Virtual Community**

We are all in this together. We are safe and with our families. But we can still make a difference in our community. The Wizards are busy at work making caring phone calls to seniors.

Better2B "Community Caring Calls"

Acts of loving kindness can be done virtually. Be creative. Be kind. Be thoughtful, and let someone know that they are loved. Blessing from us all to you...Keep safe.

The JCC Preschool at Greenwich Reform Synagogue  
a program of The UJA

**Blooming Babies**  
Birth - 2 years (w/parent or caregiver)

Bring your baby or toddler to the new JCC Preschool for free play, music and movement. \$10 per class.

**TUESDAYS**  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

**Terrific Tots**  
15 - 22 months

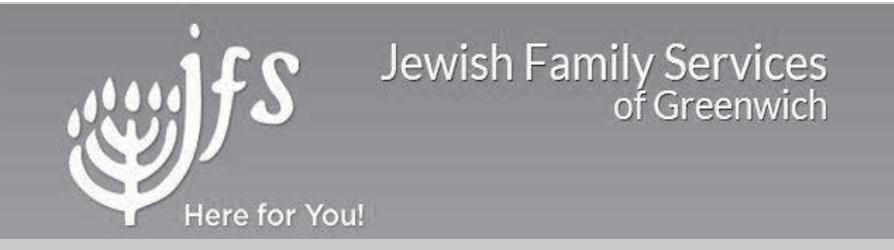
This three-hour class will feature free play, circle time, art exploration, movement, and lunch. Parents/caregivers should plan on participating in the first two sessions to aid in separation.

**MONDAY & WEDNESDAY**  
9 AM - 12 PM

at Greenwich Reform Synagogue | 92 Orchard Street • Cos Cob, CT

For more information, including tuition, contact Sarah Gregoire at 203.487.0944 or sgregoire@stamfordjcc.org.

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH**



**CEO's Corner**

I come to you today as CEO and first- and fourth-grade elementary school teacher. Boy has my routine changed! The whirlwind of Covid-19 has been nothing short of bizarre. Everything from our daily schedules to the simple joy of hugging a loved one has come to a screeching halt. There are so many questions, and some of the answers only bring more uncertainty.



History tells us that with every challenge there is good to be found. At first it is hard to discover, and for many it may still be. I saw it on day one of social distancing. Not in the empty shelves at the supermarket, but the dozens of volunteers from the Greenwich Jewish community who reached out to help strangers in need. I have seen it in the puzzle I finally had the time to do with my children. I have seen it in the family walks we have taken every single night together – because we can. I have seen it in the offers of support on social media for anything from calling the lonely to fixing a stove.

My world right now revolves around my home. It has become both insanely complex and also remarkably comforting. I am blessed to have everything I need right here in front of me. And for that I am grateful, even in a pandemic – there is good to be found.

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

**JFS of Greenwich Answers the Call!**

*by Rachel Kornfeld*

When the call came in from Community Centers, Inc. to take on their shopping services for more than 70 seniors, there was no hesitation, JFS answered the call! In times of struggle the answer has to be “yes.” Immediately, director of Supermarketing for Seniors Elyse Brown began planning to more than double the standard caseload overnight. Then came the calls from Greenwich United Way and Greenwich Department of Human Services. Times like these test limits and abilities. However, the Greenwich community is like no other. Together Greenwich United Way helped to clarify each agency’s roll and spread the word, and the volunteers stepped forward. Increased food shopping services and Neighbor to Neighbor deliveries began through JFS immediately and will continue as long as needed. In addition to delivery services donations of food cards through SNAPback, many Greenwich residents allowed JFS to ensure that food was delivered regardless of ability to pay for groceries.

JFS also moved swiftly to ensure our behavioral health services transitioned to telehealth services without any lapse in care. Therapists have helped to ease anxiety and depression by staying connected to current clients and accepting new clients daily.

Our tag line says, “JFS is here for you!” And we mean it!

**Do you have a teen struggling with anxiety, depression, low self-esteem or stress? We're here to help!**

GIRL TALK is a group that provides a safe place for girls ages 12-18 to learn how to regulate emotions, build self-esteem, and obtain coping skills. They will get answers about school, relationships, parents, stress, social media, etc.

You can learn more about GIRL TALK by contacting:  
 Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL  
 rkornfeld@jfsgreenwich.org  
 Holly Schiff, PsyD  
 hschiff@jfsgreenwich.org  
 Phone: 203.622.1881

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**ARE YOU FEELING ANXIOUS, DEPRESSED, OR IN NEED OF SUPPORT?**

**JFS OF GREENWICH REMAINS OPEN AND READY TO HELP!**

**OUR TELEHEALTH SERVICES ARE COVERED BY ALL INSURANCE PLANS**  
 All are welcome

**If you are interested in individual counseling, contact us at JFS of Greenwich 203-622-1881 or [mknee@jfsgreenwich.org](mailto:mknee@jfsgreenwich.org)**

**JFS JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH**

**A Note from Larry Stoogenke  
Our New Director of  
Community Engagement at JFS**



The first minute of the first day of my new job as Director of Community Engagement for Family Life Programs at JFS I heard these words: "Greenwich Woods is canceling all of their programs until further notice." My heart sank. During the rest of the morning it progressed to all programs being canceled throughout Greenwich and Connecticut.

In my new role I am tasked with strengthening the bonds of our community, raising the profile and support for existing programs, creating programming initiatives, and essentially building our *kehillah kedoshah*, or sacred community.

The Covid-19 pandemic altered the plans we at JFS had for my first week. Rachel and I were to traverse Greenwich to meet and greet the directors of the senior facilities, the clergy, and the beneficiaries of our programs. That came to a halt. However, with adversity comes opportunity. I may not have been able to meet anyone, but I have had the opportunity to see how well the JFS staff works and have already enjoyed the culture of *hineini* that is clearly well established here.

I have also had the opportunity to place calls to seniors who participate in our shopping program, and to seniors who may be isolated or at risk. I have had the pleasure of reaching out to each JFS board member. While the pandemic may cut us off from physically being together, I have already been warmly welcomed by the staff and have seen the impact JFS has on the community.

This may not have been an ideal way to start a brand new job that relies on engagement, but I can foresee the enormous possibilities that exist to continue to grow our *kehilla kedoshah*.

Please stay safe, and don't be surprised to get a call from me.

**Words of Wisdom, Words We Need Right Now...**

by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

Lockdown  
 Yes there is fear.  
 Yes there is isolation.  
 Yes there is panic buying.  
 Yes there is sickness.  
 Yes there is even death.  
 But,  
 They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
 You can hear the birds again.  
 They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
 The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
 But blue and grey and clear.  
 They say that in the streets of Assisi  
 People are singing to each other  
 across the empty squares,  
 keeping their windows open  
 so that those who are alone  
 may hear the sounds of family around them.  
 They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
 Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
 Today a young woman I know  
 is busy spreading fliers with her number  
 through the neighborhood  
 So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
 Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
 are preparing to welcome  
 and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
 All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
 All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way  
 All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
 To how big we really are.  
 To how little control we really have.  
 To what really matters.  
 To Love.  
 So we pray and we remember that  
 Yes there is fear.  
 But there does not have to be hate.  
 Yes there is isolation.  
 But there does not have to be loneliness.  
 Yes there is panic buying.  
 But there does not have to be meanness.  
 Yes there is sickness.  
 But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
 Yes there is even death.  
 But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
 Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
 Today, breathe.  
 Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
 The birds are singing again  
 The sky is clearing,  
 Spring is coming  
 And we are always encompassed by Love.  
 Open the windows of your soul  
 And though you may not be able  
 to touch across the empty square,  
 Sing.

**JFS of Greenwich  
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You can learn more by contacting:  
 Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL  
 rkornfeld@jfsgreenwich.org  
 Holly Schiff, PsyD  
 hschiff@jfsgreenwich.org  
 Phone: 203.622.1881  
 Website: www.JFSGreenwich.org

**Tribute Contributions to JFS of Greenwich**

Jan and Roni Kaplowitz in memory of Asia Edberg, mother of Barbara and Maurie Edberg  
 Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Arnold Levine, family of Belle Levine  
 Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Robert Beerman  
 Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Priscilla Holmes, family of Andrew Holmes

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. We will send a note of acknowledgment to the person or family involved, informing them of your generosity.

# Temple Sholom Hosted Music Artist Joe Buchanan

Temple Sholom welcomed Texas native and country music artist Joe Buchanan for a special February weekend of toe-tapping musical experiences. He joined Cantor Sandy Bernstein in leading Friday night Shabbat services, after which he spoke at a Shabbat dinner about his

years of religious exploration and ultimately his conversion to Judaism. On Saturday evening, Temple Sholom hosted Havdallah and a Joe Buchanan concert, which was open to the community at large. Buchanan also spent time on Sunday morning with children from the

Temple Sholom Learning Center.

Buchanan's music combines the feel-good elements of country, roots-rock and folk genres of his Texas upbringing with his love of the complex melodic and harmonic character of Jewish scales and traditional tunes.



Joe Buchanan accompanied by Cantor Sandy Bernstein and her husband Gaston Bernstein.



Joe Buchanan, Cantor Sandy Bernstein and Rabbi Chaya Bender celebrated the end of Shabbat with a brief Havdallah service before the concert.



Joe Buchanan ended his concert with a group song.

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## At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, *tefilah* and *mitzvah* Hand in Hand

On the first of every Hebrew month – aka Rosh Chodesh – the 5th- and 6th-grade girls at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy invite their mothers to join them for *Shacharit* – morning *tefillah*. The girls lead prayers with their mothers joining in, and then the entire group engages in a meaningful conversation that creates a spiritual connection between mother and daughter.

On Rosh Chodesh Adar the program took a celebratory turn as 6th-grader Natalie Cohen marked her bat mitzvah by leading services. Those gathered Bi-Cultural students created Stars of Hope to decorate Israeli shelters.



## Hebrew Wizards 2020 Purim Celebration



Purim is a wonderful holiday to celebrate Klal Yisrael; taking care of one another. Whether it is Purim or any other day, we are here for each other. Celebrate with your family and friends.



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## Shabbat Across America at Shir Ami

February 28 was Shabbat Across America, and Shir Ami participated by embracing the challenge to invite guests to join us. We were delighted to have 14 guests, invited by our congregants, for a very special Shabbat service and a terrific *oneg* that was hosted by Shir Ami members Jackie and Ray Marschall. Among our guests was a woman named Betty Steinberg who had recently contacted us because she learned that our Shir Ami Torah comes from Szydlowiec, the same small town in Poland where her father had been born. She's in the process of writing a book about her father's life before he escaped Poland and moved to Brazil. It was a tremendous coincidence to discover the Torah. She was excited to meet our congregant Barry Stein and to hear his story of how he found our Torah while traveling in Poland and the adventure of how he brought it back to our congregation. This was a lovely connection to make!



Barry Stein



Betty Steinberg

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

Send your email address to [karen@ujajcc.org](mailto:karen@ujajcc.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.

### LIFE CYCLES: A WIZARDS MOCK WEDDING, FEBRUARY 2020

A learning day to experience a Jewish wedding. From the Ketubah, to the Kiddish, to the vows, to the breaking of the glass, we lifted the Chatan & Kallah and danced the Hora.



### Stars of Hope

Following the senseless shooting at a Florida high school in 2018, students at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) resolved to bring a ray of light to the grieving community by signing up with Stars of Hope, an organization that empowers children to bring hope to those in need around the world by painting inspirational messages on wooden stars that the organization provides and sends out. Since then, the students have sent out their messages of hope and healing to many communities around the United States.

Now they're at it again – and this time they're focusing on Israel. The school's fourth-graders – members of Bi-Cultural's Makerspace Lunch and Learn group – have painted Stars of Hope that will be used to decorate the stark walls of the subterranean shelters that keep Israeli families safe from rocket attacks. The shelters can be so terrifying for young children that they can cause irreparable damage to their psyches. The Stars of Hope created by Bi-Cultural's

fourth-graders will decorate the shelter's walls with messages of solidarity, serene images and expressions of healing that are intended to comfort young children.

The BCHA Stars of Hope are part of a project to create a model "safe room" for Israeli families. It was conceived by an Israeli mother whose young son was enjoying an afternoon on the playground when the warning sirens sounded, signaling an imminent rocket attack. The child was paralyzed by the thought of going down into the dark, scary shelter himself. Instead, he stayed outside and was traumatized by the rocket fire. He is still experiencing the effects of PTSD.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy fourth-graders (l to r) Elle Riker, Michal Kanefsky, Lolly Socaransky, Tzippy Kanefsky create Stars of Hope to decorate Israeli shelters and calm children's fears – including her mother, Rachel Cohen, and her 33 classmates and their mothers, who then joined her in her "mitzvah project," crafting blankets to be donated to a shelter in Israel.



*Sweet & Healthy  
Passover Wishes  
from  
UJA-JCC Greenwich*



**Join Temple Sholom for a Virtual 1st Night Passover Seder**

Hosted by Rabbi Chaya Bender  
Wednesday, April 8  
6:30 pm

RSVP to rabbichaya@templesholom.com to get a copy of the custom Haggadah she is using.  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7786413847>  
Meeting ID 778 641 3847



May Passover bring with it the joy of freedom,  
the hope of spring, and the blessing of good health.  
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To learn more or to schedule a tour:  
For Lower School, contact Miriam Sperber  
203-329-2186 or msperber@bcha-ct.org  
For Upper School, contact Sarah Rich  
203-883-8970 or srich@bcha-ct.org



**Greenwich Reform:  
Passover Family Second Night Seder**

On Thursday, April 9, starting at 5:30, you're invited to join Rabbi Jordie Gerson and the members of Greenwich Reform for a family-friendly virtual streaming Seder on the second night of Passover. The holiday is especially relevant this year as we experience our own plague and hopes for freedom.

We will be using *A Family Haggadah II*, by Shoshana Silberman, available

online from Amazon in paper or electronic form. Copies are also available from GRS; contract us for details if you're interested.  
To attend this free Seder, please contact GRS at info@GRS.org or 203-629-0018. GRS streaming events are open to current members, prospective members and friends. Please join us!

**Zoom with the Wizards**

Thursday, April 9th at 6pm-7pm: <https://zoom.us/j/873725013>  
Join us for the 2nd night Seder – a Virtual Family Passover Picnic, with music, prayers and fun. Bring your own Matzah, salt water, charoset, bitter herbs, etc.  
The Four Questions: <https://youtu.be/TpI5XSouaOE>  
The Passover Learning video: [https://youtu.be/q\\_icX35vpLE](https://youtu.be/q_icX35vpLE)  
Aleph Bet Rap sing-along: <https://youtu.be/q2b0YVazSOg->



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UNCERTAIN TIMES**

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