Newsworthy

Holocaust Remembrance Day

More than 100 people came together to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day on May 1, including children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, who lit yahrzeit candles.

The Heroless Haggadah

Standing room only crowd for Lunch & Learn with local scholar Alex Troy on April 18. Troy returns on August 15!

Mainstreaming Anti-Semitism Event Draws Large Crowd

More than 150 people attended Yair Rosenberg’s conversation with Oren Segal on “Mainstreaming Anti-Semitism,” co-sponsored with ADL.

Full House for an Evening with Lerner & Loewe on May 29

If the second annual “Apple Picking for the Pantry” is anything like the first, more than 400 pounds of apples will be hand-plucked and delivered to local organizations serving those in need. The event, which kicks off UJA-JCC Greenwich’s fall season of family community service, gathers fruit and community awareness on behalf of people who are unable to afford food.

Visiting grateful recipients of our bounty is another program option. In 2018 volunteers received a full tour of one of the beneficiary organizations, the Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County Kosher Food Pantry. Like other pantries, Stamford’s food depot values fresh produce as a nutritious, delicious supplement to canned goods, bakery items and meats generously donated to help families throughout lower Fairfield County.

The outing will take place on Sunday, September 15, from 3-5 pm at Silverman’s Farm (451 Sport Hill Road, Easton). Co-chairs Alona Altman and Romy Cohen look forward to replicating – even surpassing – last year’s contingent of more than 35 families.

“We’re delighted with the success of the first annual ‘Apple Picking for the Pantry’ and are eager to bring out a robust show of support this fall,” says Altman. She added: “Fruit picking isn’t only fun to do, it’s a gift to families in need right in our backyard.”

“Being outdoors with family and friends in the apple orchard is a wonderful way to enjoy a fall Sunday. Knowing that people in need are being served makes it sweeter,” Cohen observes.

All ages are invited! Tickets are $36 per family. To register for “Apple Picking for the Pantry,” please contact Tracy Daniels at 203-552-1818, or tracy@ujajcc.org or visit www.ujajcc.org.

Planting Seeds for the Future – UJA-JCC Kids Honor Elders at King Street Rehab

Reading to kids and surrounding them with books that teach Jewish values is a PJ Library credo. To bring these values to life, the Greenwich PJ Library Parent Planners created a Social Action Committee dedicated to providing community service. As any PJ family will tell you, giving joy is as gratifying as receiving the books that encourage it.

PJ’s Honoring Elders event on May 19th was just the most recent example. Parents and children spent a spirited afternoon with the residents of King Street Rehab, a state-of-the-art rehabilitation and long-term care facility in Rye Brook. Children and elders decorated pots and planted seeds for spring flowers to brighten resident rooms and hallways. Not only did the party engage the elders in conversation and creative activity, families and seniors potted and decorated planters together while enjoying joyful Jewish songs led by the popular and talented Morah Shifra Garber, whose music delights all ages.

“When children realize how much they can brighten a senior’s life through the simple gift of companionship, it’s very empowering for them,” says PJ Library Chair, Jessica Rickert. “The mission of our outing was as much to uplift our community elders as it was to help our children deepen empathy and awareness. Mission accomplished!”

Honorig Elders was chaired by Alona Altman, Romy Cohen, Stephanie Esquenazi and Jamie Kesmodel. Stay tuned for next year’s PJ community service projects aimed at building a culture of giving.
Nature and Nurture – J-Babies and Toddlers Are Outward Bound!

Last May, J-Babies ventured out to Stamford Museum & Nature Center for some mommy-and-me time among the flowers and trees. Based on its success – and that of other al-fresco outings such as Party in the Park and the Welcome Back Family Picnic, J-Babies now adds a new and very appropriate venue to its mom-baby gatherings: Mother Nature.

Beginning in July, the UJA-JCC Greenwich-sponsored meet-ups will bring together mamas and newborns in and around Greenwich’s scenic parks and beaches. Now J-Babies participants will not only have the opportunity to meet other new moms who live nearby, but they’ll also enjoy an active, outdoor and health-conscious event in a casual, easily accessible environment.

“The great outdoors is a wonderful, relaxing setting for meeting new friends from different corners of the community,” says Chair Alexandra Saltis. As the architect of J-Babies’ fresh vision, she advocates orienting programs with the natural highlights of Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring in mind, “to take advantage of the beauty of the town at peak season.”

For Saltis, such Greenwich spaces as Binney Park, Cos Cob Park and Glenville Park offer “beautiful backdrops” for creative enrichment. Her tagline for the new direction is “bubbles, books, babies and music.”

There’s always the chance of bad weather. In anticipation, rain locations in private homes will be posted at www.ujajcc.org for all dates. Also available online will be additional information and registration, or contact Tracy Daniels at tracy@ujajcc.org or 203-552-1818.

Social Action Event Honoring Elders at King Street Rehab on May 19

“Oh, what a wonderful day our residents had with your energy-infusing, bright-eyed students. A real treat!”

–Lynne Lipert,
Director of Recreation, King Street Rehab
Women’s Philanthropy Welcomed to its May Board Meeting
Guest Speaker Dr. Rachel Busman
of the Child Mind Institute

Join Joui & Friends for MORE Conversation, Ideas & Connections

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

Save These Dates for Upcoming Sessions!

Fresh Perspective, Insights and Journeys Through Text

Friday, October 11 – 9:30 am
Sukkot theme-Welcoming the Other (This session will take place at the home of Cori SaNogueira in the Sukkah!)

Friday, November 8 – 9:30 am
Family Ties that Bind: Insights for Surviving Holidays Together (With Dr. Betsy Stone)

Save the Date
for the Women’s Philanthropy Brunch
Honoring Silvina Knoll, Co-President
Wednesday, November 6th
9:15 AM

This program is for families who donate a gift of $250 or greater to the 2019 campaign.

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Carmel Academy honored 14 alumni at its annual Erev Tov Gala on April 7th at Brae Burn Country Club. The theme of the evening was “Celebrating Service,” and each honoree either currently serves or has served in the U.S. Armed Forces or Israeli Defense Forces. From combat IDF soldiers to Naval Academy Midshipmen, each has chosen to protect his or her communities and country.

“The number of students choosing military service is high for a school that has graduated 12 classes and 200 students,” said Head of School Nora Anderson. “Service and giving back to our community are among the strongest values Carmel Academy holds dear, and all of our alumni honorees have taken these values to extraordinary heights; we are thrilled to honor them.”

“I believe it is important for American Jews to give back to our country and to the communities that have supported us, and I am honored every day to be able to do so,” said Jonah Smart (CA ’12) who is a student at Cornell University, where he is a cadet in the Army ROTC. Noam Sohn (CA ’07) said he knew he would join the IDF after returning from his 8th-grade trip to Israel. He served as a lone soldier in the Nachal Infantry Brigade. “The most important lesson I learned at Carmel was to live the values I know to be true. Since I wanted to learn more about my homeland, keep Israel safe and become part of its society and culture, it only made sense that I would serve in the IDF... I gained much more than I gave during my service,” Sohn said. “From a young age I knew I wanted to serve, and Carmel had a role in that decision. I was inspired every year by the (school’s) Yom HaZikaron ceremony. I think it is inherently Jewish to want to look out and protect our people and our nation. The Navy is full of challenges and adversity. Similarly, Jewish history shares many of the same themes. Whether I am trudging through the mud in Annapolis or overseas, I will draw inspiration from the shared history of our perseverance,” said Olivia Shapiro (CA ’15), who will be attending the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis next year.

Carmel also honored parent volunteers Farell and Colin Diamond. From volunteering for Teach For America to serving in the Judge Advocate General Corps of the IDF, the couple have a deep and lifelong commitment to Jewish life and public service.

Carmel’s physical education teacher Philip Goldberg and his wife, Sergeant First Class Yesenia Ochoa were also recognized. Ochoa recently returned from a year in Kuwait, leaving behind her husband and two children. The Carmel Academy community rallied behind the family. Students video-chatted with Ochoa while she was in Kuwait and sent her and her fellow soldiers care packages. When Ochoa returned home, Carmel helped orchestrate a surprise reunion between husband and wife. “There is a love we have felt from a family that we weren’t born into – a community that took us in and demonstrated all the Jewish values of care and love for their neighbor,” Goldberg said.
Results Driven Real Estate

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

GILA LEWIS
Real Estate Salesperson
M 203.249.0858
GLewis@houlihanlawrence.com
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One of the extraordinary things about Judaism is how it thinks about holiness. Rather than imagining holiness as an extrinsic, stand-alone quality in the world – something that simply exists in certain places, people, or objects, Judaism asserts that each of us has the potential (and imperative) to create it ourselves, alone, or in partnership with God.

Shabbat is perhaps the best example of this, and the most extraordinary because it asserts that we can create, in the words of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel: “an island in time.” And the irony is that we do this, for the most part, by not doing. We stop creating, stop running around, stop building and spending and schlepping, and we train ourselves, for 25 hours, to stop becoming and just be.

Anytime we pause before speaking to choose words of kindness rather than anger, silence rather than gossip, we choose holiness.

But what does it really mean to create holiness? The word kadosh, and the literal meaning of the word holiness is ‘that which is set apart’. It shares a root, or shoresh (kuf-daled-shin) with the word hekdesh – something that was consecrated for and dedicated to the higher purpose of serving in the temple.

Although we haven’t had a temple in many thousand years, we still set things apart, and in the doing, make them sacred: when we are married, our spouses become hekdesh – consecrated for us, and dedicated only to us.

When Shabbat comes, we set time apart from the other six days of the week, and even the Torah is symbolically set apart by placing it in an ark, and dressing it in finery.

Holiness, therefore, is something that we enact, that we bring into being, and that we can work to make real. But holiness needn’t be reserved for Shabbat. Anytime we take a moment to bless our food before we eat, to express gratitude (with a traditional brachal blessing, or simply with a moment of awe for the natural world on a run or walk), we are choosing holiness, to make sacred the ordinary. Anytime we pause before speaking to choose words of kindness rather than anger, silence rather than gossip, we choose holiness.

And anytime we treat another human being – especially a stranger, like the homeless person in our path – with kindness and dignity, as if they are made in God’s image, we are choosing holiness. And anytime we choose to be mindful, compassionate, and grateful when it would be so easy to act otherwise, and do the divine alchemy of changing anger into kindness, we are making the world a bit more holy.

So, this month, consider what you can do – in addition to Shabbat – to create, and enact holiness. What can you say, who can you help, what can you bless? There are opportunities for holiness all around us. All we have to do is notice them.

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.

Stay in the know about the happenings in our Greenwich Jewish Community.
Send your email address to 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.
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
As Israel celebrated Yom Hazikaron, Memorial Day for fallen soldiers, and Yom Ha’Atzmaut, Independence Day in May, the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut proudly flew the Israeli flag all week long over the Connecticut State Capitol.

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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

Essential Questions

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

Intuitive Ethics and Subversive Spirituality

Tanya Farber .............................................................June 20
Deep dive into teachings of Sages to transform our daily interactions into sacred moments.

Love of Your Fellow

Rabbi Yossi Deren .....................................................June 27
A look at the mitzvah of Ahavat Yisrael, to honor the 25th yahrzeit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, zt’l.

Theodicy, Descent and the Public Good

Shlomo Zuckier .........................................................July 11
We’ll parse the Talmudic tale of Nehunia the Pit-digger, considering why tragedies befall this public servant’s family and gleaning some insights about divine justice.

Three Weeks That Could Change the World

Rabbi Greg Wall ........................................................July 18
The destruction of Jerusalem created tremors that are echoing still. Let’s find out what we can do about it, right now!

Thirty-Three Psalms in an Hour

Rabbi Dr. David Moster .............................................July 25
Let’s wax rhapsodic and parse the structure of Biblical hymns.

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EXPLORING EXODUS

Text Study with
Pam Ehrenkranz

Oct 17, Nov 7, Dec 5, Jan 9, Feb 6
10 AM

Join our weekly sessions and learn from inspiring experts on Judaism.

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So What Was the Book of Numbers About?

Dr. Job Jindo ..........................................................August 1
We will explore the themes of identity, holiness and transformation of peoplehood as reflected in Numbers.

A Time to Weep and a Time to Laugh

Rabbi Levi Mendelow ..............................................August 8
Hope and optimism in times of crisis. Reflections on Tisha B’Av.

Unrecognized Greatness Shmita

Alex Troy .................................................................August 15
Shmita combines many fundamental themes of Judaism, but goes unrecognized because of its unusual and technical nature.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe Through the Eyes of a Conservative Rabbi

Rabbi Moshe Edelman ...........................................August 22
Using a Chabad booklet we will consider ideas from the writings of Yosef Ber Soloveitchik that can inspire non-Hasidic Jewry.

The Strange and Unusual History of the Hatikvah Song

Michael Feldstein ...................................................August 29
Discover the saga behind Israel’s national anthem and the man who wrote the lyrics.

The Book of Numbers and the Jewish People’s Growth to Maturity

Bob Abrams .............................................................September 5
The Book of Numbers tells stories representing an individual’s coming of age and leaves us with the question of who and what we wish to become.

Anonymous Was a Female: The Unnamed Women of Jewish Literature

Dr. Liz Shayne ..........................................................September 12
Throughout Tanach and the Talmud, Judaism was shaped by those whose names we don’t know, but whose impact we feel! Let’s meet four of them.

Check UJA-JCC Greenwich calendar for updated schedule.
An Evening of Lerner & Loewe on May 29

Mainstreaming Anti-Semitism with Yair Rosenberg on May 14

Photos by Dean Schwartz
Building Resilience in Southern Israel

From Israel’s earliest days, the Negev has been critical to its survival. Our contributions to the growth and vitality of the region have been a cornerstone of our support for Israel for more than 60 years. Southern Israel is on the rise, and our investment is helping shape and strengthen it. Federations across the nation raised $55 million+ during Operation Protective Edge that, through our partner agencies, helped more than 430,000 Israelis in the South. Our Negev Now initiative is leveraging a $2.5 million grant to make the region a creative, vital and resilient home for current and future residents.

JDC and The Jewish Agency for Israel have joined forces in the new MY5! Initiative to develop tightknit networks of community support. The Israel Trauma Coalition has launched Citizen Corps to help hundreds of Southern Israelis become trained responders during crises.

Your gift to UJA-JCC Greenwich makes this all possible.

Raising the Tide for Ethiopian Jews

More than 25 years ago, UJA and its partners secretly helped rescue 14,000+ Ethiopian Jews, bringing them to safety and new opportunities in Israel. That was just the beginning. Following Operation Solomon and other covert missions, we helped Ethiopian-Israelis – among the most vulnerable citizens – integrate into Israeli society by means of holistic programs that give these immigrants the tools they need to succeed.

Ethiopian National Project (ENP) zeroes in on at-risk teenagers. Youth Outreach Centers offers a second home to 1,000 in 23 cities across Israel. ENP’s flagship Scholastic Assistance program helped more than 3,400 students in recent years. As a result of these efforts, participants’ college matriculation rates have surpassed the national average, and the program will nearly triple next year. The Jewish Agency for Israel provides critical absorption services for recent immigrants from Ethiopia, including schooling, Hebrew and Judaism lessons, ritual services and food distribution.

With your help and your gift to UJA-JCC Greenwich, we can continue and increase these programs aimed at a truly needy population.

JTAC End of Year Celebration

JTAC participants had their final meeting of the year on Sunday, May 19th at Cos Cob Park. The teens celebrated the end of a highly satisfying year that also entailed lots of hard work. They took the opportunity to congratulate Shira Mann and Colette Cooper, both seniors who will be graduating High School in June.

UJA-JCC Book Talk

Yom Ha’Atzmaut Israel Independence Day
May 5 at Greenwich Town Hall
Jewish Family Services of Greenwich’s Book Beat group recently read and discussed a charming book that is easy and fun to read – *What to Do About the Solomons*. This is Bethany Ball’s first novel, and it has received overwhelmingly favorable reviews. Many pointed to the “hilarious” nature of the text, making it perfect for beach or patio. Much of the story takes place in Israel, both on and off a kibbutz near Haifa. The kibbutz, in fact, is a prominent character in this novel. It is a closed world where everyone knows everyone else, many are related to one another (whether they are aware of that or not), and gossip prevails. In this novel the kibbutz is now in decline (many have already disappeared), ill-managed and facing bankruptcy. But one of the novel’s most quizzical characters, Guy Gever, a hunter/artist manqué, and son-in-law of the kibbutz’s founder, saves the day by investing the remaining kibbutz funds in a hugely profitable paint ball factory!

Ball based the novel on her own experiences living on a kibbutz several years back, while visiting her husband’s family with her young son. She herself grew up in a tiny nuclear family in Detroit without uncles, aunts, or cousins nearby. And she says that with this novel she wanted to portray a close-knit large family with “only two degrees of separation.” This novel is a huge family saga, reminding one of the kinds of books we used to read long ago. Each chapter in fact moves back and forth in time presenting the point of view of a different character each time. Ball actually provides a ‘family tree’ with both “kibbutzniks” and “city dwellers” for ease of reference.

The Solomons, of course, are the main focus. Yakov and Vivienne are the family patriarch and matriarch, wealthy and revered by all. They are elderly and in their decline as the novel opens. Mostly they are extremely irritated at the antics of their adult children: Marc, the former Israeli commando turned financial whiz, living in LA with his “shiksa” wife, currently under indictment by the Feds for a money laundering/gambling operation; Shira, former film star turned compulsive shopper and narcissistic, neglectful mother; Keren, long suffering wife of crazy Guy and the only one who remained on the kibbutz; Dror, the family gossip, recently remarried to a much younger wife whose name no one can seem to remember; and Ziv, the family favorite, but self-exiled to Shanghai with his partner, due to the “disgrace” of being gay. The Solomons’ travails and self-imposed struggles are portrayed compellingly throughout the book. The reader thanks her or his lucky stars not to be them!

This is a novel where many secrets, big and small, are slowly and painstakingly revealed. So as not ruin the reader’s pleasure in uncovering these secrets, we won’t share any of them here. Suffice it to say that by the novel’s end, you are no longer scratching your head about what to do about the Solomons. It’s clear that they can take care of themselves. Yet you can’t help thinking about Tolstoy’s famous quote. If you add “Jewish,” you pretty much sum up this novel. “Happy families are all alike. Every unhappy Jewish family is unhappy in its own way.”

Coming up soon at JFS Book Beat, our final selection of the season, “The Weight of Ink” by Rachel Kadish, June 26 at 7pm at a private home. Contact JFS at 203-622-1881 to join us.
Executive Director’s Corner

There’s been yet another shooting. Lately it seems that turning on the television or opening social media almost always leads to reports of senseless violence. No matter how many times the same scenario plays out, the feeling of utter disgust and helplessness does not change. As a former school administrator I have pondered this numerous times: would I try to be a hero and run toward an attacker, or would I silently hide, following protocols I have now rehearsed countless times?

Upon leaving a school setting after thirteen years, initially I felt a sense of relief. The imminent need to ensure protection for hundreds of children and teaching staff was no longer my direct responsibility. After years working in a fast-paced urban environment, coming to the relatively serene setting of Jewish Family Services of Greenwich presented a new sense of calm in my work day. Yet safety assessments and catastrophic planning have now gone way beyond school settings, and an anti-Semitic attack is now a distinct possibility anywhere, anytime. Some will say it always has loomed front and center, but not for me, not in this way.

As the executive director of JFS of Greenwich I will work diligently to increase safety and support for all those affected by senseless acts of violence. As a therapist I will never become desensitized to acts of hatred. I will continue to allow myself to feel that gut punch, as I have always felt empathy is my greatest strength. I will work through the feeling of being powerless and replace it with ever increasing resilience. As a mother, wife, daughter, sister and friend, I truly hope to never have to decide what choice I would make. In the interim, more than ever I will lead by example, providing support, guidance, and respect for all.

JFS of Greenwich will continue to be an open door for anyone in need of support. It is important to allow yourself to process your feelings without judgment. Self-care in times of stress is paramount. We are all affected in different ways by what happens around us. Please remember that JFS is here for you.

–Rachel Kornfeld

Tribute Contributions to Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

In honor of Norma Pearlstein’s 100th birthday, by Phyllis Shapiro & Marty Flashner

In memory of Arthur Ascher, father of Alexandra Hochman, by Phyllis Shapiro & Marty Flashner

In memory of Angela June Rose Luntz, mother of David Luntz, by Phyllis Shapiro & Marty Flashner

In memory of David Resnick, husband of Florence Resnick, by Phyllis Shapiro & Marty Flashner

In memory of Norman Shemitz, father and father-in-law of Leigh & Chris Winters, by Rachel & Sean Kornfeld

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.
Bi-Cultural Students on the Road in Israel

Since they arrived in Israel this spring, the 8th-grade graduating class of Stamford’s Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy enjoyed a jam-packed itinerary that included touring the country – from Eilat to the Golan Heights; engaging in acts of chesed – “loving kindness” or social service; and attending study sessions at various yeshivot.

It’s all part of the school’s annual month-long trip to Israel for 8th graders, an experience that has capped off the eighth-grade curriculum at Bi-Cultural for close to 45 years.

Pictured here are the students taking advantage of the blue skies and sunshine in Eilat. The group snorkeled in the morning and did water sports in the afternoon. They then visited a park dedicated to a variety of marine life in Eilat, and capped off a perfect day by enjoying time on the Eilat boardwalk.

What is Unique and Special About Shir Ami?

And Why We Are So Excited About the Year Ahead

Sometimes great things come in small packages, and that is the case with Congregation Shir Ami. We have a small, intimate congregation where everyone knows each other and where we practice Reform Judaism in a way that stimulates the mind and inspires the soul. We welcome diversity, interfaith families and all who choose to affiliate with Judaism. Shir Ami worships and meets in a beautiful space in Central Greenwich and at times in congregants’ homes. At all of our services there is active participation as we sing, pray, share and often eat together for our Friday night Shabbats, Summer Beach Shabbats, Havdalah Services, High Holiday, Chanukah, 2nd Night of Passover Seder celebrations and more. Although we do not have a religious school, we do offer the opportunity to create small study groups or B’nai mitzvah classes that are unique and designed for the specific participants.

We are planning a very exciting and enriching Adult Education Program for the 2019-20 year, which will include: Women’s Rosh Chodesh group; Learning and Living classes; Jewish Study; Social Action Club; Musical Engagement through a variety of opportunities to participate in song. Additional classes may include Jewish Meditation and Mindfulness, Jewish Food and Cooking, Creating Judaica, Men’s group, Field trips and more. Our Membership Drive begins in July, and if what makes us special and unique sounds like a good fit for you, we invite you to join us.

“We are excited about welcoming our new Spiritual Leader/Cantor Jill Abramson, who will begin this summer, and thrilled about the wonderful programs we will be offering this coming year at Shir Ami,” said Susan Nisinzweig, who was recently elected to be new co-president along with Jenny Lake. We look forward to speaking with those who are interested in learning more about Shir Ami. Our summer beach Shabbat would be a great first visit. Email us at shirami.info@gmail.com or call 203-900-7976.

Camp Gan is the stepping stone for the next generation of Jewish Leaders

A Peek at our Alumni

“Thank you for providing us with so many wonderful memories and for instilling in us a love of Judaism that made it so easy to feel comfortable with our identity even in our new home at Harvard.”

siblings Anne & Daniel Rosenblatt Harvard University

“From the time I was a young child, Camp Gan has been a place of joy, learning, and growth. It has instilled in me a desire to mentor the next generation of Jewish children.”

– Juliette Wilder

“Being a mensch was my main philosophy going into high school. I figured, if I’m nice to people, maybe I can make a friend, or two. Had I not been involved in Camp Gan, I can guarantee that my life would be completely different. I definitely would not have been involved with the Brunswick AIPAC club and made so many amazing friends. Chabad helped me discover my Jewish identity and I am forever grateful.”

– Sam Akrongold

Camp Gan Israel Counselor-in-Training, Sammi Fern, put money she earned at camp this past summer towards purchasing an adaptive bike for this sweet girl. This thoughtful mitzvah and special gift has given her friend the ability to experience the joy and excitement of riding a bike.
HEBREW WIZARDS CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

HEBREW WIZARDS/CONGREGATION KEHILAT SHALOM
PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR WONDERFUL HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 15TH YEAR OF BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY.

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:
AS WE WELCOME IN THE NEW YEAR 5780

ROSH HASHANAH DAY 1  MONDAY, SEPT 30, 10:30AM-12:15PM
(FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

ROSH HASHANAH DAY 2  TUESDAY, OCT 1, 10:30AM-12:15PM
(RABBI DEB’S HOME) (LUNCH FOLLOWING SERVICES)

YOM KIPPUR SERVICES
KOL NIDRE EVENING  TUESDAY, OCT 8, 7:30PM-8:45PM
(METHODIST CHURCH)

YOM KIPPUR DAY  WEDNESDAY, OCT 9, 10:30AM-12:15PM
(METHODIST CHURCH)

NEILLAH/BREAK FAST  WEDNESDAY, OCT 9, 6:00PM-6:30PM
(RABBI DEB’S HOME)

*FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH- 59 EAST PUTNAM-GREENWICH
*RABBI DEB’S HOME-130 CUMMINGS POINT ROAD-STAMFORD

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT RABBI DEB 203-249-4036 WWW.HEBREWIZARDS.COM

Please patronize the merchants and businesses that advertise in our paper and tell them you saw their ads in the Greenwich Jewish News.

AmazonSmile
You shop – Amazon gives to UJA-JCC Greenwich!
Just select UJA-JCC Greenwich as your chosen charity, and start your first shopping session at smile.amazon.com.
Happy shopping!
Standing Up to Open
2019-2020 Davis Film Festival

As the weather cools, Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas will warm us up with the fall season of UJA-JCC Greenwich’s Davis Film Festival. This year kicks off with Standing Up on Wednesday, September 25, at 7:00 pm. This acclaimed documentary about aspiring stand-up comedians marks Jonathan Miller’s feature directorial debut.

Standing Up charts the intimate struggles and triumphs of its three main subjects: ultra-Orthodox Jew David Finkelstein, Egyptian-American lawyer Raafat Toss, and couch-surfing custodian Sara Parks. The very unlikeliness of these featured performers lends an engrossing tension to the story. Finkelstein alone cuts a fascinating character as he grapples with the decidedly un-Orthodox customs and conventions of the New York comedy scene. Plus he’s wickedly funny!

Enjoy a good laugh and stay for a Q&A with the director. Miller for one is excited about joining the festival opening night. “We’re incredibly grateful to all of you at the Davis Film Festival for giving audiences in Greenwich the chance to see the stories of three of New York’s most unique, aspiring stand-up comedians!”

Coming up next is Amanda Sthers’ Holy Lands, a bittersweet tale of family dysfunction starring James Caan as an émigré pig farmer in Israel. It screens on Wednesday, October 23. Next up will be Ryan White’s recent Tribeca hit, Ask Dr. Ruth, which tracks the celebrated sex therapist as she reflects on her personal life and career. This film will be shown on November 13. All films are screened at Bow Tie Cinemas in Greenwich and start at 7:00 pm. Save the dates!

MISSION TO JAPAN in 2020!
Chaired by Andi Fern
Co-President of Women’s Philanthropy

Private Studio Tour with
Ron Agam
THURSDAY, JUNE 27

11 am - 12 pm | $50 per person
Long Island City studio address provided upon registration.
Take in the distinct vocabulary and energy of Ron’s mesmerizing kinetic art and hear how the former fine art photographer opted to follow in his father’s footsteps and pick up a paintbrush.
I can give strength to people in need.

My family arrived here from Soviet Russia when I was 15 — with nothing. The Jewish community gave us clothing, a roof over our heads, and whatever else we needed to make a fresh start. I knew then that someday I wanted to give back. So I give to UJA-JCC, both my time and my money.

UJA-JCC Greenwich is helping other people like us, locally and all over the world.

Why not give today?