**Seth Siegel to Keynote Pacesetter Event on January 30**

Israel and the Water You Drink: A Surprising Story

Drought and contaminated water may not seem big worries in Connecticut, but the dry skies of 2016-2017 and last summer’s Farmington River chemical spill show that not even our Edenic state is free from the water problems sweeping the globe.

Yet there’s more than a drop of hope. Remarkably, Israel has lots to do with it. On **January 30 at 7 pm**, lawyer, author, activist and entrepreneur Seth M. Siegel will discuss why at the 2020 Pacesetter event co-sponsored by UJA-JCC Greenwich and the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford.

Israel's innovative strategies to boost water security planetwide was the focus of Siegel’s New York Times bestseller *Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water-Starved World*. Siegel’s new book *Troubled Water: What's Wrong with What We Drink* brings the same masterful storytelling to a haunting tale of how America’s drinking water became contaminated, the risks it may be posing for us, and what’s needed to make it safe.

Israel’s global leadership in water management is especially critical at a time when experts predict that – forget oil – wars will increasingly be fought over water. Despite the challenges of the coming global water crisis, it’s not all gloom and doom.

Israel’s culture of water conservation, economy and tech invention shines a light for world policymakers and citizens. Israel not only has enough water to serve 12 million locally, but it exports billions of dollars worth of water, and water-thirsty produce, year after year. Per Siegel, Israel is the only country with an expanding population, expanding economy and decreasing level of rainfall that has managed to come close. Not bad for an area where, in the 1930s, British economists predicted the water supply would only sustain 2 million people.

Pacesetters 2020, which is open to donors giving $5,000 or more, will be held at the Bruce Museum. The price of admission is $85 and includes dinner and a book. Registration is available at ujajcc.org or by contacting Pam at 203-552-1818.

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**Modern Loss**

**DECEMBER 12 | 10 AM**

YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich

$20 in advance, $25 at the door | (includes a copy of the book)

Join Modern Loss cofounder (and coauthor of the new book *Modern Loss: Candid Conversation About Grief, Beginners Welcome*) Rebecca Soffer for a morning of no-holds-barred conversation about death and loss – the bad, the good, the ugly and even the hilarious. Bring your insights, your experiences and, of course, your questions. Book signing to follow.

**REGISTER AT UJAJCC.ORG**

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**UJA-JCC Greenwich**

**Wishes You and Your Family**

**Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukkah**
PJ Library Greenwich has enjoyed eleven years of growth and development. Partnership with dedicated PJ Library Parent Planners enables us to present unique programs, reach out to new families, and collaborate with the dynamic organizations also serving the Greenwich Jewish community. More than ever, PJ Library Parent Planners are leaders who craft the direction of programming, sponsor events and engage friends to get involved. This year marks a transition of PJ Library leadership as Jessica Rickert has passed the baton to Rebecca Cooper. PJ library Greenwich certainly has talent! Always a fan of PJ books, Jessica Rickert devoted her time to learning what’s behind this award-winning program so that she could imbue our community with the “PJ” spirit. During her tenure, Jessica attended two invitation-only PJ Library conferences, took “PJ” training webinars online, crafted grant requests on our behalf and coordinated up to ten events per year, with the help of the Parent Planners team. She promoted family volunteering with meaningful social action programs, such as Apple Picking for the Pantry, Honoring Elders at King Street Rehab, and Making “Stuffies” for children who live in shelters.

Rebecca Cooper, who took the reins as Chair in September, has been an active Parent Planner for six years and brings extensive knowledge to her new post. She’s served as a guest reader at events, co-chaired major programs and attended countless board meetings where her astute observations and input have had long-standing impact. This year, Rebecca will focus on innovative programming and, for the first time in our PJ Library history, fund-raising. Speaking about her new mission as PJ Chair, she says, “PJ Library is an important resource of Jewish literacy and enrichment for young families. Providing enrollments for all families in the Greenwich Jewish community is a top priority. Of course, we will continue to bring families together at special PJ events as well. I’m thrilled to have a board of gifted planners to help take our Greenwich PJ Library in new directions while standing on the shoulders of prior PJ leadership.” Rebecca is also founder and Co-Chair of the women’s group, JEWEL, at Temple Sholom. In addition Rebecca, a performing artist, helps to produce concerts celebrating the art of musical theatre with UJA-JCC Greenwich to sell-out crowds.

PJ Library Storytimes

**Upcoming Dates:**

- December 19
- January 16
- March 12

Thursdays 3:45-4:30 pm

Cos Cob Library

Co-Chair Rita Teichner and guest reader David Cohen at Storytime on October 24

More photos on page 22.

Welcome Back Family Picnic

Thanks to our Teen Volunteers Sabrina Knoll, Anna Sanders, Eden Citron, Mica Farstrup, and thanks to Cori Sanogueria and Bonnie Citron for organizing the team!

More photos on page 21.
Joanie Leeds and The Nightlights

Have you heard the music of Joanie Leeds? Thanks to Women's Philanthropy VP Joui Hessel and Jimmy Hexter, this Jewish “rock star” will perform in Greenwich on Sunday, January 12, 3:30 – 5 pm. The award-winning Joanie Leeds and The Nightlights will bring their eclectic tunes, humorous lyrics and Jewish flavor to kick off the UJA-JCC 2020 events season.

“You probably haven’t heard Jewish music sound like this,” says Hessel, who together with her husband Jimmy Hexter will sponsor the concert. “Get ready for great entertainment, fun lyrics, beautiful harmonies and amazing music!” “What’s not to love about a rock group for kids that gets grown-ups laughing?” adds event chair Jessica Rickert. “Music and joy are the perfect way to brighten a winter afternoon and start off a new year.” PJ Library Chair, Rebecca Cooper agrees.

Lest anyone doubt the fun quotient, the band’s CD titles say it all: City Kid, Challah, Challah, I’m A Rock Star, What A Zoo, Bandwagon, Good Egg, Mesheugana and Brooklyn Baby. Or take two sample numbers, “The Tofurky Song” and “Happy As A Clam.” DVDs from City Kid Live to Joanie Leeds & The Nightlights – Live from Madison Square Park indicate the nationwide audience for Joanie’s singing/songwriting talents and the talented musicians who amplify them.

No surprise that what began on the birthday party circuit and at local haunts like The Bitter End quickly blossomed into performances at major venues across America. Joanie et al are excited to rock the roof off on January 12. Please check ujajcc.org for location, updates, and to purchase tickets. For further details, contact Tracy Daniels at 203-552-1818 or tracy@ujajcc.org.

SAVE THE DATE

UJA-JCC Greenwich Women’s Philanthropy

Education Symposium
March 4, 2020
YWCA Greenwich

Thanks to Fall Brunch 2019
Raffle Donors!

Michelle Amore Masseuse
Bead Everything
Bruce Museum
By the Way Bakery
Celia B Skin Care
Chelsea Piers Connecticut
Eva and Adam Oxylite Facial
Graze New York
Greenwich Orchids
Jaafar Tazi Salon
JenW
Maison D’Alexandre Salon
Ken Schur
Soosh Stamford
Splurge
Stamford Symphony
Stuart Luxury Travel
Tengda Asian Bistro
The Reform School
Yoga by Danit

SHABBAT & HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Fri., Nov 15.............. 4:18 pm
Fri., Nov 22.............. 4:13 pm
Fri., Dec. 6................ 4:08 pm
Fri., Dec. 13............. 4:08 pm
Fri., Dec. 20............. 4:11 pm
Sun., Dec. 22...Hanukkah begins
Fri., Dec. 27............. 4:15 pm
Mon., Dec. 30....Hanukkah ends
Fri., Jan. 3............... 4:20 pm
Fri., Jan. 10............ 4:27 pm
Fri., Jan. 17............ 4:35 pm
Fri., Jan. 24............. 4:43 pm
Fri., Jan. 31............ 4:52 pm
Fri., Feb. 5................ 5:00 pm
Fri., Feb. 12.............. 5:09 pm

Woman’s Philanthropy September 25 Meeting

Guest speaker Sarah Hurwitz spoke about her book “Here All Along.” Sarah was chief speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama.
I look forward to servicing my friends in the community from my new company.

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

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

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

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

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

Greenwich families had a “second bite” at picking for the pantry again this year. Families delivered more than 400 pounds of fresh apples and stocked the shelves at the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry serving southern Fairfield County.

2020 PARTY PLANNING SHOWCASE & Mitzvah Project Fair
at Temple Sholom
300 East Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830

January 05
11 AM–1 PM

Come meet more than 30 party planning vendors & representatives from local non-profit organizations

Free Admission • Open to the Community

Register in advance at:
www.templesholom.com

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

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• Alternatives/Managed Futures
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• Trust Accounts
• Retirement Accounts
• Charitable Giving

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

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www.cutlerandrewscapitalmanagement.com

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This past summer, I began as the cantor and spiritual leader of Congregation Shi Ami. One of my mentors, Rabbi Samuel Gordon, founding rabbi of Congregation Sukkat Shalom, in Wilmette, IL, upon learning I had been engaged in this new position, advised me: “Always keep mission and culture at the center.” That is, in the day-to-day work of synagogue leadership, Rabbi Gordon reminded me that active re-articulation of values and founding ideals is what keeps a community energized, prevents burnout of members and staff, and will help guide synagogue leadership in the most challenging moments.

To deepen my understanding of Shir Ami’s “DNA,” and to rearticulate our mission, we invited the entire membership to a synagogue-wide breakfast. The turnout was robust. Members came to help articulate who we are and where we want to go. The discussion centered around the following question: How can we retain what makes us “us,” while also evolving? In other words, how do we balance legacy and innovation?

The medieval commentator, Rambam, reminds us in his work entitled *Introduction to the Mishnah* (8:2), that “there was no time that there was not contemplation and innovation of the matters [of Jewish life].” While we have retained our sacred texts and traditions, we have always been innovators. Hundreds of years later, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, taught “The past has a vote, not a veto,” recognizing the limiting grasp of the past. And in Chaim Potok’s *My Name is Asher Lev*, the famous artist, Jacob Kahn, says to 13-year-old Asher Lev, concerning a career in art, “Only one who has mastered a tradition has a right to attempt to add to it or rebel against it.” Let’s heed Potok’s advice, as we simultaneously remain schooled in our own history and attempt to move forward.

But the desire to balance legacy and innovation is not unique to Jewish life. Certainly we see it in other aspects of society. Kripalu, the yoga-based retreat center in the Berkshires, describes one of its courses on healing as “ancient wisdom and cutting-edge science.” Or how about the New York Baroque Incorporated, a period orchestra which describes its mission as “committed to presenting early music in dynamic and provocative ways.” Or how about Brooks Brothers? Its tag line is “time-tested classics elevated to your style.” All of these examples seem to be telling us something similar: you can have something old and new at the same time.

Why does that sound so appealing? Why does it grab our attention and pull us in? Because it speaks to our anxiety about change. In those short phrases, we are reminded that the ancient is still relevant, that the old favorite is not lost, but that new concerns are also being addressed. I am proud to serve a congregation whose members think carefully about change. Together we shall cling tightly to core values, rearticulating them at each juncture, while recognizing the need to evolve and to grow – albeit in measured, thoughtful and deliberate ways. We shall balance legacy and innovation with hope, determination and enthusiasm.

Editor’s Note: The spiritual leaders of Greenwich alternate in providing messages for each issue of the Greenwich Jewish News. These comments are those of the author alone and are not meant to reflect the opinions of UJA-JCC Greenwich.
Temple Sholom Holds Ribbon-Cutting for New Brick Walkway

On Sunday, September 22, Temple Sholom held a special Ribbon-Cutting and Blessing Ceremony to celebrate its first-ever commemorative brick walkway. The new and inviting walkway – which is highly visible to all who are entering the building for holidays, services, life cycle events, education and programming – features bricks of all sizes with engraved messages that illustrate the past, present and future of Temple Sholom.

Brick Campaign Co-chairs Alexandra Hochman (Temple Sholom’s President), Hillary Rosenthal and Alisa Savitz helped cut the ceremonial blue ribbon to officially unveil the pathway, and also recited the following blessing prepared by Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz:

“Blessed are you, God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this joyous time. May these bricks that we consecrate today bring blessings to our Congregational Family. As we walk upon them into the entrance of our Temple Doors, may we continue to receive all those who hunger for love, all who are lonely for Fellowship. May we welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express, and hopes to nurture. May this pathway we have dedicated together lead to a Spiritual Home that welcomes all who seek serenity, renewal, and peace. May we all be able to walk upon these bricks knowing that it leads us to a richer, more meaningful life. May God Bless You; and grant you Happiness, Healthy and Peace.”

A celebratory toast and a brick-shaped cake for dessert followed. If you would like to purchase a commemorative brick to be added during the next installation phase, please contact Lori Baden, Temple Sholom’s Associate Executive Director, at 203-869-7191 or lori.baden@templesholom.com.

15 Years in a Row...
Hebrew Wizards Presents at the New CaJE Conference
This Summer We Were at Reed College in Portland, Oregon
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 of Connecticut Celebration Dinner, it was announced recently by dinner co-chairs, Taly and Trevor Farber, and Amanda and Jasper Lewitton.

The gala dinner will be held Sunday evening, January 12, 2020, 5:30 p.m., at the Hilton Stamford Hotel. The theme of this year’s dinner is “Imagine. Design. Create.” “Bi-Cultural’s pedagogy is multi-faceted,” said Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, Dean of Bi-Cultural, in explaining the significance of this year’s theme. “This year’s dinner highlights one of these facets – learning through creativity and artistry. We celebrate the bonds that we establish in our lives and our Jewish community through the creativity and artistic sensibilities that activate our learning.”

The evening will pay tribute to guests of honor Elise and Steven Cohen of Stamford for their outstanding contributions to Bi-Cultural, a pre-K through 12th grade National Blue Ribbon school, as well as to the community as whole.

In addition to the Cohens, Alice and Jason Janush will receive the school’s Community Service Award; Tina and Yossi Notik will receive the Young Leadership Award; and Laura Kassen will be honored with the Alumni Award. The Jane Shoztic Memorial Award, presented annually to an outstanding member of the Bi-Cultural staff, will be given to David Giver, head of the high school’s Humanities Department.

“We are honored to chair this year’s dinner celebrating the remarkable contribution that Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy continues to make to our community and the difference it has made in the lives of so many of our children. We look forward to welcoming the entire community to a wonderful evening,” said Taly Farber and Amanda Lewitton.

Social Action Is Alive and Well at Congregation Shir Ami

Congregation Shir Ami has a strong commitment to Social Action. Our first initiative was a High Holy Day drive to support Neighbor to Neighbor. At Rosh Hashanah, we collected $500 in cash for food instead of cans of food to go to Neighbor to Neighbor. Because they receive substantial discounts from their provider, the $500 cash donation allows them to purchase $1500 worth of food. Our next community-wide initiative is an Interfaith Blood Drive on Nov 16th in partnership with First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich. This has been a very successful partnership in the past when Shir Ami congregants contributed many pints of blood for CT emergencies. During December, Shir Ami will sponsor a Holiday Gift Drive to buy gifts for adults with special needs who live in Abilis-run group homes in Greenwich and Stamford. We plan to provide clothes, games, gift certificates, and other wish list items as we’ve done for the past seven years, and we really enjoy bringing holiday cheer to some 30 adults each year.

The new co-chairs for our Social Action Team are reaching out to congregants to determine the issues that members care about most, so that Shir Ami can develop an impactful social action plan that will not only make an imprint on our community but also on our state, country and the world! Whether you are a member of our congregation or not, if you have an interest in participating in social action activities with a group of like-minded people, we would be happy to have your participation.

Contact us at shirami.info@gmail.com. (Reservations for Blood Drive are suggested for a shorter wait time – email: bdsalop@gmail.com).

Co-President of Shir Ami, Susan Nisinzweig, delivers cash donations to Mary Beth Minton, Interim Executive Director of Neighbor to Neighbor.
Who Is Shir Ami Right For?

We at Shir Ami were asked this question recently by someone in the community who wanted to understand more about what we offer and who would be a good match for us. Shir Ami is a small, warm and welcoming Reform Jewish Congregation based in Greenwich. We have most of our Shabbat services at a beautiful location in central Greenwich, but we also have some services and events in congregants’ homes in Greenwich, Stamford and neighboring towns. During our membership drive, we were delighted to attract new members who were looking for exactly what Shir Ami has to offer. The attraction was the intimacy that our congregation has and the participation that it engages as we sing, worship, learn, give, care, eat and celebrate together. Because we are small, everyone has the opportunity to get to know each other. Because we do not have a religious school, we instead offer individualized or small groups for congregants of any age who are interested in study. Because the majority of our congregants are adults, our programs are mostly geared for adults.

Shir Ami welcomes everyone and we have a great track record of quickly and successfully integrating newcomers into our congregational family. On November 22, we will be holding a “New Member Shabbat” to welcome and get to know better the newest members of our congregation. If this sounds like the right fit for you or for someone you know, visit our website at www.congregationshirami.com. Come for a visit or set up a time to talk with our Spiritual Leader Cantor Jill Abramson or to one of our Co-Presidents Jenny Lake or Susan Nisinzweig.

Chabad of Greenwich Annual Sukkot BBQ

Chabad of Greenwich’s Annual Sukkot BBQ held on Sunday, October 20, was an event full of fun for the entire family! There was a game show for school-age children and adults, Bobby Doowah music and drumming for the toddlers, and a beautiful edible Sukkah project for kids of all ages.
Doing Good Together for the Entire Family

On September 26, UJA-JCC Women’s Emerging Leaders and Philanthropists presented a morning with Natalie Silverstein at the home of Rebecca and Darren Anikstein. Ms. Silverstein shared insights from her new book Simple Acts, The Busy Family’s Guide to Giving Back and talked with guests about how volunteerism can easily be added to the jam-packed schedules of busy families. Simple Acts presents ideas for choosing service options that are right for your family, and creating easy but meaningful “kitchen table kindness” projects.

Silverstein illustrated her talk with inspiring examples of how giving back to the community as a family is a way to connect with each other and those around you. When asked how to motivate children toward community action, Silverstein suggested, “…look at anything your child is into, and you can find a way of giving back. Give your children the reins to figure out what they want to do.” Silverstein practices what she writes. She is the Volunteer Coordinator for Doing Good Together in New York City and her family actively volunteers in their Manhattan neighborhood. Kudos to Event Chair and Women’s Philanthropy Vice President Stephanie Esquenazi for helping to coordinate this event, and many thanks to host Rebecca Anikstein and to the generous emerging leaders in attendance!

This fall a few Greenwich families are planning to hang out together with other families and do something Jewish. What’s unusual is that each engagement enacts a do-it-yourself experience designed by parents who want to share time with friends around Jewish themes. These “get togethers” are supported by a new initiative called PJ Library Get Together. The grants, provided by the national office of PJ Library, reimburse PJ Library parents to the tune of $100 when they gather at least two other PJ Library families around Jewish themes.

“PJ’s Get Togethers are about families getting together for social fun with a Jewish twist,” says Tracy Daniels, director of the organization’s Greenwich program. “This outreach from the national PJ Library office to families with young children invites parents to go from merely following their Judaism to designing it creatively.” By the end of October almost 2,000 Get Together applications had been submitted from over 132 communities around the US and Canada! The vast majority of applications (93%) have been approved. Tracy Newman, Engagement Grant Lead, at Harold Grinspoon Foundation says: “We’re thrilled that families are taking advantage of this opportunity to invite friends over to celebrate Jewish themes and traditions.”

Here in Greenwich Jena Zazula and her family took advantage of the Grinspoon grant. They led a nature walk on a beautiful fall day to worship and enjoy the splendor of God’s beauty. Along the way they noticed a gorgeous ‘fire tree’ showing off its multicolored leaves. All present enjoyed each other’s company, and of course a picnic.

Interested PJ families can fill out a quick grant application at pjlibrary.org/gettogether2019 and host a Get Together. Unsure of what sort of event you’d like to cook up? The website also offers great ideas, not only regarding which activities to consider but also whom to invite. For example, interfaith families will find proposals for connecting Jewish holidays with secular traditions — think apple picking with Jewish friends during Sukkot or a New Year’s Eve Shabbat dinner.
Are you considering taking a class or attending a lecture this Fall or Early Winter? Look no further! Here is a list of what’s going on right here in the Greater Greenwich Jewish Community.

**CARL AND DOROTHY BENNETT CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES**

*Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Lecture in Judaic Studies*
*“Cotton Capitalists: American Jewish Entrepreneurship in the Reconstruction Era”*
Michael R. Cohen, PhD, Tulane University  
Monday, December 2, 7:30 pm  
Dolan School of Business Dining Room

**CHABAD OF GREENWICH**

*Sunday Morning Torah Study*
9:30-10:30 am  
Email RabbiFieldman@ChabadGreenwich.org for information.

*Parsha with Classic Commentaries*
Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 am

*Chassidic Philosophy Class*
Shabbat, 8:45-9:30 am

*Jewish Women’s Circle*
Tuesdays, 12:15 pm

*Tanya with Rabbi Feldman*
Monday–Friday, 6:30 am

*Parenting Club with Maryashie Deren*
Wednesdays, 9:30 am

**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.

*Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Rabbi Gershom Sizomu*
Friday, November 22: 6:30 pm  
Shir Hadash Musical Shabbat, 7:00 pm Scholar-in-Residence Dinner  
The cost to attend the dinner is $18 per adult.

*Lunch & Shabbat Discussion*
Saturday, November 23, 12:00 pm  
Register with Alice Schoen at 203-542-7165 or alice.schoen@templesholom.com.

**UJA-JCC GREENWICH**

*Forgiveness Project*
With Gayle Kirschenbaum  
November 19, 9:30-11:45 am, One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich

*Book Talk: “The Cloister” by James Carroll*
November 21, 10:00 am, YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Ave., Greenwich  
Co-sponsored by YWCA Greenwich

*Davis Film Festival*
*A Bag of Marbles*
Wednesday, December 4, Bow Tie Cinema Greenwich, 7:00 pm, $15

*Salty Humor, Sweet Noshings*
With Bob Mankoff, Cartoon and Humor Editor, Esquire and Elana Horwich

*UJA-JCC Greenwich Annual Meeting*
December 5, 7 pm, YMCA Greenwich, 259 E. Putnam Avenue

*Pop-Up Private Tour: Edith Halpert and the Rise of American Art*
With Associate Curator Rebecca Shaykin  
Wednesday, December 11, 10:00 am,  
Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY

*Author Series: “The Survivors: A Story of War, Inheritance and Healing”*
With author Adam Frankel  
January 7, 7:00 pm, YWCA Greenwich, 259 E. Putnam Avenue  
Free and open to the community; Book-signing to follow event

*“Are Your Kids Naked Online? How to Protect Your Tech-Savvy Kids from Online Self-Destruction”*
With author Lisa Good  
January 27, 10:30 am, YWCA Greenwich, 259 E. Putnam Avenue

*“Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein”*
With author Jamie Bernstein  
February 27, 7:00 pm,  
Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Avenue

*Lunch & Learn*
Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 pm – See page 11
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 Edelston

DECEMBER 5
Intuitive Ethics and Subversive Spirituality:
An Exploration of Rabbinic Wisdom
Tanya Faber
Deep dive into teachings of Sages to transform our daily interactions into sacred moments.

DECEMBER 12
The Battle of Judaism v. Hellenism
Rabbi Yossi Deren
Why did the outnumbered Maccabees fight the Greeks? Is Hellenism so antithetical to Jewish values?

DECEMBER 19
Chanukah for Poets
Rabbi Greg Wall
The ubiquitous holiday as seen through a new light.

DECEMBER 26
Socialism or Capitalism?
Marty Flashner
What economic principles can we learn from the Hebrew Bible?

JANUARY 2
Do People Ever Truly Change? The Case of Yehuda
Rabbi Rachmiel Gurwitz
Yehuda’s journey from being just one of the brothers to the leader of them all; tags him as one of the great transformative characters of the Book of Genesis. We’ll chart his complex personal awakening.

JANUARY 9
Working 9 – 5
Rabbi Dr. Carmella Abraham
Jewish ethics in the workplace.

JANUARY 16
Can People Change?
Rabbi Shimmy Trencher
How does Judaism view our ability to change and grow? And what does it say about trusting others’ commitment to change and to forgive past misdeeds?

JANUARY 23
The First Woman Rabbi
Michael Feldstein
Rachel Ray Frank (1861-1948) became “the first woman since Deborah to preach in a synagogue.” Learn more about this maverick Jewish leader, who also co-founded the first Hillel chapter on campus

FEBRUARY 6
Danger: Rabbis
Chaim Lauer
When does standing on principle and ego destroy? Trial and error in the development of the rabbinate.

FEBRUARY 13
A Radical View of Shabbat
Rabbi Aviva Richman
Do Jews believe in original sin? And do we have a savior? Reexamine Judaism through the Shabbat musings of Hasidism’s Sfas Emes.

RSVP REQUESTED. REGISTER AT UJAJCC.ORG

Pop-Up Private Tour:
Edith Halpert and the Rise of American Art
WITH ASSOCIATE CURATOR REBECCA SHAYKIN

DECEMBER 11 | 10 AM | $50
Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Avenue (entrance on 92nd Street) We’re thrilled to invite our community of art lovers to an exclusive guided spin through the first-ever exhibition devoted to art dealer and cultural trendsetter Edith Halpert. Though in many ways an outsider – as a woman, an emigré and a Jew – Halpert was the nation’s first significant female gallery owner, nurturing icons of American modernism from Stuart Davis and Georgia O’Keeffe to Ben Shahn and Charles Sheeler. Her legendary Downtown Gallery launched the commercial art scene in Greenwich Village – and American art in the world. For four decades, its walls would champion an inclusive array of talents: African-American artists such as Jacob Lawrence and Horace Pippin and the “enemy aliens” Japanese American painter Yasuo Kuniyoshi, to name but three. Gems from Halpert’s celebrated personal collection, reconstituted for the first time since its sale in 1973, will also be on display.

The Survivors: A Story of War, Inheritance, and Healing
WITH AUTHOR ADAM FRANKEL

JANUARY 7 | 7 PM
YWCA Greenwich, 299 E. Putnam Avenue | Free and open to the community
Join this former Obama speechwriter in a profoundly moving conversation about his memoir of grappling with who he is after unearthing the shocking truth of his Connecticut family’s origins.
Frankel’s haunting search to unravel the mysteries of his family is so compelling that it reads like a fine novel. -Doris Kearns Goodwin
Co-sponsor: Hosted By Indra Nooyi

Check UJA-JCC Greenwich calendar at ujajcc.org for updated schedule.
Are Your Kids Naked Online?
HOW TO PROTECT YOUR TECH-SAVVY KIDS FROM ONLINE SELF-DESTRUCTION

JANUARY 29 | 10:30 AM
YWCA Greenwich,
259 E. Putnam Avenue
$10 per person

How can parents protect their kids from some of the dangers they’re exposed to in the digital world? Lisa Good – mom of four teens – shares how to apply the same principles she and her husband use as IT and cybersecurity experts to safeguard kids from making life-altering mistakes online.

Co-sponsor:

Famous Father Girl
WITH AUTHOR JAMIE BERNSTEIN

FEBRUARY 27 | 7 PM
Greenwich Arts Council,
299 Greenwich Avenue
$18 per person, $36 per person includes book

“What was it like to have Leonard Bernstein as your dad?” Short answer: not boring. Longer answer: Jamie Bernstein’s memoir of growing up with the most celebrated Jewish American musician of the 20th century. Enjoy a few selected Bernstein songs performed by Rebecca Cooper and Dan Frankel with Zachary Kampler on piano.

Co-sponsor:
Women with Vision Celebrated at the 2019 Fall Brunch

On November 6, at the annual Fall Brunch, UJA-JCC Greenwich Women's Philanthropy honored Women with Vision who have enhanced our community through their vision, actions, and thoughtful leadership. Honorees included Silvina Knoll for her years of service as President and Co-President of Women’s Philanthropy, and Community Builders Wendy Schreiber and Jessica Rickert. Following remarks by the honorees, Sara Esther Crispe, international speaker and consultant to the Oprah Winfrey Network, spoke about the impact that our philanthropy (giving) and what we do for others (actions) has on our own lives, connections and relationships. More than 80 women attended the event held at The Milbrook Club. Many thanks and kudos to Event Chairs Marissa Cohen, Sheila Neilinger, and Michele Stuart for their caring stewardship in presenting this celebration to the community.

Photos by Marilyn Roos
Braiding Community:
The Greenwich Challah Bake, September 19

Attitude of Gratitude with 345 Community Kids

345 Community Kids is a new UJA-JCC initiative targeted to 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. At the first session on September 26, experienced educator Bob Abrams led the kids in exploring the Jewish concept of gratitude.

Every child is unique. Shouldn’t each educational journey also be unique?

Come learn how Carmel Academy’s individualized, whole-child approach nurtures and challenges our students to achieve their fullest potential.

A private school for children of all Jewish affiliations serving students through 8th grade. For more information and to schedule a tour, contact Danielle Cohen:

admissions@carmelacademy.com | 203-983-3503
270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich, CT • www.carmelacademy.com
Introduction to Judaism

November 2019     Page 15

Created in partnership with the Union for Reform Judaism and local Reform congregations, Introduction to Judaism is a course for anyone interested in exploring Judaism.

Tuesdays at 7PM
Twice per month

For more information, please contact:
Hadas Elias
hadaselias@grs.org
203.629.0018

More information at GRS.org

Join in the Singing with Shir Ami!

In the weeks leading up to Chanukah, Cantor Jill Abramson from Congregation Shir Ami will lead a PoP Up Choir on three successive Monday evenings (December 2, 9, and 16) to learn choral melodies which lift us, draw us in, and/or raise us up. Bring light into the darkest moments of the year with vibrant harmonies. Participants should have a facility for learning music either by ear or by reading music and may bring a device to record the rehearsal. No formal choral experience is necessary. Come ready to sing! The choir will perform at Shir Ami’s infamous and delicious Chanukah Live pot luck dinner and celebration on December 20th.

To register to be part of the choir and/or to register for the Chanukah Live celebration visit www.congregationshirami.org.

Temple Sholom to Honor Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz at Silver Anniversary Gala

Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz’s 25 years of service to Temple Sholom will be celebrated with a special Silver Anniversary Gala on Saturday evening, January 25, 2020 at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College.

Rabbi Mitch first joined the Temple Sholom family in 1995. At the time, he was completing his rabbinical training at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and was recruited by Rabbi Hillel Silverman (now Rabbi Emeritus) as Director of Education for the religious school, and as the Temple’s Youth Director. Within six years, he was named Assistant Rabbi, Associate Rabbi and lastly Senior Rabbi, a role that he has held since 2001.

Over the past two and a half decades, Rabbi Mitch has made a significant impact on the Temple Sholom community and beyond. As spiritual leader, he has celebrated with families under marriage chuppahs, officiated at baby namings and brit milot, comforted those who are ill, provided support during the loss of loved ones, and made a difference as an educator for both religious and nursery schools. He continues to be recognized as a scholar, activist and preacher – as well as a prominent religious leader in the Greenwich area – and is currently the president of the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy, a position he has held several times.

As part of the Silver Anniversary Gala, Rabbi Mitch will be presented with a Commemorative Journal filled with memories and well wishes. To purchase a celebratory tribute ad or to submit pictures to be included in the Commemorative Journal, please contact gala2020@templesholom.com.

SAVE THE DATE

CHABAD ANNUAL GALA!

Jonathan and Rebecca Tipermas
Guests of Honor
The Honorable Peter J. Tesei
Community Service Tribute
Daniella Messer &
Caroline Yazoby
Teams of the Year Award

Thursday, February 6
6:30 pm
Indian Harbor Yacht Club
720 Steamboat Rd, Greenwich

chabadgreenwichgala.org

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM is an engaging 24-session course for anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish life. Discover what could be meaningful to you in liberal Judaism.

This course is designed for individuals and couples from various faith traditions and cultural backgrounds and those who have had no religious upbringing. It is perfect for interfaith couples, those raising Jewish children, spiritual seekers, individuals considering conversion, and Jews who want a meaningful adult Jewish learning experience.

All people, perspectives, and questions are welcome!

More information at GRS.org

Explore a modern take on Jewish life.

Steve Batkin
P: 203-302-3880
stephenbatkin@worldins.net
www.lampebatkin.com

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All people, perspectives, and questions are welcome!

More information at GRS.org

Explore a modern take on Jewish life.
Temple Sholom Celebrates Erev Simchat Torah

Temple Sholom’s Erev Simchat Torah Celebration was held on Monday, October 21, 2019. The annual event – which attracts a large number of religious school and nursery school families – featured a parade of Torahs throughout the sanctuary, as well as Israeli dancing with accompaniment from the Temple Sholom Band. The spirited celebration included a candy bar for kids, a bourbon bar for adults, and ice cream sponsored by the Temple’s Sisterhood.

Monthly Tot Shabbat at Greenwich Reform

Once a month (usually the first Friday of the month) GRS Shabbat services are aimed especially at families with children and are led by Rabbi Jordie Gerson and Cantor Harriet Dunkerley. Short and lively song-and-story-filled Tot Shabbat services – suitable for the youngest members of our congregation and their parents – start at 5:30 pm, followed by a delicious catered Shabbat family dinner at 6 pm. Immediately after dinner, we welcome Shabbat at 7 pm, with a service geared to school-age children, using visual Tefilah, projected on the sanctuary walls and highlighted by a presentation or play by one of our religious school classes.

All are welcome; contact Greenwich Reform for dates and details by calling 203-629-0018 or visit GRS.org.

Carmel Academy Opens Expanded Lending Library

In ancient times, libraries were often treated with a reverence akin to that shown to temples. Even today, most of us can remember at least one instance of feeling a sense of awe when walking into a beautiful, quiet space surrounded by thousands of books. To ensure that all Carmel students are able to savor this unique experience within their school environment, Carmel Academy has just opened an expanded lending library. “There is something so special about being in a calm space surrounded by books, by ideas, by dreams,” noted Nora Anderson, Carmel Academy Head of School. “Having a new library is also a natural evolution for our school, reinforcing our educational philosophy that we should teach students to be writers and consider themselves authors.”

Thanks in part to a multi-year financial commitment recently received by Carmel Academy, our expanded library opened for the start of this school year. “Carmel has a long history of possessing tremendous classroom libraries,” noted Lisa Corner, the Director of Educational Resources. “Now not only will Carmel continue to have extensive classroom libraries, but also a wonderful main library. Our goal was to create a space for reading groups, places to read individually, room to do work, and an environment in which to re-center and find inspiration.”

The library currently has more than two thousand titles, with the goal of adding steadily to the collection and doubling it in the next two years. The official opening of the expanded library coincided with the September Carmel Reads Together event.

“T he library is also a natural evolution for our school, reinforcing our educational philosophy that we should teach students to be writers and consider themselves authors.”

Living and Learning at Shir Ami!

Cantor Jill Abramson is leading two new adult programs which meet monthly on Monday evenings at Congregation Shir Ami in Greenwich. While the programs began in October, each session stands on its’ own so that members and non-members alike are welcome to join in at any time.

Essential Jewish Conversation: Power and Possibility – call it a symposium, a salon, a forum or a debate. Jewish Life has long been centered around a vibrant exchange of ideas and viewpoints. It is a sacred conversation meant to bring meaning to our lives. Join us as we investigate the role of power in Jewish texts.

Women’s Rosh Chodesh Study Group – Gather monthly with other women to discuss a defining book of our time entitled The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding. The book challenges all of us to understand the “other” more deeply, as we investigate being Jewish while affirming the faith of others.

To learn more about each class, or to register, visit www.congregationshirami.org
First Annual ‘Carmel Reads Together’ Event Brings Authors of Children’s Books to Carmel Academy

On September 23, Carmel Academy hosted the first “Carmel Reads Together” evening, with special guests including two prominent authors of children’s books. The evening included author readings and Q&A, themed participatory activities, casual conversation, and snacks. “This was an incredible opportunity to bring families together around a celebration of reading and exploration of the creative process,” observed Dr. Michele Slifka, President of the Board of Trustees at Carmel. “Kids and families explored different books, partook in fun activities, and listened to authors read from their own works.”

Featured authors who attended included Yona Zeldis McDonough and Stacy Barnett Mozer. McDonough is a Brooklyn native and author of many titles in the popular “Who was” and “What is” book series for young children. She is also the author of children’s books, including *The Four Temperaments*, *In Dahlia’s Wake*, and her latest book, *Breaking the Bank*. Mozer is an author of books for middle schoolers, including *The Sweet Spot* and *The Perfect Trip*, and he is also a Carmel Academy alumni parent. There was fun for children of all ages, as even the youngest book enthusiasts were highly engaged by the authors and in activities led by teachers. “‘Carmel Reads Together’ was a uniquely wonderful chance to engage with authors directly and learn what it is like to be a writer,” said Head of School Nora Anderson. “It was also the perfect opportunity to introduce the newly expanded Carmel Academy lending library to the broader community.”

“The last few years there has been a strong focus on making the English Language Arts program a flagship strength at Carmel,” observed Jennifer Gensior, curriculum consultant. “Carmel students are developing a passion for reading, writing, and the creative process, and this event was a wonderful opportunity to ‘demystify’ the authors.”

To learn more, please reach out to Danielle Cohen at danielle.cohen@carmelacademy.com.
The fall holidays are plentiful and full of meaning. We enter the Jewish New Year aware of our past transgressions and atone. Our Torah readings end in celebration and start anew with renewed understanding. Now as the beauty of New England fall foliage is on full display, it is time to move on to Thanksgiving. For many this holiday is about the food—hopefully plentiful! For so many of you there is much joy and feeling of comfort in family and friends during the holiday season. Do you take a moment to recognize all the goodness in your life? Gratitude for the relationships you have put forth effort to maintain and nourish? Your work or daily activities for which you dutifully give your best? At the end of a busy day we often feel a bit drained. What a blessing to be able to acknowledge a full day of “all good things.”

As we take stock in the positive aspects of our lives for which to be thankful, try to open your mind to those who may not share in “all good things.” Reach out to your friend who may be struggling and therefore has not returned that first call. Hold the door for the person behind you for that extra moment. Purchase a few cans of food at the grocery store to donate. At different points in our lives we may have challenges in addition to so many things for which to be thankful. As we head into Thanksgiving and the Festival of Lights, I wish you “all good things!” If for any reason you are struggling to find those things that bring joy and fulfillment to your daily life, give us a call over at JFS. We are, as always, here for you.

Respectfully,

–Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL

What Our Therapy Clients Are Saying About Us…

“I so badly needed the divorce group. I look forward to that hour every week to be with women who understand what I am going through.”

“Ruthanne has helped me tremendously as I work through my past trauma. She is so kind and understanding; she is wonderful.”

“Rachel has an uncanny way of understanding exactly what I am trying to say: She is so down to earth and easy to talk to. How did I not know about JFS years ago?”

“Angie is my lifeline every week. I can’t wait to see her as she is the only one who really listens to me. She is amazing!”

“Flo is a godsend. She is so kind and compassionate; I am just so glad we found her through JFS.”

Tribute Contributions to Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

Phyllis Shapiro and Jill Flashner in memory of Barbara Van Buren
Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Dr. Leon Bersein-Hahn
Marica Rutstein in memory of Michael Lazarev
Leslie Gold in honor of the engagement of Anthony D’Ascoli

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.
Entering Hill House to interview a new shopping client, I ran into one of our volunteers who had just picked up the mail for one of her “shoppees,” in rehab at Nathaniel Witherell. She hadn’t reported this extra activity, which she’d been doing for a while, concerned it might be “against the rules” to be making extra trips on her shoppee’s behalf (since our program makes provisions for only one trip to the grocery store each week).

Actually, I was thrilled! As our shoppers’ relationships deepen with their shopping clients, their connections evolve into friendships – and friends go the extra mile for those they care about and love. These women have been paired for three years; the shopper knows her friend’s out-of-town children, and feels her life is richer for the connections they have all made.

Our clients call and send letters of appreciation for the shopping service they view as a lifeline; we’ll hear many times during the year that one or another of our shoppers is a “gem.” But it is also the shoppers who benefit from the experience, who appreciate the opportunity to make a difference in the life of a senior.

If you have two hours each week that you could dedicate to helping a senior who can no longer shop for herself but has a lifetime of experience and wisdom, and a heart to share, please consider volunteering for Supermarketing for Seniors. You will get training and support, and in return will gain a wonderful relationship to enrich your life. If you know a senior who could use our assistance, either long-term or while recovering from surgery, please let them know about our service. Call 203-622-1881 for more information.

The Jewish Health and Healing Center is a special part of Jewish Family Services. It was created to offer support, companionship and education to members of the community who face physical, emotional, or spiritual challenges, or just need to connect to community. Looking through the lens of Jewish wisdom and tradition, the center offers a variety of services and programs to reduce isolation and promote a sense of connectedness and kinship. Our programs are led by licensed social workers, educators, and spiritual leaders.

The Jewish Health and Healing Center celebrated the High Holidays, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah with Greenwich-area senior facilities this year. Partnering with local clergy and senior residences we visited our local Jewish seniors and brought them the sounds of the shofar, the solemnity of the Yom Kippur service, and the joy of the lulav and etrog.

Unique to JHHC is our Bikur Cholim program at Greenwich Hospital, which brings volunteer visitors to every person at Greenwich Hospital who identifies as Jewish. Vetted, educated, and certified, our volunteers provide comfort, companionship, and a sense of Jewish community during their visits. We are proud of our Bikur Cholim program and the fact that every weekday there is someone to sit with, connect with, and visit Jewish patients at Greenwich Hospital. If you would like to become a member of our Bikur Cholim community, please contact Lisa Goldberg at lmgoldberg@jfsgreenwich.org or call 203-622-1881.

More than 100 people attended “A Conversation with Dennis Ross and David Makovsky” at Temple Sholom on Sunday, November 3. The former U.S. negotiators and veteran diplomats discussed their newest book, Be Strong and of Good Courage, highlighting four towering figures in Israeli history. The evening, which kicked off Temple Sholom’s Speaker Series (generously sponsored by an anonymous donor), began with a Meet and Greet cocktail reception, and ended with a facilitated Q&A session.
Carmel Academy welcomes Danielle Cohen as their new Director of Admissions and Marketing. Danielle brings with her years of experience in the corporate global marketing, education, and events industry. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Human Development and is a graduate of the University of Maryland. Danielle is also a member of the Carmel community, having lived in New Rochelle, NY with her husband, Rony, and daughter, Elle.

Danielle said, “I am very inspired by Carmel Academy’s mission and values. The Carmel community has welcomed me with open arms since my arrival. I look forward to getting to know the Carmel community and to further immersing myself in its culture. One of my highest priorities is to increase awareness of all the amazing things Carmel Academy has to offer. From our PALS program, social emotional learning curriculum, enrichment opportunities – the list just goes on and on!”

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School celebrates the arrival of a Torah scroll

A joyous parade of students and faculty of the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School celebrated in song and dance the arrival of a Torah scroll to its new home at the Stamford school on Thursday, October 3.

The scroll came to the Upper School’s new home at Bi-Cultural’s main campus on High Ridge Road in Stamford from the Upper School’s previous location on West Main Street. The Bi-Cultural Upper School relocated to the High Ridge Road campus in September.

“We want our connection to Torah to be joyful, and at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy we are committed to building our students’ positive connections to our heritage, history and Torah,” said Rabbi Shimmy Trencher, principal of Bi-Cultural’s Upper School.

Hebrew Wizards/Congregation Kehilat Shalom

First Adult B’mitzvah Class

Never too old to have a B’mitzvah. Bar/Bat Mitzvah was June 1, 2019.

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.

Join us at 5:30 for pizza, followed by a short Havdallah 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!
PJ Library Back Together Family Picnic, October 6

Thanks to event chairs Staci Levy and Stephanie Otten

Thank you to Yoga teacher Cynthia Wolfe for volunteering to head the family yoga session!
Scott Shay, co-founder and chairman of Signature Bank, at a special event sponsored by UJA-JCC Greenwich in October, had everyone in the room riveted by his insights on religion and faith. In his book, *In Good Faith: Questioning Religion and Atheism*, Shay examines atheism with a refreshing look at our most fundamental questions. He opened his talk with his father's story as a Holocaust survivor and the impact it had on his Jewish identity growing up. Shay raised questions like “Why do bad things happen to good people?” and “How can we turn to God for comfort in moments of distress?” Shay’s informed perspectives provoked a rich dialogue. Thank you to event chairs Sheila and Brian Neilinger, Co chairs Blanca and Sunil Hirani and to Silvina and Jonas Knoll for hosting this event.
JTAC Starts the Year Off Right

We began the school year with warm and fuzzy items! After an icebreaker to kick off the September meeting, JTAC Coordinators Ali Buchsbaum, Kate Ochoa, Ben Rosmarin, and Jayden Daniel led a discussion about upcoming activities. Kudos were offered for the amazing work the 6th-12th graders will be doing. We also shared our various motivations for getting involved. We all know that parents sometimes strongly urge their teens to do community service. Reasons can vary from keeping their kids busy and out of trouble to having something meaningful to put on their college applications. But JTAC members actually have a lot of fun while also helping others. After preliminaries our members got right to work making fleece blankets that will be distributed to Project Linus. They will bring warmth and comfort to pediatric patients at Yale New Haven Hospital or to displaced students in Bridgeport.

At our October meeting we got down to serious business. We gathered for a quick rundown of plans for our November 17th Thanksgiving project at the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry in Stamford. We then divided up into smaller groups. One group worked out how we would collect kosher non-perishable food to bring with us that day. Math skills were put to the test as we figured out ingredient quantities for making cookie dough, jars of soup, and cranberry sauce for twenty families. Some of us put the finishing touches on the cozy blankets for Project Linus. In anticipation of the Midnight Run project, the third group compiled lists of required supplies and potential donors for the trip. Lots of fun coupled with mitzvahs – that’s what JTAC is all about!

#StrongerTogether

Our JTAC teens sent notes to kids in Pittsburgh after the Tree of Life shooting. UJA-JCC Greenwich just received a heartfelt letter from the Jewish Federation Volunteer Center there. Here is an excerpt:

“…In commemoration of that awful day last year…we specifically planned a project that kept our still-healing children in mind…We chose to address those who reached out to us from all over the world with messages of love, sympathy, encouragement and hope. We want you to know your efforts were meaningful. We appreciate your words, and we will thrive in part because of you.”
“I made a new friend smile today.”

At five, Vivienne spent an afternoon with her family visiting elders, potting plants for their rooms, singing together and talking. Vivienne says, “It made me and my family feel good to see our new friends smiling and having a good time!”

Your support of UJA-JCC powers programs like these for young families seeking to offer comfort for older generations, creating countless moments of Jewish connection. And where those in need live too far away for us to visit, we send food, medicine and a local friendly visitor. Your gift does this and much, much more.

THAT’S WHO WE ARE.

GIVE TODAY

ujajcc.org
203.552.1818