Women’s Education Symposium:
Inspiration and Transformation

It’s a gathering of remarkable women! Participants in the 2019 Annual Women’s Education Symposium will leave inspired and emboldened to amplify Jewish values through personal and collective transformation.

Such themes echo through the program set for **Wednesday, March 27** at Greenwich Reform Synagogue (92 Orchard Street), where breakfast will be served from 9:15 – 9:45 am, before the program commences.

Through their recent books, *A River Could Be a Tree: A Memoir; Something Beautiful Happened: A Story of Survival and Courage in the Face of Evil*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Couney*, Symposium speakers **Angela Himsel**, **Yvette Manessis Corporon**, and **Dawn Raffel**, respectively, have all asked what value Judaism and Jewish experience might have for personal renewal, surviving tragedy and revolutionizing the wellbeing of others.

The recollections that Himsel will share from her intimate chronicle *A River Could Be a Tree* trace an unlikely journey from cult follower of the Worldwide Church of God in backwoods Indiana to student of Biblical history in Israel to convert to Judaism in New York. Himsel’s quest for identity and community is sure to spark spirited conversation and a discussion of “the Spirit.”

Next up, Corporon will relate the highlights of *Something Beautiful Happened*. Harkening back to the Greek island where her grandmother helped hide a Jewish family from the Nazis, and how this legacy of forgiveness and kindness helps Corporon cope with her own tragedy seven decades later. Corporon is a three-time Emmy Award winner who currently serves as Senior Producer with the entertainment news show EXTRA.

No less spellbinding is the story that Raffel will share from *The Strange Case of Dr. Couney*, selected as a **New York Times Book Review New & Noteworthy Title**, a **Good Reads selection of NPR**, and a **Real Simple Best Book**. In addition to unveiling the secrets of the man who changed infant care in America, Raffel will also recount her investigative adventures as researcher and writer of Dr. Couney’s twisty tale.

“This year’s Women’s Education Symposium invites attendees to consider how the featured narratives of identity, difference and healing unlock new meaning today,” says Co-Chair **Vivienne Braun**. Co-Chair **Kim Sands** adds: “With this incredible speaker lineup and the opportunity for women to connect in a warm social environment, this event promises to offer an inspiring and uplifting morning and just a great way to begin the day!”

Tickets for the Annual Women’s Education Symposium Sponsorship are available by contacting **Tracy Daniels** at 203-552-1818 or ujajcc.org. Sponsorship is $136 (which includes couvert and a book); $60 in advance; and $72 at the door. Books will also be available for purchase and signing at this educational gathering, co-sponsored with the Jewish Book Council and United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford.

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**Save the Date to Celebrate!**

April 11, 2019 at 7pm
Arch Street Teen Center
presenting
**Alice Baron Delikat & Michael Delikat**
with the Hillel Silverman Community Service Award

**Event Chairs**
Margie & Steven Black
Christine & Jeff Toback

**Attire:** Casual
**J Babies & Tots on the Town**

Moms and caregivers enjoyed an active play date at the Selma Maisel Nursery School Gymnasium Studio in January. BIG THANKS to Nursery School Director, David Cohen and Temple Sholom for hosting a morning of stimulating fun for the little ones and relaxing social time for moms. Kudos to outgoing J Babies Chair Rebecca Cooper for her dedicated stewardship of J Babies over the years and a hearty welcome to incoming Chair, Alexandra Saltis. We look forward to many happy J Babies play dates and activities this year and thank Rebecca and Alex for their creative leadership of this program.

**Promote PJ Library**

We want to share the amazing experience that PJ Library is and we need your help! Take a great picture and post it on Facebook or Instagram! It’s that easy…and please copy and paste these hashtags and the link to support: #ujajcc #peopleofthepjbook https://bit.ly/2SV9CMD along with:

- A photo of you or your family member reading a PJ book with your kids (backs of heads encouraged if you want more privacy for the kids)
- A photo of you and your grandchild reading a book
- A photo of your child’s PJ books at home
- One line about how you feel about PJ Library!

We need your help to spread the PJ Library love and to continue the program here in Greenwich! Thank you for participating. We look forward to seeing your photos!

**PJ Library Mini Seder**

Back by popular demand, this warm family-friendly event introduces our youngest PJ Library kids to well-known holiday traditions – matzah, maror and a whole lot more. Event Co-Chairs Kelly Freishtat and Natalie Landres are amazed at how much grandparents, in particular, love this intergenerational program. Kelly is eager to share the Mini-Seder with even more families. She remarks, “Every year we incorporate stories, role-playing, and activities for young children, including toy frogs that jump around! This was the first PJ Library event I brought my then one-year-old twins to when we moved to Greenwich. Now something we look forward to every year.”

Natalie, also a Mini Seder aficionado adds, “The PJ Library Mini Seder is a great way for children to come together and celebrate Passover and to learn about the Exodus out of Egypt that is age appropriate, even for the little ones!”

This event is generously sponsored by Kelly and Scott Freishtat. To sign up, please call our offices at 203 552-1818 or go to uujajcc.org.

**Dreidel Ball**

What happens when you mix latkes, music, dancing and dreidels with crafts, cookie decorating and a mission for social action? You have the makings of an amazing Hanukkah party. And what fun it was! Nearly 100 people enjoyed the 2-hour action-packed event on December 9th. DJ Adam was a hit and so were the chicken fingers, sufganiot, delicious desserts and hands-on arts and crafts. Always with a generous spirit, Dreidel Ball participants brought boxes of coloring books, crayons, and stickers for children at Maria Ferari Children’s Hospital and the Chai Lifeline network helping families navigate serious pediatric illness. BIG THANKS to event Chairs and Sponsors: Rebecca Cooper, Stephanie Esquenazi and Hillary Rosenthal and to additional sponsoring families Kelly and Scott Freishtat and Abby and Vitaly Vorobeychik. Many thanks as well and kudos to attendees for adding this mitzvah to holiday fun.

**PJ Library Story Time**

PJ Library Story Time at Greenwich Library is the place to be for young children and families who love books, crafts and making new friends. This popular program in partnership with Greenwich Library brings children five and under together with very special guest readers for an hour of unique enrichment. Talented “PJ Moms” Eva Kantor and Rabbi Joui Hessel have led Story Time programs featuring Hanukkah and Kindness. Story Time Chairs Erika Brunwasser and Rita Teichner facilitate craft programs for children, parents, grandparents and caregivers related to themes of the day. Most recently guest reader Rachel Bahar, Associate Principal of Early Childhood at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, and her colleague Denise Rafaillov brought music and movement to Story Time around the theme of Tu B’Shevat – a celebration of the new year (or birthday) for trees. We send a hearty THANKS to event sponsors Randi Evelson and Emery Kafka.

To join us, mark your calendar for March 19 from 4:00–4:45 PM at Greenwich Public Library’s Meeting Room, 2nd floor, and please don’t forget to sign up at uujajcc.org or call Tracy at 203-552-1818.
Providing a Lifeline for Small Jewish Communities

Despite many challenges, Jewish life continues to flourish in all four corners of the globe. Our partners work in more than 68 countries, ensuring that Jewish communities everywhere – whatever their size – stay vibrant and resilient. For example, JDC works with communities in Cuba, Morocco, India and beyond to maintain key institutions, social service programs and educational initiatives. The Jewish Agency for Israel’s Global School Twinning Network builds bridges between Israeli and Jewish children from Uruguay to Turkey. Young emissaries work with Jewish communities in China, New Zealand and beyond. The Emergency Assistance Fund has provided $3 million to boost security at 97 Jewish institutions worldwide. And World ORT runs top tech-focused schools throughout Latin America, and enrolls 8,000+ students alone in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In India, ORT provides IT and other vocational training for Jewish communities.

Your support of UJA-JCC Greenwich helps make these programs a reality.

Aiding Those in Need Around the World

From natural disasters to humanitarian emergencies and beyond, UJA-JCC provides a lifeline for people in distress across the globe. For decades, our extensive network of local and international partners has enabled us to respond quickly and effectively to meet short- and long-term needs. JDC convenes the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief in times of emergency. Following the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, JDC aided 54,000+ survivors with counseling, opportunities to regain their livelihoods and disaster risk reduction. The Israel Trauma Coalition ran workshops for caregivers in Jordan, providing training for coping with stress, grief and other symptoms of prolonged exposure to trauma from working with Syrian refugees. And World ORT conducted vocational training in dozens of developing countries. It also runs projects in Burma and Liberia with funding from USAID and others.
Kelly Goldstein Joins Staff of UJA-JCC Greenwich
As Director of Engagement and Development

Kelly comes to us from Temple Israel Center in White Plains where she worked for the past year and a half as Director of Membership Engagement and Events. She has spent most of her career working for local organizations, such as the Rye YMCA, Young Judea and the National Office of the United States Tennis Association. She is also a committed volunteer, in working to help send children to sleep-away camp who may not be able to attend for financial reasons. She was active in fundraising and alumni relations for many years at Miss Hall’s School in Massachusetts, from which she graduated in 1988. Kelly is the mother of 12 year-old twins and lives in Rye with her husband and children. When she is not working, she loves to play tennis, attend sporting events and spend time with her family. She is excited to join the team at UJA-JCC Greenwich.

Hanukkah Gift Drive a Great Success

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your swift and generous response to the 2018 Hanukkah Gift Drive, a collaboration of UJA-JCC Women’s Philanthropy and Jewish Family Services of Greenwich. This year JFS presented us with a “gift wish list” for thirteen children & teens and three adults, including two seniors and one working mom. Together, we provided 75 gift items to these families, along with wrapping paper for the parents to use. The families were thrilled to be remembered and parents, so grateful to have much needed gifts for their children.

Kol Hakavod for making the holiday special for others who are less fortunate. Your extreme kindness not only uplifted the recipient families, but inspired your children, friends and community members who saw your care and concern turn into a groundswell of action. I am delighted to have been able to serve as chair and to help mobilize this effort. Thank you and best wishes for 2019!

Yael Rosen, Committee Chair

An Evening with Palestinian Journalist and Activist Bassam Eid

UAJ-JCC Greenwich patrons planning to attend An Evening with Bassam Eid on Thursday, March 7, at the home of Yael and Josh Rosen, can expect a refreshing exchange. The Jerusalem-based political analyst, human rights pioneer and expert on Arab and Palestinian affairs is likely to express viewpoints seldom encountered in major American or European media.

Eid, an outspoken advocate of Palestinian accountability and self-change, is known for his criticism of the Palestinian Authority and Gaza-ruling Hamas. A particular pet peeve is the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, which he sees as antithetical to the cause of Palestinian labor.

His courage and candor in speaking out against Palestinian human rights abuses by the Palestinian Authority landed him in a PA jail in 1996. Released through the intercession of the U.S. Secretary of State, he soon founded the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, aimed at exposing human rights violations and supporting a democratic and pluralistic Palestine. Eid’s early background included a seven-year position with the Israeli watchdog group B’Tselem, which he left following its decision not to monitor human rights abuses of Palestinians by the PA. Since 2003, he has worked for Israeli television as a commentator on Palestinian politics, and in 2016 he became chairman of the Center for Near East Policy Research.

Now 60, Eid was born in the Jordanian-controlled eastern part of Jerusalem that became the Shuafat Refugee Camp, where he spent the first 33 years of his life.

Donors at this special evening will have the opportunity to engage Eid directly about his life, work and political outlook. Tickets ($75) and additional details will be found at uajcc.org or 203-552-1818. Dinner is at 7 pm, and the presentation takes place at 7:45 pm.

Jointly sponsored with UJF of Greater Stamford, the event is open to supporters of the UJA-JCC 2019 Campaign for Jewish Needs at the $10,000 level and up.
Temple Sholom has always had a strong relationship with its neighbor, Christ Church of Greenwich. The two organizations have hosted Interfaith Holiday Lightings, partnered on Interfaith Mission trips to Israel, and most recently have paired up for a great social action initiative at Inspirica’s Woodlawn Campus in Stamford. Once a month, volunteers from both houses of worship prepare and serve part of the meal at the Inspirica Women’s Shelter. Inspirica, whose tagline is “From Homeless to Home,” provides services to help people achieve and maintain permanent housing.

This Interfaith initiative has been just one of many tikkun olam (“repairing the world”) efforts available for Temple Sholom members. In November, Temple Sholom’s teen community came together to prepare Thanksgiving meals for those less fortunate in Greenwich, and in December, the temple received more than 100 toy donations to support David’s Treasure Tree Closet in the pediatric wing of Stamford Hospital.

Throughout the month of February, Temple Sholom will be collecting new and gently-used clothing and travel-sized toiletries to support an upcoming Midnight Run to New York City, organized by the Social Action Committee. To drop off donations or if you would like to learn more about Temple Sholom’s social action initiatives, please contact Lori Baden at 203-542-7172 or lori.baden@templesholom.com.
The Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School is proud to announce that it will send two teachers to the 2019 World Forum on Early Care and Education in Macao, China. Jane Zeitler, a full-day pre-school teacher, and Kim Schweber, a part-day 2’s teacher, were chosen to represent the nursery school at this global conference, which will take place from April 8-11.

“We are so fortunate to have professional teachers who represent some of the best in the United States, and who can bring back international educational perspectives to share with their colleagues,” said Nursery School Director David Cohen.

The mission of the World Forum Foundation is to promote an on-going exchange of ideas on the delivery of quality services for young children in diverse settings. During the conference – which includes more than 100 sessions with 200 presenters from 60 nations – early childhood educators and advocates from all around the world will engage in dialogue to impact future generations of young children. “Participation in the World Forum will continue to enhance our own curriculum and approaches to early childhood education,” said Cohen. “The impact will be seen as we apply these practices in ways that are relevant locally.”

The Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School is currently accepting registration for the 2019-2020 school year. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact David Cohen at 203-622-8121 or david.cohen@templesholom.com.

Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School to Send Two Teachers to Education Conference in China

Teachers Jane Zeitler and Kim Schweber will represent the Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School at the 2019 World Forum on Early Care and Education in Macao, China.

Celebrate Passover with Greenwich Reform

All are welcome to celebrate Passover with two events at Greenwich Reform.

On Thursday, April 11, from 9:30-11 am, we’ll meet at the home of a GRS member for our annual “Sharing Passover Secrets” gathering, discussing everything from favorite recipes (charoset, chicken soup, brisket, desserts, and more); how to make your Seder family-friendly; table-setting tips, special family traditions, and much more.

On Saturday, April 20, starting at 5 pm, join us for a family-friendly second-night Seder. Enjoy a beautiful evening with family and friends, with none of the work or stress! Rabbi Jordie Gerson will lead the Seder, ensuring that it will be educational, entertaining, and thought-provoking for both children and adults. The catered meal will include everything from matzoh ball soup to a delicious Kosher for Passover chocolate cake.

For full details and to RSVP, contact temple administrator at 203-629-0018 or HadasElias@GRS.org.
Three Important Chassidic Ideas from the Rebbe

As we approach a quarter century since the passing of the Rebbe, I take this opportunity to share with you three revolutionary ideas of Chassidic philosophy:

1) **Being a fighter is nobler than being a Tzaddik (righteous).**

I recall a Shabbat afternoon about 28 years ago, standing in the Rebbe’s Beit Midrash (Study Hall) and listening intently to his elucidation of Chapter 15 in the Tanya, the fundamental treatise of Chabad philosophy, composed by the movement’s founder, Rabbi Schneur Zalman, known as the Alter Rebbe.

The Alter Rebbe makes a novel point, contrasting those individuals whose animalistic tendency and evil inclination (Yetzer Hora) give them no rest, and their lives are filled with struggle, with those whose Yetzer Hora is “asleep,” e.g. life is a breeze – study, prayer, and observance come naturally to them. If a person is not engaged in struggle, the Alter Rebbe writes, that means he has not evoked the deep, positive, spiritual power that every one of us is granted, and is therefore not truly “serving” G-d. “Service” implies work, struggle and tension between two opposing tendencies. The person whose Yetzer Hora is asleep is thus not truly serving G-d.

The Rebbe took this even a step further: “If someone who has no need to evoke his latent spiritual powers in order to prevail in a struggle is thus considered ‘not serving G-d,’” then what difference does it make if the reason he has no struggle is that his Yetzer Hora is asleep or that he simply has no Yetzer Hora?

A Tzaddik, therefore, can also find himself sometimes in a state of “not serving G-d”!

2) **Our belief in G-d is a mere reflection of G-d’s belief in us.**

Nochum Stillerman is a rabbi who lives today in Jerusalem but grew up in Brooklyn. He knew the Rebbe’s mother, Rebettzin Chana, and he would visit her. He relates a story from one of those visits:

“She answered, ‘All the prayers are important, but yes, there must be one that is more important than the rest. I don’t know what that is for the Rebbe. But the next time he is here, I will ask him on your behalf.’

‘The following week, when I visited her again, she said, ‘I am so happy to have an answer to your question.’

She paused, and I waited with great anticipation to hear the answer.

‘It’s a very short prayer,’ she said. ‘It’s the very first prayer we say in the morning, Modeh ani le’faneca – I give thanks before You, Living and Everlasting King, that You restored my soul to me with compassion; great is Your faithfulness.’

‘That’s it?’ I asked.

‘Yes,’ she said. ‘That’s his favorite.’

I was surprised, but also very happy to hear this. And I adopted this prayer as my own personal favorite as well.

A year later, I heard the Rebbe give a talk on the subject of Modeh Ani, and he said that the message of this prayer is that G-d has a lot of faith in us, so let’s not disappoint Him. How do we know that He has a lot of faith in us? Because He gave us another day of life, even though He doesn’t owe it to us.

It became my life’s goal – not to disappoint G-d, by way of the good offices of Rebettzin Chana.” (Read the full story: www.chabadgreenwich.org/3728424)

3) **Our connection to G-d is stronger through our deeds than it is through our faith.**

One of the most frustrating phrases I hear in discussions with people about their Jewish observance is “Rabbi, I’m not there yet.” In other words, they hesitate to engage in a particular practice because they want the idea to first sit comfortably in their hearts and minds.

What these people fail to appreciate is that the Torah fully endorses and espouses the scientific axiom that humans are creatures of habit. We don’t always understand why we do certain things, we just do them – for a whole variety of reasons.

Some of the reasons are good, some are bad, some are neutral; sometimes we understand what we are doing, and sometimes it’s just a matter of habit.

You may know that something is good for you, even if you can’t fully explain how or why. This vitamin will keep you healthy. That computer software is the most user-friendly. This school produces the best graduates. Your lack of knowledge of the how and why, is not – and never should be – a hindrance to engaging in something that is clearly for your benefit, even if you can’t explain it.

Mitzvahs are not a bunch of rituals that form Jewish culture. They are Divinely ordained tools for happy, prosperous and meaningful living. We know that, History has proven it. We can’t always point to the exact steps that lead from the Mitzvah to its resulting blessing in our life. But is that a reason not to seek those blessings?

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.
Bi-Cultural to Celebrate Merger and Honor Community Leaders at March Dinner

Several leaders of the Connecticut Jewish community will be honored for their commitment to Jewish education and their dedication to community service at the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) Celebration Dinner, it was announced recently by dinner co-chairs, Amanda and Jasper Lewitton, and Drs. Lisa and Ilya Loeffler-Kaplan. The gala dinner will be held Sunday, March 31, 2019, 5:30 p.m. at the Hilton Stamford Hotel.

In addition to the evening’s Guests of Honor, Rachel and Jay Jubas, the Stamford school will present Jill and Mitchell Kaplan with the BCHA Community Service Award. For the first time, the BCHA Alumni Award will be presented to an entire class. In recognition of their contributions to their communities, as well as their professional accomplishments, the award will be presented to members of the Bi-Cultural Class of 2004. Elana Trombka, a BCHA middle school Judaic studies teacher, will receive the school’s Jane Shoztic Memorial Award.

The theme of the 2019 Celebration Dinner is “Together As One,” which celebrates the merger of Bi-Cultural Day School, a pre-K through eighth grade National Blue Ribbon School, with the acclaimed Jewish High School of Connecticut. BCHA Dean, Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein notes: “Our annual gala dinner will be a focal point for commemorating and celebrating this exciting development. This year’s honorees and chairs were selected in special recognition of their leadership and participation in the past, present and future of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy.

Dinner chairs Amanda Lewitton and Dr. Lisa Loeffler-Kaplan agree. “It will be a gala not only paying tribute to the merger, but also an opportunity to honor outstanding members of our community and alumni.

BCHA Celebration Dinner Journal co-chairs are Todd and Stacey Palker. For more information on the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Celebration Dinner, please contact Rachel Cohen at rcohen@bcds.org or 203-329-2186.
Carmel Academy invites prospective middle school students and their parents to unlock the magic of a Carmel education at its Middle School Open House on Thursday, February 28th at the school’s 270 Lake Avenue campus in Greenwich.

The evening will be fun, engaging and educational for both parents and children. Join Carmel Academy for a dairy dinner at 5:45 p.m. immediately followed by a 6:15 p.m. Open House program. Children will meet with current Carmel students and participate in an exciting Escape Room challenge that will provide a glimpse into Carmel’s middle school learning and student life. Parents will have the opportunity to experience Carmel Academy academics and curriculum through model classes, meet with the Middle School's exceptional faculty, and hear from Head of School Nora Anderson about what to look forward to as children transition to their middle years.

Come learn how Carmel Academy addresses the needs of every learner by stretching their potential in a kind, rigorous, creative and collaborative environment.

Please RSVP to www.carmelacademy.com/events. Questions: Ella Shteingart, Director of Admissions, ella@carmelacademy.com or 203-983-3503.

Join Greenwich Reform’s Book Group

All are welcome at Greenwich Reform for the next meeting of GRS READS on April 4, at 7:30 pm, when we’ll discuss Tal Keinan’s God Is in the Crowd. Join us for an informal group discussion plus coffee and dessert!

Published in September 2018, this book is a bold proposal for discovering relevance in Judaism and ensuring its survival, written by a pioneering social activist, business leader, and fighter pilot in the Israeli Air Force. Presented through the lens of Tal Keinan’s unusual personal story, it is a sobering analysis of the threat to Jewish continuity. As the Jewish people has become concentrated in just two hubs – America and Israel – it has lost the subtle code of governance that endowed Judaism with dynamism and relevance in the age of Diaspora. He argues that without this code, this ancient people will soon be extinct. Keinan presents a bold and original plan to rewrite the Jewish code, proposing a new model for Judaism and for community in general.

Keinan was born to a secular Jewish family in Florida. His interest in Judaism was ignited by a Christian minister at his New England prep school and led him down the unlikely path to enlistment in the Israel Air Force. Using his own dramatic experiences as a backdrop, and applying lessons from his life as a business leader and social activist, Keinan takes the reader on a riveting adventure.

Contact temple administrator at HadasElias@GRS.org or call 203-629-0018 with questions or to make a reservation for this free event at GRS, 92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob.

PASSOVER PICNIC
JOIN THE WIZARDS FOR THE 2ND NIGHT OF PASSOVER, APRIL 20TH, 6PM

Give Your Child the Gift of Time
A Transitional Kindergarten Where Young Minds Take Root

Carmel Academy’s Transitional Kindergarten Shorashim Program is designed to bridge the year between preschool and kindergarten, providing students with a strong foundation for success in elementary school and beyond.

- Reggio Emilia inspired classroom
- Child-centered, play-based curriculum
- Experienced early childhood educators
- Kindergarten preparedness
- Low student-teacher ratios
- Experiential, integrated Judaic learning
- Access to all specialists and afterschool programs

To learn more, please contact Ella Shteingart, Director of Admissions, at 203-983-3503 or ella.shteingart@carmelacademy.com

A private school for children of all Jewish affiliations serving students from Transitional Kindergarten through 8th Grade.
Are you considering taking a class or attending a lecture this Winter?

Look no further!

Here is a list of what’s going on right here in the Greater Greenwich Jewish Community.

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2019 Bennett Lecture in Judaic Studies
“U.S.-Israel Relations during the Obama and Trump Administrations: An Inside Look”
Daniel Shapiro, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel
Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 pm, Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts

13th Annual Lecture in Jewish and Christian Engagement
“Female Faith Leaders in Collaboration: Rabbis, Nuns, and Ministers for (nearly) 50 Years”
Rabbi Carole B. Balin, PhD; Auburn Seminary; Response by Dr. Elena Procanio-Foley, Iona College
Thursday, April 4, 7:30 pm, Dolan School of Business Dining Room
Co-sponsored by the Center for Catholic Studies

Sponsored by Rita Edelston
2019 Bennett Lecture in Judaic Studies
“U.S.-Israel Relations during the Obama and Trump Administrations: An Inside Look”
Daniel Shapiro, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel
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Rabbi Carole B. Balin, PhD; Auburn Seminary; Response by Dr. Elena Procanio-Foley, Iona College
Thursday, April 4, 7:30 pm, Dolan School of Business Dining Room
Co-sponsored by the Center for Catholic Studies

Sponsored by Rita Edelston
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 RabbiFeldman@ChabadGreenwich.org for information.

Parsha with Classic Commentaries – Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 am
Chassidic Philosophy Class – Shabbat, 8:45-9:30 am
Tanya Class For Women – Tuesdays, 12:15 pm
Chabad, 75 Mason Street, Greenwich

GREENWICH REFORM

Jewish Ritual from Birth to Death and Beyond
Rabbi Robert Rothman
Sundays, 10:00 am

Talmud Study: Privilege and Poverty, Blindness and Seeing
Rabbi David Almog
Wednesday, February 27, 7:30 pm

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

“Adult Children: What’s Your Responsibility?”
With Psychologist Betsy Stone
Wednesday, February 27, 7:00 pm, Temple Sholom, 300 East Putnam Ave.

UJA-JCC GREENWICH

Rush with Author Stephen Fried
Tuesday, February 26, 7:30 pm

War Widow with Author Ziva Bakman Flamhaft
Wednesday, May 8, 10 am

Author talks take place at the YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Ave.

Forum: Ten Commandments for Taxwise Giving in 2019
Thursday, February 28, 7:30 pm, One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich
Event sponsored by Joui Hessel & Jimmy Hexter, Kim & Marty Sands and the Toback Family Trust

Israel: Beyond Expectations
With Israel advocate Tremayne Smith
Thursday, March 14, 7:30 pm, YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Ave., Greenwich

Davis Film Festival – Bow Tie Cinema Greenwich, 7:00 pm, $15 per film
“The Syrian Patient” – April 3, 7:00 pm

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

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Talmud Lunch and Learn
Interactive Learning from Great Teachers

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

Sponsored by Rita Edelson

A Story of Friendship in Times of Illness
Yael Smooha.................................................................February 7

Because the Middle East Is Funny: Explore Israeli History Through Its Comedy
Benji Lovitt.................................................................February 14

The Land of Israel & the Jewish People: A Textual Journey
Z’ev Aviezer.................................................................February 21

Benjamin Franklin Was a Master of Mussar
Rabbi Daniel Gropper..................................................February 28

Counting Our Blessings
Tali Schaum .................................................................March 7

Esther Had an Olive Complexion
Chaim Lauer.................................................................March 14

Esther and the Art of Ancient Jewish Storytelling
Dr. Joseph Angel........................................................March 21

The Audacity of Prayer
Rabbi Aviva Richman..................................................March 28

The Holiday of Freedom
Rabbi Menachem Feldman........................................April 4

Check UJA-JCC Greenwich calendar for updated schedule
Author Series
$25 per session

Rush | With Author Stephen Fried

Tuesday, February 26 | 7:30 pm | YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Avenue

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

War Widow | With Author Ziva Bakman Flamhaft

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

Mark Yom Hazikaron, Israel’s Memorial Day, with Ziva Bakman Flamhart. 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 self-empowerment, resilience, and the healing power of helping others.

Israel: Beyond Expectations
With Tremayne Smith

THURSDAY, MARCH 14
7:30 pm | YWCA
259 E. Putnam Ave., Greenwich
$10 in advance | $15 at the door
High school students FREE

Tremayne Smith is an Israel advocate. He first became involved when he was an AIPAC delegate while serving as student body president at George Washington University. As a graduate student, he attended JNF’s selective Caravan for Democracy Student Leadership Mission, which takes non-Jewish student leaders to Israel. Upon his return, Tremayne helped defeat an anti-Israel BDS proposal at his university. He has worked for politicians and the Democratic Party in North Carolina, and was recently named a “40 under 40” by East Carolina University. Tremayne served as Special Assistant to Congressman G.K. Butterfield of North Carolina and currently serves as the Director of Scheduling for Congressman Conor Lamb of Pennsylvania.

Davis Film Festival

Upcoming Screenings

Wednesday, May 1*
Wednesday, June 12

* Special time and location details to come

Wednesdays, 7 pm
Bow Tie Cinema, 2 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich
$15 per film

The Syrian Patient
April 3

The casualties of the Syrian Civil War arriving in Israel face life-threatening injuries with life-altering repercussions. As doctors and plastic surgeons work around the clock to save their patients lives and offer hope for recovery, the refugees find inner strength with the support of their loved ones and the remarkable hospital team seeing them through their recovery process.

Racheli Schwartz / Documentary / Israel / 60 min.
Come to Pack Meals and Bring Your Whole Family!

With the help of The Outreach Program, https://outreachprogram.org/, the UJA-JCC Jewish Teen Action Committee is raising $2,500 to pack 10,000 meals for local food pantries, including the Stamford JFS and the Bronx Jewish Community Council. We will meet as a community on March 31 at 3:00 pm at Carmel Academy to come together in this effort to feed people in need. **Friends and family** of all ages are welcome and encouraged to participate. Come pack 10,000 meals with us, support our teens, and teach your family about the importance of “Tikkun Olam” and giving back. It should be a fun and meaningful experience!

Want to get involved? We need at least 50 volunteers to help with the main event. And, of course, donations can be made to help reach our goal of 10,000 meals at: http://www.ujajcc.org

To volunteer, to make a donation or if you have any questions, contact Erika Brunwasser, Jewish Teen Action Committee Advisor, at erika@ujajcc.org or kelly@ujajcc.org.

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Yom HaShoah Commemoration

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1**

at Temple Sholom
300 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich

6 pm Film

7 pm Commemoration

**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.

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.

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Ten Commandments for Tax-Wise Giving in 2019!

**Expert Insight and Strategies for Smart Philanthropy for Everyone**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH**

7:30 pm | One Holly Hill Lane

Mum’s the word when it comes to financial matters…but can we talk about giving? Whether you are just getting started or a seasoned philanthropist, this interactive session will explore how to set priorities and implement tax-advantaged strategies for charitable giving and offer insights about why Jewish charities matter.

**Ruth Moskowitz** is counsel in Day Pitney’s Individual Clients department. Her practice focuses on estate planning (including gift, estate and generation-skipping transfer tax planning), trust and estate administration, and charitable giving.

**Jane Weitzman** is a noted philanthropist whose dedication to worthy causes spans the breadth from ovarian cancer to inner-city schools. She is president of the Jewish Book Council and is a vice president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, where she is chairman of the Archives Committee. She is on the Board and executive committees of 70 Faces Media and the UJA-JCC Greenwich, the Board of Greenwich Breast Cancer Alliance and serves on the Chairman’s Council of Boston Children’s Hospital.

**Amy Wilfert** is the managing partner of Day Pitney’s Greenwich office, where she helps high net worth individuals and families achieve their objectives in the most simple and tax-efficient manner possible. She has served on the boards of the YWCA of Greenwich, the United Way of Greenwich, and the Estate Planning Council for Lower Fairfield County.

This event is generously sponsored by Joui Hessel & Jimmy Hexter, Kim & Marty Sands, and The Toback Family Trust

Event Chairs: Joui Hessel, Kim Sands and Christine Toback

RSVP at www.ujajcc.org
PJ Library Story Times

JBabies & Tots on the Town
Empowering Women Leaders

Thanks to the collaborative leadership of Women's Philanthropy Co-Presidents Andi Fern and Silvina Knoll with Tara Shapiro, President of Stamford's Women's Philanthropy, the boards of Greenwich and Stamford held a joint meeting to explore ideas for periodic collaboration that will bring area women together for socializing, learning and networking. Guest speaker, Rabbi Daniel Cohen, shared inspiring insights on the topic of leadership in Jewish community. Newly installed executives on the Greenwich women's board, Co-President Andi Fern and Vice Presidents, Joui Hessel and Stephanie Esquenazi were introduced, along with a hearty welcome to UJA-JCC Greenwich's new Director of Engagement and Development, Kelly Goldstein. The meeting was graciously hosted by Greenwich WP Past President, Suzanne Katz, at her home. If you would like more information about UJA-JCC Greenwich Women's Philanthropy, please call 203-552-1818 or email Tracy@ujajcc.org.

UJA-JCC Annual Meeting —
TED TALK-Style on December 12

Brian Neilinger

Tal Keinan

UJA-JCC Lunch and Learn
on January 24

Award-winning author Rabbi Dr. Ariel Burger speaks on his new book, Witness, at UJA-JCC Lunch and Learn.

Tapestry —
A Community Celebration of Jewish Learning in Stamford on November 10

Barbara Salop and Joan Mann

Author Series: The Weight of Ink
with Author Rachel Kadish on November 28

Thank you to Marilyn Roos, whose photos of the Women's Philanthropy Brunch appeared in our November issue.
Hummus, Hillel-Style: The 8th Annual Hummus Experience

By Hollianne Lao

UConn Hillel held its annual Hummus Experience at the Hillel building in November, where teams of students competed to make the greatest hummus creation out of plain hummus and a plethora of spices and other ingredients. The 8th annual Hummus Experience, planned by Kylie Schectman, Hillel vice president of social affairs and fifth-semester education major, brought together more than 12 teams of enthusiastic students – experienced chefs or not – to raise money for HuskyTHON.

The teams, with up to four members each, were tasked with transforming their 16-ounce tub of plain hummus in 30 minutes in a *Chopped*-style cooking competition. Each team had its own table station, with an adapted pantry stocked with produce and spices. With fun and creative team names, such as “Yummy Hummy in my Tummy” and “The Grad(Jew)ates,” each team was ready to take on the challenge.

A panel of five esteemed judges for the competition included important members of the Hillel community. As soon as the timer went off, team members ran frantically to the back to secure the desired ingredients for their prized hummus. Perusing the pantry in the back, students grabbed an array of ingredients, from chocolate sauce to avocado.

At their designated stations, they worked in a flurry, chopping up peppers, squeezing lemons and peeling carrots. Spectators and team members were given six tickets to deposit into bowls on each team’s table to vote for their favorite hummus. The teams with the most tickets moved on to give their hummus to the judges to taste.

After some contention over the votes, “The Hummus Fiends” were crowned the winners, with a sweet and spicy hummus made with lime, honey and garlic powder. They will receive a year’s supply of hummus.

*Hillel at UCONN is a recipient of funds from UJA-JCC Greenwich.*
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am delighted to announce that Jewish Family Services of Greenwich has appointed Rachel Levine Kornfeld, LCSW, as our new Executive Director! Rachel began her career as a social worker in the New York City foster care system, and has been providing mental health and education services in New York for 17 years. She holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts, a master’s degree in clinical social work from Columbia University, as well as a master’s in school building leadership from Mercy College.

Rachel has worked in inpatient and outpatient mental health and hospital settings. In 2006, she was recruited to help start The New LIFE School, part of Lutheran Social Services of New York. There she worked as Director of Clinical Services, Principal, and for the last seven years as Executive Director for Education Services. Most recently, Rachel has operated a private practice as a psychotherapist in Stamford, where she lives with her family. Her years of training and variety of experiences in the fields of mental health and education have prepared her well to take on the leadership of Jewish Family Services, where we provide an array of therapeutic and support services.

Rachel is looking forward to working with JFS and bringing her talents and expertise to support people needing quality mental health care and support services in the Greenwich area. In her own words: “I am excited to help JFS grow as we increase counseling, support services, and outreach in the community. We will be looking at and tapping into unfulfilled service needs, and welcome the input of the community.” The mission of JFS aligns with Rachel’s overarching goal of improving the lives of individuals and families.

JFS is delighted to have Rachel join us to enhance and expand our mission. We look forward to introducing her to our community!

Nancy Peters
Board President

JFS Celebrates Hanukkah with Greenwich Seniors

JFS again provided joyful holiday programming at Greenwich senior residences. Working with Greenwich clergy, Lisa Goldberg, director of JFS Jewish Health and Healing programs, led seniors in Hanukkah songs and candle lighting.

ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS

**Divorce/ Separating**
For those in the midst of a difficult separation or divorce
*Tuesdays: 10:30-11:30 am*

**Fractured Families, Healing Hearts**
To give participants an opportunity to talk about strained family relationships
*Tuesdays: 1-2 pm*

**Picking up the Pieces/After the Divorce**
With focus on beginning again
*Wednesdays: 6-7 pm*

**Bereavement**
For people struggling with feelings of sadness and loss following the death of a loved one
*Thursdays: 10:30-11:30 am*

Other JFS support groups are added as community needs emerge, e.g., LGBTQ for Parents; Living Well in Later Life.

Watch our new website for current offerings: www.jfsgreenwich.org
JFS Re-Launches Its Website as “Your Center for Wellbeing”

With the new year comes a new website for JFS, with a fresh new format and updated content on our many programs. Emphasizing the theme of “Wellbeing” embodied in the JFS mission, the Programs and Services pages highlight our deep commitment to providing individual counseling and group support for those facing personal challenges in Greenwich. JFS is one of the few Greenwich counseling providers that takes insurance, especially for those insured under Connecticut’s Husky plans, as well as from other private insurers.

The updated website also showcases our dedication to our community’s Spirituality and Wellness. Our signature Senior Services for Jewish health and healing lead the way, including Shabbat and Holiday services at the Greenwich Hospital and in senior residences around town. JFS’s new programming will also be featured here. Watch for more programs in this space, as we extend these services.

Go to www.jfsgreenwich.org to pursue your own wellbeing in the new year.

JFS Holds De-Stress Sampler for Coping with the Holidays

As “Your Center for Wellbeing,” JFS will be bringing the community more programs on Spirituality and Wellness in 2019. We began this trend late last year with our “De-Stress Sampler” in December. Facilitator Linda Radice walked attendees through basic techniques for engaging the mind-body connection involving movement, breath, and guided mediation with roots in Tai Chi and “Divine Sleep.”

Linda introduced participants to initial steps aimed at activating the body’s own relaxation response to counteract stressors and engage the body’s resilience. Each technique she shared pointed toward learning self-care to reset each day and to promote a sense of calm in an overwhelming world.

Supermarketing for Seniors Is Looking for Volunteer Shoppers

Are you curious about becoming a Supermarketing for Seniors shopper, but find the idea of visiting a senior intimidating? The Atria StoryWise™ approach will give you confidence that you too can visit with a stranger and create a friend. Atria StoryWise™ strives to help people create a wiser, more connected world.

We will be sharing this method at a meeting this Spring, starting with its boxed set of cards that help seniors and their caring friends share stories about the experiences in their lives. Watch for the date in an upcoming JFS Constant Contact message, on our Facebook page, or on our newly refreshed website: www.jfsgreenwich.org. If you are ready to become a shopper now, or if you know someone who can use our services, please call Elyse Brown at 203-622-1881, or email ebrown@jfsgreenwich.org.

SPECIAL DONATIONS to Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

In Honor of:
Barry Gruber,
by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner

In Memory of:
Otto Delikat,
by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Grace Kaplan Galton,
by Phyllis Shapiro and Mary Flashner
Howard Loewentheil,
by Phyllis Shapiro and Mary Flashner

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone special in your life or community, you may do so by making a donation to Jewish Family Services and we will send a note of acknowledgment to the person or family involved, informing them of your generosity in their honor or their loved one’s memory.
Temple Sholom Hosts Best in Jewish Collegiate A Cappella

On Sunday, November 4, 2018, more than 400 people attended the first-ever New England Jewish Collegiate A Cappella Competition and Showcase, hosted by Temple Sholom.

A total of eight teams from the Northeast participated, and each performed three songs as part of their a cappella set: one in Hebrew, one in English with a Jewish context, and one of their choice. The event – produced by Gaston Bernstein and chaired by Cantor Sandy Bernstein – also included an opening performance from Temple Sholom’s new Teen Choir.

“We’re looking for a way to bring relevant Jewish music to the community, and we are looking to bring Judaism to life in a way that’s not being done all around the world,” said Cantor Sandy, Director of Shir Sholom, Temple Sholom’s Youth and Teen Choir.

“Shir Appeal” from Tufts University was awarded 1st place in the competition category by the judges, followed by Brown University’s “Alef Beats” and Brandeis University’s “Manginah.” Singer Yitzy Dier from Rutgers University’s “Kol Halayla” was named Best Soloist, and Tufts’ Noah Smith received the award for Best Beatboxer.

Following the presentation of awards, and a winner’s performance by “Shir Appeal,” all of the teams gathered together on Temple Sholom’s bima for a stellar rendition of “Al Hanissim” to close out the show. To view pictures from the event, visit www.templesholom.com/gallery.

Shir Ami in 2019

Shir Ami continues to celebrate Friday night Shabbat services monthly, with guest Cantor Ellen Dreskin, in the Chapel at First Presbyterian, One West Putnam Avenue in Greenwich. While on sabbatical, Rabbi Vicki Axe continues to be available for loving pastoral care. We also plan to continue our successful program of Shabbat Talks in the new year with members sharing their experiences and wisdom. Join us!

Charlie Brown Takes to the Stage at Bi-Cultural

It was much more than just “another opening, another show” when students at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) in Stamford raised the curtain on “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” the hit Broadway show that was the school’s annual musical theater production in December.

“Our annual musical is yet one more example of the importance we place on the arts here at BCHA, and of the dedication of our outstanding arts department, which continually creates opportunities for our students to shine bright and showcase their talents,” said BCHA Head of School Jackie Herman. “Kol HaKavod to the entire cast and crew!”

TEMPLE SHOLOM’S 2ND ANNUAL CHALLAH WEEK

In November, close to 500 individual bags of challah dough were given out at Temple Sholom programs, the Selma Maisel Nursery School and the Temple Sholom Learning Center. Each bag contained fun challah facts and instructions for preparing and baking. Photos were posted on social media using #TSChallahWeek.


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When Carmel Academy 6th grader Aviva Moss enrolled in the school’s Middle School art elective earlier this fall, she said she had no idea the course would become so meaningful for her. Aviva and her classmates are participating in The Memory Project, an organization that invites young artists to help cultivate global kindness by creating portraits for children around the world who have faced substantial challenges, such as violence, war or extreme poverty. The portraits help children to feel valued and important, to know that many people care about their wellbeing, and to provide a special childhood memory.

Carmel Academy’s art teacher Lori Amer learned about the organization at a conference this past summer where the founder spoke. “I found it so moving that I immediately knew I wanted to bring the project to Carmel. This class is the perfect opportunity to help The Memory Project fulfill its mission,” Amer said.

Carmel Academy’s students were asked to paint a portrait of a Rohingya refugee child. Nearly a million ethnic Rohingya fled genocide in Myanmar and are currently living in refugee camps in Bangladesh. For these children, who have virtually no possessions, the portraits will be gifts they could never have previously imagined.

Each Carmel student was sent a photo of each child’s face, as well as the child’s name, age and favorite color. All of the students in the class agreed that the project is one of the most challenging endeavors they have taken on in the art studio.

“I was determined to get this right. It is not like my other drawings where I am doing it for fun. I am giving it to someone special and I want her to like it,” said 7th grader Eliana Jesselson, as she worked to put finishing touches on an acrylic portrait she is making for a 4-year-old girl named Rasmin Ara.

Sixth grader Judah Goldemberg said he was very nervous when he embarked on the portrait, which he chose to do using colored pencils. “I didn’t think I was a good enough artist; I didn’t realize I was able to do this. I am really proud of what I have been able to do. I hope Rahim will like it,” he said of the portrait he created for the 5-year-old boy.

The students spent about 8 weeks creating the portraits, which will be sent to the refugee children along with a photo of themselves, their name, age and favorite color. Aviva said that each time she puts her brush to canvas, she feels that she is doing something important for a 5-year-old boy named Osman, who happens to share her favorite color—blue. “I hope when he receives the portrait, he will know that someone spent a lot of time trying to make something special for him.”

Carmel Artists Create Portraits for Refugee Children

Temple Sholom Learning Center Celebrates Chanukah Maccabiah Style

On Sunday, December 2, the Temple Sholom Learning Center held its second holiday-themed installment of The Sholom Games, a year-long community-building competition to deliver religious education in a fun, meaningful way. The first holiday-themed challenge took place earlier in the school year and coincided with Simchat Torah. This time, teams were given age-appropriate activities related to the holiday of Chanukah.

Kindergarten through 4th graders participated in a four-part treasure hunt, while 3rd and 4th graders were challenged in a game-show format to test their Chanukah knowledge. Students in 5th and 6th grades competed in a series of four holiday-themed relay races. Following religious school, students and their families were invited to attend Temple Sholom’s Dreidels, Donuts and DJ Chanukah Party, hosted by the TSLC Parent Association.

Shir Ami Chanukah

Chanukah lights illuminated our souls, and songs both traditional and modern graced our celebration with Cantor Dreskin leading us. Food, fun and friendship were enjoyed by all. Holiday gifts were brought for our annual Abilis Gift Drive, to provide individuals who live in group homes some holiday joy.

BEetter2B Community Service

HEBREW WIZARDS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED A NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM FOR ALL AGES MONTHLY ON SATURDAY MORNINGs.

WWW.HEBREWWIZARDS.COM
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

A Shared Tradition at Carmel

In what has quickly become a beloved tradition at Carmel Academy, each month surrounding Rosh Chodesh, the school’s middle school grades bake beautiful challot to share with a lower school grade. As they prepare to bake, the middle schoolers learn about the traditions of baking challah and recite the special blessing, Hafrashat Challah. On Rosh Chodesh, a celebration of the new moon and Hebrew month, the students share the challot – a very special way to foster unity and togetherness among the entire school community.

Carmel Academy 6th grader Coby Citron makes Challah to share with his younger peers at the Greenwich school.

Sisters Jordi and Mica Ryan Farstrup, Carmel Academy transitional kindergarten and 6th grade students respectively, share a challah baked by the older of the two to celebrate Rosh Chodesh.

HEBREW WIZARDS

TIKKUN OLAM – DONATING CLOTHES & SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO KIDS IN CAMBODIA & LAOS – THE JEWS OF ASIA: VISITING AN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG
Dreidel Ball, December 9
Elect to Serve

Over twenty teens and children spent Election Day 2018 in a very special way. They “elected to serve” the community! Teens helped children ages 5-10 make soup jars for the hungry, stuff teddy bears for homeless children and write letters to Jewish war veterans. The Met Council on Jewish Poverty, the Bronx Community Council and the Jewish War Veterans of the USA were all very happy to partner with UJA-JCC in this meaningful program, while participating kids and JTAC teen volunteers had fun together “doing good.”

JTAC Members Attend “Never Is Now” Event in December

Never Is Now is ADL’s annual summit on Anti-Semitism and Hate, held this year at the Metropolitan Pavilion in New York city. JTAC Teens participated in the “student track” program, which included speakers such as Evan Bernstein, the ADL New York/New Jersey Regional director, Mohammed Abubakr, President of the African Middle Eastern Leadership Project, and the leaders of Jewish Student Unions from abroad (France, Chile, South Africa, and Germany), plus many more. Our teens learned about the current state of anti-semitism, techniques for breaking down bias and for finding common ground with others. Teens were inspired to think about their roles as future leaders. It was a powerful and informative day, and we all enjoyed it very much.

Here is what some of the teens had to say about the experience:

“Today’s experience was very unusual. Often you hear stories about stopping anti-semitism from Jews, but not from other cultures. Hearing people from other cultures speak about stopping hate in general was very interesting, and it demonstrated how we have more similarities than differences with those from other cultures and religions.”

– Ben Rosmarin, GHS Sophomore

“The ADL conference was truly an impactful experience as we learned about the overwhelming presence of anti-semitism and other forms of hatred around the world, and what we as teenagers can do to make a difference. I especially enjoyed hearing panelists’ stories from different countries and how they have similar experiences to ours.”

– Kate Ochoa, GHS Junior

“Today was an eye-opening, inspiring, and motivational day. Learning not only about anti-semitism occurring in our own country, but also abroad was very informative and interesting. It helped me realize that there is still so much left for me and my peers to do to combat this horrifying and intolerable issue. Seeing all of the other schools, groups and individuals attend this conference made me understand how powerful our cause really is.”

– Ali Buchsbaum, GHS Sophomore
GRAND OPENING

The JCC Preschool
at Greenwich Reform Synagogue

a program of The J

Come learn with us!
Preschool program for children ages 2–5

SET UP A TOUR TODAY!
Please contact our team at 203.487.0944 or jccatgrs@stamfordjcc.org

JOIN US FOR THE 2019 - 2020 SCHOOL YEAR!
Registration is underway!
SPOTS ARE FILLING UP!

Set on our campus in Cos Cob, Greenwich Reform Synagogue’s brand-new facility provides an enhanced venue for children to grow and learn at our topnotch, state-of-the-art school.

The JCC Preschool at Greenwich Reform Synagogue • 92 Orchard Street • Cos Cob, CT 06807
Phone 203.487.0944 • email jccatgrs@stamfordjcc.org • grs.org
How do I picture the Jewish future? Varied. Vibrant. Maybe reinvented in some ways. But as long as UJA-JCC Greenwich keeps working worldwide with the Federation system — engaging kids, teens and younger adults — I think Judaism has a good chance of becoming stronger than it is today.

Give today.

I build pathways from our history to our future.