TED TALK-Style Annual Meeting

For its latest Town Hall annual meeting, UJA-JCC Greenwich has embraced the TED TALK template and lined up several dynamic speakers with ideas well worth spreading – quickly! On Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 pm, three authors will take the Greenwich Arts Council stage (299 Greenwich Avenue) in sequential bursts of 12-minute talks. The authors have been asked to expand on and illuminate this theme: “How Religion, Rescue and Repair Create a Community of Culture and Caring.”

First up will be Tal Keinan, who will encapsulate his new book, *God Is in the Crowd: Twenty-First-Century Judaism*. Drawing on crowd wisdom theory to discern what has enabled Judaism to survive dispersion and dissent, the financier and former Israeli combat pilot will propose some daring scenarios for Jewish viability.

Next at the mic will be Sally Kohn, CNN commentator, columnist, and author of *The Opposite of Hate: A Field Guide to Repairing Our Humanity*. Kohn will unpack the ills plaguing today’s political culture, and advance an alternative vision of empathy, humanitarianism and goodwill, even with those whose views we abhor.

The evening’s third and final talk will feature Rebecca Erbelding, archivist, curator, and historian at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her book *Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America’s Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe*, tells the epic tale of the War Refugee Board, created by F.D.R. in January 1944 to help save European Jews.

Attendees will have the chance to vote for UJA-JCC Greenwich’s 2019 leadership and to salute its transformative tikkun olam activities. The event is co-sponsored with the Jewish Book Council, and is free and open to donors of $18 or more in 2018. Dessert and coffee will be served. Your RSVP is requested; please visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.

Dance with Your Family at the Dreidel Ball on December 9th!

Filled with white-knuckle drama, Jewish history imbues our traditions and holidays and adds to their excitement. Hanukkah is a prime example. That’s why the Maccabee spirit pulses through the annual PJ Library Dreidel Ball, making it an action-packed favorite for young and old. This year’s festivities, scheduled for December 9, noon to 2 pm, are a case in point. Dubbed “The Premiere Hanukkah Party in Greenwich,” the community-wide affair boasts a stellar program headlined by DJ Adam to rock the house (and the ages). Revelers will enjoy family-friendly dancing, cookie decorating, crafts, and a kosher lunch including chicken fingers, latkes, and sufganiot.

Of course, no PJ Library Hanukkah bash would be complete without a mitzvah component, and a community service project is planned. Under the rubric of “Coloring Books, Stickers and Crayons,” families are invited to donate materials for the Pediatric Surgery Department of the Maria Ferrari Children’s Hospital in Westchester. Donations should meet the special physical requirements of this hospital trauma unit. They need to be lightweight, easy to lift and fun to use. For children in recovery from major surgeries and illness, thin coloring books and eight-pack crayons fit the bill. These items will also be donated to Chai Lifeline health support networks, supporting seriously ill children and their families.

Dreidel Ball Co-chairs Rebecca Cooper, Stephanie Esquenazi and Hillary Rosenthal are happily steering this event for the second year. Speaking for the event chairs, Stephanie Esquenazi said: “This event will bring together children from across the community for a festive, fun celebration, while at the same time showing children the importance of mitzvot.” Members of the Committee include Erika Brunwasser, Marissa Cohen, Romy Cohen, Jill Derikrava, Natalie Landres, Jordan Sanders and Jennifer Zigler.

JOIN THE COOPER, ESQUENAZI, AND ROSENTHAL FAMILIES AS SPONSORS OF THIS YEAR’S DREIDEL BALL. SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS AND TICKET PRICING. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT UJAJCC.ORG OR CALL 203-552-1818.
Families Engage in Community Service As Part of a Fun Day Picking Apples

The PJ Library Social Action committee kicked off the fall with “Picking for the Pantry,” with the goal of gathering fresh seasonal fruit for organizations that help individuals and families in our backyard who are struggling with food insecurity. More than 80 Greenwich moms, dads, grandparents and children took to the orchards at Stuart’s Farm in Granite Springs, New York to pick for the pantries. Together, they gathered more than 1,300 apples, which were then delivered to three agencies serving seniors, individuals and families: the Elayne & James Schoke Food Pantry in Stamford, CT, the Bronx Jewish Community Council in Riverdale, NY and the nOURish program in Bridgeport, CT. After picking, families delivered their apples to Schoke Kosher Food Pantry and had a private tour and discussion with CEO, Matt Greenberg, case worker Lois Meyer, and a recipient of the pantry services, to learn more about food insecurity in our region. Kudos to the generous Greenwich families who came out to pick for the pantry and to our dedicated committee members: Alona Altman, Jamie Kesmodel, Romy Cohen and Stephanie Esquenazi, who coordinated the event and inspired their friends to get involved. PJ Library Chair, Jessica Rickert, working closely with the Social Action Committee, expressed her excitement and appreciation for the overwhelming response to this program: “Sometimes simple can be extraordinary. At the PJ Library Apple Picking for the Pantry event an overwhelming number of PJ Library families came out to feed hundreds of people in need. A huge gift was given but an even bigger gift was received by all who participated in this special and meaningful day.

See more photos on page 12.
Women’s Philanthropy Supports Agencies Serving Women, Children, and Families in Our Sister City of Afula

This fall the Women’s Philanthropy Board skyped with representatives from five agencies which provide services on the ground in our sister city of Afula-Gilboa, Israel. Following highly informative presentations, the Women’s Philanthropy board allocated a percentage of donor funds to these deserving programs.

Ahara! Follow me! Mor Carton, Manager, International Partnerships says “our mission is to develop and empower leadership skills in teens and young adults. These kids come from some of the most underserved populations in Israel and include everyone – Jews, Arabs, Bedouin and Druze.” Today we operate some 400 activity centers, shelters and boarding schools with more than 8,000 participants.

Yossi Yacob was one of those participants long ago. With the support of Ahara!, he became a commander in the army and later went on to become an engineer. Now, he is a local leader with the same organization that helped give him the tools to become a full member of Israeli society. “They just need someone to believe in them.”

Beit Singer is a home for children who have been removed from their families by social services due to domestic violence, abuse and/or neglect. Nearly 100 children ages 8-18, 80% of whom have suffered sexual abuse, live at Beit Singer each year. Beit Singer is their refuge – a loving home for children by social services due to domestic violence, abuse and/or neglect. Nearly 100 children ages 8-18, 80% of whom have suffered sexual abuse, live at Beit Singer each year. Beit Singer is their refuge – a loving environment that offers specialized emotional, psychological and physical support.

One of the programs they are most proud of is the Therapeutic Zoo where Pet Therapy helps children develop social skills, learn to control their emotions, and even improve their grades in school.

Emek Medical Center runs the “Dream Doctors” program. While still a new concept, Medical Clown Therapy is now offered in Emek Medical Center serves an ethnically diverse population, composed of Jews and Arabs; people of various faiths – Muslims, Christians, Druze; as well as of various backgrounds – Bedouin and Circassian.

Haifa Rape Crisis Center continues to be a needed resource in Afula. “We offer support to survivors of sexual violence in both the Arab and Jewish communities, and we are needed now more than ever,” says Shani Aloni, the Executive Director.

In addition, the Center works to raise awareness. “We conduct an outreach educational and training program, visiting the Valley’s various educational, health, social services and criminal justice offices, where we present information and offer support services.”

The UJA-JCC Greenwich gift this year will enable the center to add a support group for mothers of children who are victims of sexual violence.

Afula Crowns had a dilemma: “If you feed them they will come.” Daniel Ben, Director of Community Centers at Afula Crowns, ran an afterschool program, but only 15 kids were showing up daily.

When he discovered that the kids were hungry, a kitchen was set up where teens could cook their own meals. Soon some 65 teens from the toughest neighborhoods of Afula City were coming every day.

“One day a boy asked if he could take his meal home instead of eating it here. Why? He wanted to feed his hungry little brother.” From that day on, the center organized a program where teenagers are fed on the condition that they make 200 sandwiches to be distributed the next morning to local schools. Today the teens make 1,000 sandwiches a week, and there are requests from new schools asking to participate in the program.

Thanks to gifts from UJA-JCC Greenwich, they will be able to provide more than 7,000 sandwiches to their community this year.

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.

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Carmel Academy (203) 863-9663
Chavurat Devaray Torah (203) 637-9478 or (203) 637-5877
Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich
Camp Gan Israel of Greenwich (203) 629-9059
Gan of Greenwich Preschool (203) 869-1742
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Temple Sholom
Selma Maisel Nursery School (203) 622-8121

SHABBAT & HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Fri., Nov. 16 ......................... 4:17 pm
Fri., Nov. 23 ......................... 4:12 pm
Fri., Nov. 30 ......................... 4:09 pm
Fri., Dec. 7 .......................... 4:08 pm
First night of Hanukkah –
Mon., Dec. 10
Fri., Dec. 14 ......................... 4:09 pm
Fri., Dec. 21 ......................... 4:11 pm
Fri., Dec. 28 ......................... 4:16 pm
Fri., Jan. 4 .......................... 4:21 pm
Fri., Jan. 11 ......................... 4:28 pm
Fri., Jan. 18 ......................... 4:36 pm
Fri., Jan. 25 ......................... 4:45 pm
Fri., Feb. 1 .......................... 4:53 pm
Fri., Feb. 8 .......................... 5:02 pm

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JUDITH MARGOLIN
EDITOR

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
Like so many Americans, the students of BCHA were shocked and saddened by the senseless shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida last February that left 17 dead. The students were so moved by their grieving peers that they resolved to bring a ray of light into the lives of the victims and their families.

And so they did. The day after the horrific incident, the student council contacted Stars of Hope, an organization that empowers children to bring hope to those in need through messages of healing. With kits provided by Stars of Hope, the students painted inspirational words and works of art on wooden stars, which were then sent to the Parkland students. A seemingly small act of kindness and compassion uplifted students at both ends of the tikkun olam mitzvah.

“It’s like the Rebbe said, ‘One small candle can light up the world,’” said Jeff Parness, paraphrasing the Lubavitch Rebbe Menachem Shneerson z”l. “It’s ‘paying it forward.’”

According to Mr. Parness, since it was launched in 2007, Stars of Hope has handed out well over 50,000 stars which have decorated communities in many U.S. states, as well as several other countries that have faced devastation and destruction.

Mr. Parness came to BCHA not only to spread the word about the project, but also to thank the school for launching this year a “Stars of Hope Club” – the first such club in the nation.

“Hopefully, the Club will serve as a model for schools around the country to follow,” he told the teachers.

BCHA Head of School Jackie Herman said: “The message about the importance of creativity, compassion and connections, reminds us that we are ‘better together’ – that every human being can make a difference in the world.”
The Board of Selectmen, Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman John Toner and Sandy Litvack, Selectmen, issued the following statement regarding the tragic event which occurred in Pittsburgh: “Our hearts and our prayers are with the families of those attacked as well as the entire Pittsburgh community. We condemn the murderous act and the hatred that inspired it. Greenwich is, and will continue to be, a community where we celebrate our diversity and which will not accept or condone rhetoric or conduct which seeks to diminish or attack anyone because of their race, creed, national origin or because of how they choose to worship. We are committed to civil discourse and respect for our residents.”

Greenwich and Stamford community vigil for victims of Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue shootings.

“The Kindness Advantage” with Co-Authors Dale Atkins and Amanda Salzhauer – September 27
Rabbi Vicki Axe stepped down on September 28, as Congregation Shir Ami’s spiritual leader, taking a year’s sabbatical before retiring. These are excerpts from her sermon on Erev Rosh Hashanah to the congregation gathered at Round Hill Community Church for High Holy Day services:

It’s hard to sing through tears. This Shabbat is very emotional because it is my last as your rabbi, cantor, educator, administrator, and yes, custodian! It is highly charged with emotion for me and for you. It’s hard to sing through tears. This has been a life-long challenge. As you know, I am a choir geek. When I was in high school and college choirs, the last few notes of every concert were sung by the other singers. The music was so beautiful, so powerful, it just made me cry. The power of the partnership between God and humans in the creation and performance of choral pieces, whether sacred or secular, whether grand or intimate, always overwhelmed me and moved me to tears so that I couldn’t sing, but simply moved my lips with tears streaming down my cheeks.

This became a challenge as a cantor when I had to sing all the notes and all the words alone while celebrating with a child becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, rejoicing with a bride and groom, or helping a family mourn the loss of a loved one. Some of the music for Shabbat is so beautiful that I can barely sing it week to week. And the music for the High Holy Days is truly awesome.

It’s hard to sing through tears. Imagine how difficult it was to chant at the Brit Milah for each of my four sons. Harold performed the circumcision for each of them, and I held each one just before the ceremony to sing “Rozinkeis mit Mandlen,” a Yiddish lullaby. I had to give myself a good pep talk: “Surely, if Harold can do the circumcision, you can hold it together to sing a little lullaby!”

It’s hard to sing through tears. Funerals were another challenge. I learned to chant Eil Maleh Rachamim, the traditional prayer of mourning, for Harold’s aunt’s funeral. Then I sang it for my sister, my father, Harold’s mother, and his father.

Chanting Mi Sheberach at Shabbat services became very personal when I was fighting my own battle with breast cancer in 1994 and again when our son, Gabe was treated for cancer in 2000. But it is no less tearful when I chant it for every member of our congregation who needs God’s blessing during challenging times.

It’s hard to sing through tears. This year the music elicits memory of fifteen years together. Fifteen years of holiday celebrations and life’s sacred moments together. Fifteen years of building a sacred community together. And the music holds promises of an unknown, yet untold future.

We’ve always felt close to our ancestors as they left Egypt and began their wanderings in the desert, a transformational, life-changing moment in the epic story of our Biblical history. Forging an unknown, uncertain future, the first thing they did as they stood on freedom’s shore was burst into song! But it wasn’t long before they all looked at each other and wondered, “What have we done?” The change from the known to the unknown was overwhelming. Even in slavery, there was comfort in the known, the familiar. And then in new-found freedom there was unbridled fear and discomfort.

Change is difficult. Change is challenging. But one thing we know for sure, change happens. There are expected changes like getting married, having a baby, saying good-bye when your child goes off to kindergarten or leaves for college, watching your parents grow old, and our own aging process as we approach our senior years. Then there are the unexpected changes – illness, loss of a loved one, losing a job, moving to a new community. Whether expected or unexpected, how we respond to the changes in our lives can affect the outcome.

So the question before us, knowing that significant changes are imminent for all of us – for Shir Ami, for Harold and me, and for everyone here: Will we push these changes away as something unwelcome, something to be feared? Or will we embrace them as a natural part of life, as a gift to be unwrapped with unknown treasures inside? We are Shir Ami – the Song of My People. And it is written repeatedly in the Book of Psalms to “sing a new song to God.” The injunction is clear.

It’s hard to sing through tears as these ancient texts call to us here and now to sing a new song. Like a parent watching my children disappear into the future of their lives, passing the torch to their teachers, their friends, their life-mates, like Moses watching the Israelites forging ahead to a promised land he will never enter, I have carried you as far as I can.

And now, the future of Shir Ami is in your hands. As it has been since our founding, let every member engage in the process of forging a meaningful and healthy future for our precious congregational family. We are Shir Ami, the Song of My People. Let our new song make our eyes fill up and our cheeks wet with hope and promise.

Carmel Academy Middle School Students Gather for Prayer and Discussion Following the Shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue

In the immediate days following the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Carmel Academy’s Middle School students gathered to memorialize the victims of this horrific act of hatred. Led by Carmel Academy’s Rabbi Jordan Soffer and Director of Guidance, Dr. Jeff Kilstein, the students gained a deep understanding of the importance of coming together as a community in moments of sadness to find comfort, to reflect and to discuss their feelings. The students also came up with ways in which they could support the Squirrel Hill community and take action in helping to change the world around them.
From the Rabbi

★ The “Perfect” Time to Visit Israel ★

by Rabbi Mitchell Hurvitz, Temple Sholom

At every Temple Sholom Bar and Bat Mitzvah, we provide the child with the gift of her or his “Birthright” – a certificate that covers the $250 registration fee to be used for the otherwise free ten-day trip to Israel, valid from the time the young person turns 18 until the age of 26.

“Birthright Israel” has become the largest educational tourism organization in the world, and was created almost 20 years ago so as to “strengthen Jewish identity, Jewish communities, and connection with Israel and its people.” We are blessed that the gift of “Birthright” is supported by the State of Israel, philanthropists, the Jewish Federation system, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Synagogues, along with parents of trip participants, alumni of the program, and many, many individual donors from around the world who believe in the Birthright mission. (See: https://www.birthright-israel.com.)

Every so often I am asked: “How can I send my child to Israel. or travel anywhere else in the world. But, I also don’t wish to minimize the parent’s emotional fear, even if it’s not quite rational.

The reality is that bad things do occur at times in Israel, just as there is senseless violence elsewhere, in our country and around the world. Israel experiences incidents of terror, and there will never be a “perfect” time to visit our Promised Land. But, I can personally think back to some of my many visits to Israel. I was there during the first Lebanon War, and also during the first Persian Gulf War, gas mask in hand. I was there after the infamous Purim bombings, and I was in Israel at the height of the second intifada. Each time I went, some people thought I was crazy to go. I firmly believe that for 2000 years we prayed for our people’s return to the land of Israel, and now we belong to the Jewish generation that has lived to witness the fulfillment of our Zionist dream. The reality that we must still address effectively is that for many Jews there will never be a perfect time to go, and the vast majority of Jews have never visited Israel. In fact I read once that more American Jews have been to Italy and visited the Vatican than have been to Israel. Considered this way, most caring Jews understand that this is a serious problem. There may not be the “perfect” time to go to Israel, but there’s usually never a perfect time for the most important items of life that take time, resources, and effort. The noted violinist, Isaac Stern Z”L, delivered a speech during the Gulf War when he was receiving an honorary doctorate from Ben Gurion University. He spoke of why he loved Israel, and he recalled his first visit to the Holy Land, a year after the recreation of the Jewish State. He said he was especially impressed by the personal involvement of every Israeli citizen in the life of the country. He recalled how after giving one of his first concerts there, he returned to his hotel and the night porter, who was washing down the walls of the hotel, put his mop down and asked, “Why did you change the Beethoven piece at the concert? I wanted to hear the Beethoven piece that was originally announced.” Stern said, “After this incident, I decided I will keep on returning to Israel as often as possible.” He went on to note about the challenges in the Middle East when the then mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek Z”L, complained to him, “that Europeans and Asians, and American Christians are coming to Israel, but American Jews are afraid to go.” Stern said to Mayor Kollek, “The gathering at Ben Gurion University, and throughout the rest of his life: “We’re not afraid to go. We will go – we will share. For it is for this sharing that we are grateful, because it gives us the strength to belong – not only to Israel, but most importantly, we belong to ourselves; we know who we are.”

Isaac Stern knew the spiritual charge to the Jew of “Lech Lecha” that God commanded of our Patriarch Abraham, thousands of years ago: “Lech Lecha – Go!” “Go from your homeland, your birthplace, the house of your father, to the land which I will show you.” God proclaimed: “Lech Lecha – GO!” “Not Go Later; Go NOW to the land that I will show you. This Divine charge of Lech Lecha applies to each and every Jew. It’s not just our birthright to visit Israel; it’s the fulfillment of what it means to be a complete Jew: “We belong to ourselves; we know who we are.”

We go to Israel in good times and bad, and everything in between because we belong to our People, and we affirm in concrete action this power of belonging. We have to make sure our Israeli brothers and sisters know they are not alone, that we will stand with them both figuratively and literally.

Lech Lecha – Go NOW and start planning your travel to Israel.
Lech Lecha – Go NOW and pursue the Jewish power of belonging to our People.
Lech Lecha – Go NOW to make sure that our Israeli brothers and sisters know that we really care.
Lech Lecha – Go NOW because Israel needs our support now more than ever.

Like anyone we love, when they are in need, the best thing we can do for them is to go to them and be with them. And, when we are unable for whatever reason to be physically present, then the next best thing we can do is show them that we care with our daily offerings of time and resources.

As we pray three times a day: “May God who makes peace in the heavens above, make peace for us, and for all of Israel – Amen!”

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.

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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
Greenwich Reform Presents Jewish Life

Come to Greenwich Reform on Sunday, January 27, from 9:30-11 am to enjoy bagels and coffee, plus a fascinating presentation by Rabbi Andy Bachman, former Senior Rabbi at Congregation Beth Elohim in Park Slope Brooklyn, and founding Rabbi of the NYU Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life.

Rabbi Bachman's interest in Eastern Europe dates back to his childhood, when he listened to his paternal grandparents’ stories about the family's Belarussian roots, while eating sour kugel and sweet blintzes.

He has rekindled this interest and has been making regular trips back to Eastern Europe. As the founder and president of the nonprofit Water Over Rocks, he is helping to restore three cemeteries in Belarus, in partnership with the Joint Distribution Committee and family-led organizations. Water Over Rocks is leading multi-faith participants to partner with organizations that are slowly restoring these sacred spaces and building memorials in the towns where Jews were murdered. It is also working with local community groups and schools to build interfaith dialogue about Jewish life in Europe, both past and present.

Rabbi Bachman's past experience also includes work as the Director of Jewish Content at the 92nd Street Y, and as co-founder of Brooklyn Jews, an innovative outreach program for the many unaffiliated Jews who make Brooklyn their home. An expert in building community, he's currently the Executive Director of the Jewish Community Project in the Tribeca neighborhood of lower Manhattan.

All are welcome at Greenwich Reform, 92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob! Please RSVP to Hadas Elias at 203-629-0018 or HadasElias@GRS.org, so we don't run out of bagels!

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Many thanks and kudos to Fall Brunch 2018 Co-Chairs Carolyn Surgent and Madeline Simon for their creative leadership and dedication.

Mazel Tov to honorees Debbie Daum, Dina Klein Lunder and Yael Rosen.

Women's Philanthropy Visits Jewish Senior Services in Bridgeport

UJA-JCC Greenwich Women's Philanthropy took a local excursion to the Jewish Senior Services campus in Bridgeport, a recipient of support from UJA-JCC Greenwich. It is a state-of-the-art long term care facility for Jewish families in our region, providing neighborhood life in a “home” setting, including therapy, recreation and stimulation for the residents. Following a tour of the beautiful community facility, which also houses UJA Federation, Mercaz Community High School for Judaic Studies and the local JCC, our group participated in Art Therapy with the residents. Kudos to Excursion Chairs, Sheila Neilinger and Andi Fern for coordinating this visit.

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Never Is Now is the nation's principal event designed to explore the contemporary drivers of anti-Semitism and all forms of hate. You're invited to join ADL, along with other experts, academics and leaders in a variety of fields, to learn and be inspired to make a difference. Contact the Connecticut Office of ADL to learn more and join us.
Call Linda Cardillo at (203) 780-0201 or email LCardillo@adl.org

#NeverIsNow18
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.
Women’s Philanthropy Fall Brunch – November 7
PJ Library Community Service Event for Kids and Families – Apple Picking for the Schoke Kosher Food Pantry, October 14

UJA-JCC Greenwich kicked off the new year with JBabies & Tots on the Town at Greenwich Reform. Moms and children enjoyed visiting and songs with Rabbi Jordie and Eliana Hall, Director of Education. JBabies Chair, Rebecca Cooper was happy to host the program, “It only takes an hour to begin connections that can last a lifetime,” she said. “JBabies is designed to bring people together and plant the seeds for friendships that will deepen and grow with our children. We greatly appreciated Rabbi Jordie’s time and warm reception, and enjoyed visiting with new friends at GRS.”
Future JBabies events will take place on Tuesdays, 9:30-10:am, January 8, April 9, and May 7.
**Davis Film Festival**

**Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas**

**Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas**

**December 5**

Did you know that Jewish songwriters wrote the soundtrack to Christianity’s most musical holiday? Let the movie entertain you with harmony by immigrant outsiders from Irving Berlin to Mel Tormé.

Larry Weinstein / Documentary / Canada / 52 min.

**Shoelaces**

**January 16**

In this emotional family saga, crusty mechanic Reuven reluctantly takes in his intellectually-challenged son Gadi after his mother’s untimely death. Thoughtful, poignant and unexpectedly funny, Shoelaces explores the complex dynamics of adult parent-child relationships through the delicate lens of its special-needs hero.

Jacob Goldwasser / Drama / Israel / 98 min.

**Redemption**

**February 6**

Desperate to raise money for his daughter’s potentially life-saving treatment, a widowed father does battle with his newfound religious faith and the rock ‘n’ roll he thought he’d left behind. Winner of the Audience Award at the Jerusalem Film Festival.

Joseph Madmony, Boaz Yehonatan Yacov / Drama / Israel / 104 min.
PJ Library Storytime at Greenwich Library

**TUESDAYS 4 - 4:45 PM**

November 20, December 18, January 15, March 19
Greenwich Library, 101 W. Putnam Ave

Drop in for classic PJ Library stories and crafts with our special guest readers. Enjoy creative, quality time with your children and friends. Best for ages 3-5 and siblings are always welcome.

Chaired by Erika Bruno and Rita Teichner

J Babies and Tots on the Town

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

Tuesday, January 8, Temple Sholom, 300 E Putnam Ave
Tuesday, April 9, Hebrew Wizards, 118 River Road
Tuesday, May 7, Chabad of Greenwich, 75 Mason Street

Never too young for a UJA-JCC Excursion! Explore the diverse local Jewish community. See what’s unique and special about our community resources and enjoy playdates, activities, music and enrichment while making new friends around town. For children up to 24 months and their parents.

Chaired by Rebecca Cooper

For more information and to register visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.
Temple Sholom Sisterhood Donates Women’s Tallitot

The Sisterhood of Temple Sholom recently donated 40 women’s tallitot to the congregation as a way to encourage women to participate in the tradition. These beautiful prayer shawls were designed by artist Sarah Resnick of Advah Designs and are each made of silk crepe de chine, a soft and lightweight fabric. There is now an assortment of colors and designs to choose from.

“The Sisterhood decided to make this donation to Temple Sholom as a way to encourage more women to wear tallitot. They looked at the older more traditional ones that we have and thought a new selection might be more enticing,” said Eileen Robin, Executive Director of Temple Sholom.

The prayer shawls came with untied tzitzit made from Israeli kosher wool. Tzitzit are the four fringes that hang from the corners of the tallit. Phyllis Shapiro, co-president of Sisterhood, organized a group that included Rabbi Chaya Bender, Cantor Sandy Bernstein and Rabbinic Intern Kevin Peters and an assortment of volunteers to finish the tallitot.

Camp Gan has received a Jewish Camping Grant that is earmarked for Summer 2019 to provide savings directly to you!

Camp Rates include:
• Daily hot lunch and snacks
• Trips for Grades 2 and up
• Bus transportation throughout Greenwich & Stamford (door-to-door transportation available for an added fee)

2019 Camp Dates:
Monday, June 24 - Friday, August 9

ADD UP YOUR SAVINGS:

- New, Low Weekly Price - Only Until 1/31
  $475/week $425/week

- 7 Weeks paid in full by 11/31 SAVE $500 plus free door-to-door transportation!
  $4,025 (only $575/week) $3,625 (only $525/week)

- 7 Weeks with $1,000 deposit by 11/31 SAVE $700
  $4,025 (only $575/week) $3,625 (only $525/week)

- 7 Weeks with $1,000 deposit by 12/31 SAVE $800
  $4,325 (only $618/week) $3,925 (only $598/week)

- 6 Weeks with $1,000 deposit by 12/31 SAVE $525/week
  $650/week $600/week

- Weekly Sports Clinics
- Red Cross Swim Lessons
- Hip Hop
- Golf
- Tennis
- Circus
- Lacrosse

CampGan.com
Our mission-driven work to improve the lives of families and individuals of all ages in the Greenwich community continues as usual. The great news is that Lisa-Loraine Smith is continuing to work with JFS as the Interim Clinical Director. Lisa will be providing professional oversight to all of our social workers and support groups.

Helping Seniors Celebrate the Jewish Holidays All Around Town

The Jewish Health and Healing Center partnered with Greenwich-area Jewish clergy to bring the holidays to senior facilities. Thank you to Chabad of Greenwich, Congregation Shir Ami, and Temple Sholom for leading us in prayer, song, and celebration.

Did you catch us at the October Health & Wellness Expo at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center? As a Community Ambassador with the Greenwich Commission on Aging, JFS has a table every year to promote our programs and sign up volunteers. Thanks to all who stopped by to say hello, and especially to those who signed up to be our newest shoppers!

Supermarketing for Seniors program director, Elyse Brown, participates in Medicare Part D Open Enrollment clinics run by the Greenwich Commission on Aging as a trained counselor. By reviewing your list of medications, counselors can help you save hundreds of dollars – if not thousands – on prescription costs in 2019. Open Enrollment runs through December 7; there’s still time to sign up for a clinic. Call the Commission at 203-862-6710 to reserve time with a counselor.

And more great news: JFS is now taking insurance to cover our clinical services! We are starting with Husky A, B, C, & D; Medicare; and Anthem/Blue Cross Blue Shield. We expect to add more health insurance plans soon.

Please continue to refer family and friends who might be facing challenges to JFS for counseling and caring support. Thanks for supporting JFS of Greenwich!

JFS in the Community

Thanks to Rita Edelston for hosting Book Beat this year. We had a lively discussion of The German Girl, by Armando Lucas Correa, for our first meeting in September, led by Judi Margolin.

The next two books will be Waking Lions by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen (November 28) and The Ruined House by Ruby Namdar (January 23). Call 203-622-1881 or email ebrown@jfsgreenwich.org for more details and to join us!
JEWISH FAMIL Y SERVICES OF GREENWICH

Special Celebration in Honor of Lisa-Lorraine Smith

On September 26, more than 70 friends of JFS joined staff and board members who came together to toast beloved Executive Director, Lisa-Lorraine Smith, in celebrating her 15 years of service. Board President, Nancy Peters, praised Lisa’s special gift for nurturing people and finding new ways to serve the community’s social services needs, while staff members shared tales of her leadership and accomplishments. Under Lisa’s direction, the agency grew significantly; JFS is now offering a rich array of ongoing support groups for individuals and families facing personal challenges, and has expanded its individual counseling services. Lisa supported Jewish Greenwich in many ways. Everyone at the gathering wished Lisa a hearty mazel tov on her new position as Chief Program Officer at the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, where she will be working to strengthen JFS agencies across the country and beyond, to enable them to better serve their communities. We look forward to Lisa serving as an advocate for JFS at the Network.

SPECIAL DONATIONS to JFS

In Honor of:
Arlene Wexler & Robert Perler, by Neil & Leslie Soifer
Lisa-Lorraine Smith: We are grateful to the many people who donated in honor of Lisa-Lorraine Smith: Ruth Anapol, Elyse Brown, Marilyn Cooper, Meredith Curreri, Jennifer & Thomas Davidson, Daniel Dubyn, Rita Edelson, Peter Furth, Leslie Gold, Nancy Gold, Caroline Hirschfeld, Lisa Jameson, Sheila Kantor, Jan Kaplowitz, Sandi Klein, Pamela Liflander, Pauline Maerov, Ariel Manacher, Joan Merdinger, Willow & Tim Oberweger, Barbara Onish, Norma Perlstein, Barbara Salop, Cyd & Josef Sieghart, Eleanor Silber, Rebecca & Jonathan Tipermas, Anne & Arthur Wichman, Nancy Zisson

In Memory of:
Linda Batkin, Lola Meyers, Barry Siegel, Jerry Tiffany, by Phyllis Shapiro & Marty Flashner
If you would like to honor or memorialize someone by making a donation to Jewish Family Services of Greenwich, we will send a note of acknowledgment to the person or family involved, informing them of your generosity.

INSURANCE NOW ACCEPTED
Husky/Medicaid, Anthem, more to come soon!
JFS offers comprehensive counseling for individuals, couples and families by licensed clinical social workers in a confidential setting.
203-622-1881

Scheduled for Surgery?

After months of delay, when you finally schedule your knee, hip, or shoulder replacement, include free Supermarketing for Seniors services in your discharge plan!
If access to groceries is the only thing standing between your return home and an extended stay in rehab, let our trained shoppers smooth your path home. We can even shop before your discharge if that will make things easier. We’re here for you!
Call Elyse Brown at 203-622-1881, or email ebrown@jfsgreenwich.org to schedule a shopper.

MOVIE NIGHT

Family Movie Night
Saturday, Dec. 15 at 5:30PM
Join us at 5:30 for pizza, followed by a short Havdalah service. While the kids enjoy a Jewish-themed movie, the adults can relax with wine and cheese. Kids can come in PJs and bring sleeping bags.

RSVP Required!

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Congregation Shir Ami is pleased to announce that guest cantor, Ellen Dreskin, will lead monthly Shabbat services October through November and on December 7 at First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich.

According to, Rick Mason, co-president, founding member, and technical chair, “We plan to honor the legacy that Rabbi Axe has established, to continue our passion for Jewish life and learning, for music as a cultural heritage, social justice as a mandate, and caring for one another as a way of life.”

“We have something very special,” added co-president, founding member, and religious school teacher Dahni Nisinzweig. “We are a very close group of congregants who really care about each other and who want to continue together as a congregation. As we explore our options, Ellen Dreskin, whom I have known for many years, is a person with experience and substance, whom we believe can help us as we determine the best way to move forward.

“As an active synagogue consultant and clergy coach in the areas of liturgical innovation, personal prayer practice, and communal worship skills,” noted Cantor Dreskin, “I am looking forward to celebrating Shabbat with the Shir Ami community over the next few months and helping them through this transitional time. “We are excited to take these next steps as a congregational family,” pointed out Joel Collamer, treasurer and founding member. “We hope to welcome Cantor Dreskin with our unique brand of Shir Ami warmth and caring.”

All are welcome to the Shabbat service led by Cantor Ellen Dreskin on December 7, 7:30 at First Presbyterian Church, One West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich. For information about all Shir Ami events visit congregationshirami.org or call (203) 900-7976.
Carmel Academy students got their hands dirty and their toes wet as they experienced the rituals surrounding the Hebrew month of Tishrei. In the days leading up to Rosh Hashanah, Carmel’s sixth grade students spent the afternoon with Rabbi Schneur Wilhelm of the Chabad of Milford, who teaches about the crafts of Judaism. He led the sixth graders in a hands-on shofar workshop, where each student cleaned, sawed, sanded and created his or her very own shofar.

“The Rosh Hashanah Amida is made up of three parts: Shofarot, Zichronot (remembrance), and Malkhuyot (kingship). At Carmel, each Middle School grade studies one of the sections and each has a corresponding experiential activity to help students grasp the meaning and relevancy of the ancient liturgy,” said Rabbi Jordan Soffer, Carmel Academy’s Rabbi-in-Residence. “By making the shofar with their own two hands, our students gained a deep appreciation about how remarkable a shofar is, and, at the same time, how accessible it is,” Rabbi Soffer said.

In the days leading up to Yom Kippur, the entire student body traveled to Greenwich Point beach to learn together, reflect and then to have a communal Tashlich. The students sat in small groups on the sand, as the school’s 5th-8th graders taught the younger students about the meaning and significance of Tashlich. Each student wrote or illustrated her or his intentions for the new year on dissolvable paper. Then, students walked to the shore to cast these notes into the flowing water.

As the students gathered along the shoreline, Rabbi Soffer invited them to glance at the horizon. He told them: “Take a look at the water and notice how the horizon stretches as far as the eye can see. Think about our potential to change and to do mitzvot, which is as wide as the vast water in front you.”
It was a serene autumn day at Carmel Academy when a group of the school’s seventh and eighth graders were summoned to the science lab to deal with an “urgent” matter. The students, all part of a forensic science elective class, rushed excitedly to the courtyard where they were met with an unexpected scenario – a mock crime scene, where poor “Fred” had met with an unfortunate demise. The students immediately went to work as detectives, making observations, searching for clues, discussing their theories and comparing notes.

The mysterious whodunit was a way for Carmel science teacher Kelly Mulligan to introduce her students to the important work, skills and techniques used by forensic scientists. Each trimester, Middle School students at Carmel get to choose an elective class to delve into topics of their personal interests. Less formal than traditional academic topics, elective classes range from “Art for Social Justice” to “Yoga, Meditation & Mindfulness” to “Film Study.”

“I am so excited that this class is being offered,” said 8th-grader Naomi Seligmann, who has a deep interest in the forensic sciences and hopes to work for the FBI one day. “The elective not only gives students a window into the skills and techniques used by forensic scientists, but also the importance this science brings to solving complicated crimes and in helping exonerate those who are wrongly imprisoned or convicted,” Mulligan said.

Classroom labs include fingerprint, hair and fiber analysis, blood typing and how DNA is used to help solve crimes. “I have whorls on my fingertips,” said 8th-grader Atara Ivri, who also noted that she learned there are three types of fingerprints – whorls, arches and loops. “I used to look at my fingertips and just see lines. Now I know there are different fingerprint types.”

“The students are learning that forensic scientists don’t work in a vacuum. Different areas of science – biology, chemistry and physics – are all connected in crime solving,” Mulligan said. What is certain to be a popular class will be when students try to solve a crime using all their new lab skills and evidence gathering techniques, Mulligan added. They will also have to learn to work together and be open to each other’s ideas and opinions. “I can’t wait for the class each week,” said 8th-grader Ariela Hope. “Solving crimes is more than what you see in the movies. There is a lot more science than I thought.”
Bi-Cultural High School Students Learn About the Important Work of JFS

Recently, students at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy-Upper School (BCHA) had the opportunity to learn about some of the vital programs and services at Schoke Jewish Family Service – such as the kosher food bank and the winter jacket drive – from JFS staff members Rebekah Kanefsky and Yolly Faratci. For the past few years, the BCHA high schoolers have participated in the JFS Pesach Food Drive, and last year the students and their families donated coats to the winter jacket drive. As part of BCHA curriculum, students participate in at least 15 hours of volunteer work per school year. At the end of the presentation, students had the opportunity to sign up for ongoing volunteer activities with JFS.

Meet and hear from Bassem Eid, a Jerusalem-based political analyst, human rights pioneer and expert commentator in Arab and Palestinian affairs. In 2016, Eid assumed the role of chairman of the Center for Near East Policy Research, a non-partisan organization, dedicated to exposing human rights violations and supporting a democratic and pluralistic Palestine. Bassem Eid also is an outspoken critic of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, otherwise known as BDS.

Honoring Alice & Michael Delikat with the Hillel Silverman Community Service Award

Arch Street Teen Center 7 pm

SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, April 11, 2019
UJA-JCC Celebration

Chairs: Marjorie & Steven Black and Christine & Jeff Toback

Honoring Alice & Michael Delikat with the Hillel Silverman Community Service Award

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Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut (BCHA) has announced the school's participation in the Legacy Heritage Instructional Leadership Institute's Tanakh Standards and Benchmark Project. According to BCHA Head of School Jackie Herman, over the course of the next two years, the Judaic Studies staff will immerse themselves in rich Tanakh study. Faculty members will explore various facets of the Tanakh, plan curricula in teams, use protocols to fine tune instruction and create outcome-oriented benchmarks and assessments.

She explains: “It is our vision that by the time they graduate from BCHA, our students will be independent and astute readers of the biblical text in Hebrew. They will develop a love of Torah study and embrace it as an inspiring resource that informs their values and influences their moral commitments and their ways of interacting with the world.”

To date more than 80 Jewish schools from across denominations have participated in the Institute’s professional and leadership programs of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

The newly-formed Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut serves grades pre-K through 12. It opened its doors this September as an outgrowth of the merger between Bi-Cultural Day School and the Jewish High School of Connecticut, both located in Stamford.
Greenwich resident Marty Flashner is pictured here at the General Assembly in Tel Aviv with a soldier from Special in Uniform. Special in Uniform is an innovative program supported by UJA-JCC funding. It integrates youth with disabilities into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and helps prepare them for careers following army service.

The program was founded to give everyone a right to fulfill her or his potential and to be accepted into society, regardless of a disability. Special in Uniform goes beyond the walls of IDF bases, helping its graduates integrate into the workforce and into Israeli society in meaningful ways.

“Getting to 10,000” – October 21 at Stop & Shop

On October 21, eight teens from Greenwich and surrounding areas participated in an event at Stop & Shop on West Putnam Avenue from 9:30 am-2:00 pm. The goal was to raise money toward “The Packing Project 10,000+,” which will take place on March 31, 2019, at Carmel Academy. On that day teens plan to pack 10,000 meals for local food pantries. JTAC is partnering with The Outreach Program and local organizations to make this happen. At the Stop & Shop event, JTAC teens engaged enthusiastically with community members. They raised $360 in donations toward the goal of $2500! Thank you to all teens, their families, Stop & Shop staff, and Greenwich Stop & Shop shoppers for their generous donations!

Teens Attend Planning Session for Fundraising Aimed at Hunger and Breast Cancer

At its October 14 meeting, JTAC teens gathered for dinner and ice breakers, then made posters for the “Getting to 10,000” fundraising event held at Stop & Shop on October 21. The goal is to raise $2500 by Spring 2019 in order to pack and donate 10,000 meals to people in need. JTAC is partnering with the Outreach Program and other Jewish food pantries in the area to help feed hungry people and their families. The teens are committed to raising awareness about hunger and poverty. At the meeting they applied their creativity to making posters to spread the word! Since October was Breast Cancer Awareness month, JTAC teens also outlined their own hands in pink to demonstrate support for Sharsheret, the incredible Jewish breast cancer prevention organization.

Lights, Water, Action: Uganda!

Travel to Uganda with UJA-JCC. Greenwich and our partner, Innovation: Africa, a non-profit organization that brings Israeli solar and water technologies to remote African villages.

We will go to rural villages of Uganda to see prospective project sites, and we’ll see, first-hand, the impact Israeli innovation has on schools, orphanages, medical clinics and water projects powered through solar energy right when it “goes live”.

Enjoy a visit with Uganda’s Jewish community in Putti Village and celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat together. Accommodations include the Protea Hotel, in Entebbe, and the Mbale Resort.
Making a better world takes the right ingredients.

This Hanukkah while you’re frying up the latkes, serve something that will make it an even happier holiday for the whole family — especially your global family.

The recipe is simple: Pour in a heaping mixture of nurturing and strengthening Jewish life. Add helping the vulnerable, inspiring the young, and safeguarding our people. All these ingredients are automatically folded in together through your gift to UJA-JCC Greenwich. So, please measure generously. Make it a truly happier Hanukkah for your entire family. Give today.