Want to Know How to Turn $100 into $150?

Matching Opportunities with UJA-JCC Greenwich

The needs of the local and neighboring communities have ballooned during COVID-19. So it’s especially fortunate that a new opportunity has arisen to help others through the crisis. Thanks to the generosity of donors through Jewish Federations of North America, every new or increased gift to UJA-JCC Greenwich’s Annual Campaign pledged before December 31, will be matched by 50 percent.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for new and established donors to maximize their dollars and impact,” said CEO Pam Ehrenkranz.

“While gifts to UJA-JCC Greenwich go toward many worthy beneficiaries here and around the globe, the main priority of this effort is to support the vulnerable Jewish population and nurture community recovery and revitalization, especially in the areas of food insecurity, domestic violence, mental health training and Covid-related safety needs,” she explained.

UJA-JCC Greenwich’s goal is to raise $180,000 from first-time or increased gifts. Although the opportunity to leverage current matching funds extends to the end of 2020, donors are encouraged to make their funding commitments at their earliest chance. “All are invited to join this campaign for community resilience,” said Ehrenkranz.

Doing good just got much better.
Dear PJ Families:
Chanukah is just around the corner on December 10 - 18. PJ Library has a great selection of books on the way. Send us a photo of your child reading any of the titles in the PJ selection on the Chanukah story, and we'll include the photo in the next issue. Send to randi@ujajcc.org.

New to PJ Library?
Learn more and sign up your child to receive a FREE Jewish Book at home each month!
For ages 6 months - 11 years old.
Sign up for FREE books:
Call Randi Singer at 203-552-1818 or email randi@ujajcc.org.

PJ Parent Planners
We are so grateful to our excellent team of PJ Parent Planners for the upcoming season. Our Apple Picking event was a huge success. As we move forward, not being able to convene in person is always a challenge. But we're confident that our Committee, chaired by Rebecca Cooper is up to the task.

Karen Beiley  Rebecca Cooper  Laura Launer
Marissa Cohen  Jill Derikrava  Staci Levy
Michaelan Cohen  Joui Hessel  Rita Teichner
Romy Cohen  Natalie Landres  Abby Vorobeychik

New to our Planners! A hearty welcome to new PJ Library Board members:

Alona Altman  Eva Kantor  Becky Leader
Meredith Isacoff  Ashley La'Torre

And of course, we would also like to thank those who are stepping off the Board this season. Your thoughtful and dedicated service to PJ Library of Greenwich is very much appreciated!

Jody Lazlo  Alexandra Saltis  Jennifer Zigler
Stephanie Otten  Samantha Young
On the evenings of October 7 and 8, Jewish Teen Action Committee (JTAC) members convened on urgent business, in a socially distanced setting, around the Sukkah in a yard of a Greenwich home. Their mission: to pack 72 recipe kits for clients of the Schoke JFS Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry and MetCouncil on Jewish Poverty. Each bundle of goodies and goodness contained the necessary non-perishable ingredients for baked goods, half of them pumpkin pie, the other half oatmeal raisin cookies.

Guest speaker Rebecca Kanefsky, who oversees case management at Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County, added a dollop of critical insight into the many ways the COVID-19 virus has impacted local need. During the pandemic, Kanefsky said, JFS has seen a 500 percent spike in the number of families and individuals seeking food from the food pantry. And Kanefsky went beyond these sobering statistics. She shared with the group “how clients feel when they receive something special that has been made for them,” reported JTAC Coordinator Cori SaNogueira.

As part of the convening, Rabbi James Greene, Executive Director of Camp Laurelwood in Madison, Connecticut, led a text study for the middle schoolers. He shared Torah text instructing JTAC members not to harvest “the edges of our fields.” A discussion ensued about the meaning of the verse, and other Torah verses, connecting these wise words to a critical takeaway for life today. Reflecting on the impact of the recipe kits, SaNogueira said: “Families will be able to bake something together that otherwise would be a luxury, and that pungent smell of baked goods will lift everybody’s spirits.”

For further details about programs and sponsorship opportunities with JTAC, please email Cori@ujajcc.org.

Thanks to the following JTAC members:

High School:
Ali Buchsbaum
Jadyn Daniel
Jack Glass
Ben Rosmarin
Jonah Saidi

Middle School:
Aiyah Ahmad
Eitan Asher
Jenna Beder
Coby Citron
Eden Citron
Mica Farstrup
Eli Goldman
Toby Knoll
Kevin Neilinger
Eli Rosen

Happy Hanukkah from
Steve Batkin
P: 203-302-1880
stephenbatkin@worldins.net

www.lampebatkin.com
For centuries, Jews have dipped apples in honey in hopes of a sweet year ahead. In keeping with tradition, Greenwich celebrants rallied on September 13, the Sunday before Rosh Hashanah, to bring apples to the community through two caring events.

In the early afternoon, 18 PJ Library families grabbed their masks and drove to Silverman’s Farm in Easton, CT. This year’s PJ Library Picking for the Pantry yielded some 25 bags of apples – over 100 pounds – that were subsequently donated to the Schoke Jewish Family Service Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry in Stamford. Rebecca Cooper, Michaelan Cohen, Romy Cohen and Alex Saltis co-chaired the event.

Also that afternoon, a dozen 9th-12th graders gathered at the UJA-JCC Greenwich office to pack 300 bags of apples and honey for the community. The next step in this JTAC-sponsored program was to deliver the bounty. Twenty volunteer drivers (mostly parents) loaded up and took to the road. Lucky recipients were selected out of 180 names drawn from the UJA-JCC Greenwich database. Each driver was also given five extra bags to deliver to neighbors. As JTAC Coordinator Cori SaNogueira explained, “We did it completely contactless – and it was a surprise; no one knew to expect this.”

A card accompanied each bag, in light of these unusual times, including the bittersweet commentary: “While we usually celebrate with friends and family, our typical observances may not be possible this year.” SaNogueira expressed admiration for the JTAC initiative to “make us all feel connected” and added: “Rosh Hashanah is about celebrating new beginnings, and we hope this is the beginning of a beautiful year of teens doing community projects together.”

PJ Library Picks Apples for the Pantry

JTAC Teens Engage in Random Acts of Kindness

Thanks to the following JTAC members:

Zara Ahmad  Kate Friedland  Ben Rosmarin
Ali Buchshbaum  Jack Glass  Zachary Toback
Sophie Citron  Noah Herman  Liam Yechiel
Sydney Flocb  Issac Neuman
UJA-JCC GREENWICH FALL PROGRAMS

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB PRESENTS:

A Bend in the Stars
WITH AUTHOR RACHEL BARENBAUM

Russia, 1914. Barenbaum’s novel unleashes modern science’s greatest race amidst the turmoil of World War I escalating violence towards the Jewish community, and a love story as dramatic as the solar eclipse Einstein hoped to photograph as proof of relativity. This epic adventure was named a New York Times Summer Reading Selection and a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection.

November 16th • 7:30 pm
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Nobody Will Tell You This But Me
WITH AUTHOR BESS KALB

Bess Kalb conjures the ghost of her beloved Grandma Bobby, who seems to have breezed right past death and kept on talking. Kalb, an Emmy-nominated TV writer, tells the story of four generations of women, Bess’s great-grandmother, a refugee from Russian pogroms, her mother, a 70’s rebel, and Bess herself - but most of all, her grandmother, the irrepressible, fun-loving, and glamorous love of her life.

December 9th • 7:30 pm
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

LIT CAFE PRESENTS:

Peas Love & Carrots
WITH AUTHOR DANIELLE RENOV

From her kitchen in Jerusalem, Renov will discuss her book and whet our appetites for Morocan cuisine. Soak up the flavors and traditions that inspire this half-Sephardic, half-Ashkenazi foodie as she shares her handy tips for making every meal a feast. Gather around the screen and get some delicious ideas for your upcoming holiday meals.

November 18th • 10:30 am
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Barbarians at the PTA
WITH AUTHOR STEPHANIE NEWMAN

Any book described as Desperate Housewives meets Mean Girls is guaranteed to deliver comic relief. Spend an evening with Stephanie Newman as she discusses her debut new novel, Barbarians at the PTA, with Daisy Florin. Set in a wealthy NYC suburb, the novel features cliques, cyberbullying, anxiety, eating disorders, and parenting as a contact sport.

December 1st • 7:30 pm
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
Thank you to the Patrons and Sponsors of Some Enchanted Afternoon: A Special Musical Performance Celebrating the Music of Rodgers & Hammerstein. You helped make it quite an Enchanted event.

Patrons:
Marshall Cooper • Anne Klein Schoke JFS Stamford Anachnu Program

Sponsors:
Kathy & James Adams
Barbara & John Ashkenas
Marjorie & Steven Black
Dr. Joel & Judith Blumberg
Marcie & Andrew Braver
Mimi Cohen • Marilyn Cooper
Shawne Cooper
Lisa & Wayne Cooper
Benita & Bert Ginsberg • Nan & Paul Gordon • Joui Hessel & Jimmy Hexter
Rikki Kaplan • Linda Pryde • Sandra & Kurt Shaffir • Sandra & Stephen Soule
Beverly & David Stein • Mark Weisburger • Jane & Stuart Weitzman

Sincere Thanks to the Fantastic Singers:
Rebecca Cooper • Regina Elliott • David Frankel • Jacob Litt

Accompanied by:
Zachary Kampler
At the Freedberg Kosher Food Pantry, very often those in need of food are in need of a lot more. Responding to the fact that a lack of menstrual supplies and other hygiene products can negatively affect a person’s quality of life, making it difficult or even impossible to do things we often take for granted, like attending school or going to work, each Dignity pack in a zippered bag contains menstrual products and toiletries, including soap, shampoo, toothpaste and a toothbrush.

Margie Black, a UJA-JCC board member who co-chairs this program pointed out that, “these products are very expensive – and often not covered by any federal assistance programs. We are just happy that we can make a difference this way.”

Margie’s co-chairs are Women’s Philanthropy board members Stephanie Esquenazi, Andi Fern and Bryanna Kallman. This project was created by the women of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, and they are launching nationally. UJA-JCC Greenwich is the first community to sign up!

Next month, Dignity Packs will be donated through YWCA Greenwich and JFS Greenwich. The project is funded through individual donations to UJA-JCC Greenwich. Any new or increased gift will qualify for matching funds, increasing your gift by 50%.

THE DAVIS FILM FESTIVAL (AT HOME) PRESENTS:

THE KEEPER

This engrossing drama tells the true story of a German POW who becomes Manchester City's goalkeeper as the British nation and its Jewish community grapple with post-war trauma. Equally affecting is the soccer icon’s love story.

STREAMING:
Saturday, November 21 through Monday, November 23

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

THE DAVIS FILM FESTIVAL (AT HOME) PRESENTS:

ON BROADWAY

For anyone who loves theater, this contemporary history of Broadway is a joy, packed with legendary stars and performances. An all-star cast tells the inside story of Broadway theater.

STREAMING:
Sunday, December 13 through Tuesday, December 15

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

In non-Covid times, JTAC the Jewish Teen Action Committee of UJA-JCC, spends a Sunday a year, packing 10,000 meals for food banks. Unfortunately, this year we can’t pack meals, but we can raise the cost of the meals ($3,000) in a new socially distant and fun way. Please join us on Zoom, for a few fun rounds of BINGO! This is not limited to teens alone. So go on, buy a card or two for yourself, your grandma, your bestie and let’s black out hunger together.

Sunday, November 22 @ 6PM
Registration is required.
Go to www.ujajcc.org no later than Thursday, November 19th to register.
Can’t join us? Donations kindly welcomed.
Each board $10. All proceeds will go to The Outreach Program.

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP
Lunch & Learn
Every Thursday at 12:30 PM via Zoom
Registration Required • Sign up for Zoom Link & Password

Sponsored by Rita Edelston

Click Here to Register for the Series

December 2020 Lunch & Learn Schedule

December 3
Zero to Hero
Rabbanit Devorah Evron

We will explore gender roles in the story of Hanukkah with Rabbanit Evron. Evron’s rich professional background, which includes working as a certified psychodrama therapist, is complemented by a lifetime of active involvement in the Orthodox community, in the religious-feminist world, and in Israeli society at large. She is a member of Beit Hillel and Kolel and lives with her family in Israel.

December 10
Chanukah - Finding Light After Much Darkness
Rabbi Shaul Robinson

The ancient story of Chanukah is about faith, resilience, adaptability – and most of all hope. We will examine some classic and contemporary stories to find much light after a very difficult year.

December 17
Plague and Pandemic in Jewish History
Rabbi Dr. Henry Abramson

Over the course of their millennial, diasporic history, Jews encountered virtually every contagion known to humanity. From the Hebrew Scriptures to the Talmud, from Maimonides to modern medicine, the Jews responded to the medical and social upheavals occasioned by pandemics, developing strategies that inform the present Covid-19 condition.

January 2021 Lunch & Learn Schedule

January 7
On Chaos and Revelation: The Foundations of Jewish Community
Dr. Elana Stein Hain

The chaos of the pandemic and of this American moment has revealed much about who we are and who we want to be. We’ll study a Talmudic text that probes the relationship between destruction and creativity, confusion and understanding.

January 14
Unanswered Prayers: Lessons from the Talmud
Rabbanit Sally Mayer

When a drought devastates or a plague strikes, sometimes the great Rabbis are unable to succeed in their prayers, whereas the common person’s plea brings salvation. We’ll study Talmudic stories that offer guidance on prayer in times of trouble.

January 21
NOTE NEW TIME: 12:45 - 1:45 PM
The "Good Samaritan" in American and Jewish Legal Traditions: A Study in Contrasts
Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot

What is the legal obligation, if any, of a citizen to step in and aid someone in trouble? How far does it go and what does it reflect about core principles of a society?

January 28
Admah, Adam, Dust and Jewish Ecological Wisdom
Shamu Fenyesa Sadah

This Tu B’Shvat, explore Genesis Chapter 2 and what it means for who we are and what we need to do. What does our creation story tell us about our relationships and purpose in the world?
In this unforgettable year of 2020, so much has happened in our country and the world—health-wise, politically, economically, and socially. As a result, our society has experienced so many unbelievable crises, and so many people are in such dire need, that Shir Ami’s Social Action Team has decided to provide a wide array of different avenues for our members to contribute to, and to participate in, social action activities. We continuously update our Social Action website page with current, meaningful and timely options for making a difference in our community, in our country and in our world. Please take a look and join us in one or more of our projects to ease hunger, address COVID, combat racism, donate to blood drives and respond to other important needs. Thank you to Ronny Kaplan, our Social Action Team Leader.

Following our successful Shir Ami High Holy Day Social Action Drive, we collected funds that have allowed us to make donations to three important organizations that really help make a difference in people’s lives: Neighbor to Neighbor, The Foodbank of Lower Fairfield County and Dignity Grows at the UJA-JCC of Greenwich. We hope you will take time to learn more about each of these organizations and join us in supporting them.

We also invite you to participate in these upcoming Shir Ami projects:
Interfaith Blood Drive that Shir Ami helps to co-sponsor with several local churches. It will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich on November 14th, 2020 from 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM. To make an appointment go to www.redcrossblood.org. Use the code FPCG or call 1 800-RED-CROSS.

Holiday Gift Drive for Abilis is coming up in December. Learn more on our website: www.congregationshirami.org/social-action.
TWO VIRTUAL FIRSTS FOR UJA-JCC GREENWICH

Mixology, Magic and Mazel Tov –
UJA-JCC Virtual Gala, Honoring Scott Simon on October 22

The UJA-JCC Greenwich Gala, chaired by Yael and Josh Rosen, and Bonnie and Manny Citron, was held virtually for the first time. We swapped out cocktail hour for make-your-own drinks with a professional mixologist, with all the ingredients delivered to participants in advance. Yael Rosen, Bryanna Kallman and Michael Delikat spoke about Scott and thanked him for his leadership. Next, master magician Tom Pesce performed jaw-breaking tricks, which awed spectators swore were mere camera effects … but they weren’t! As part of his act, he invited participants to join him in conjuring his illusions.

“We took a leap of faith here,” said CEO Pam Ehrenkranz. “We got creative, making Zoomland feel like a special space where everyone could come together to celebrate the mitzvah of giving, leading and building community.”

Women’s Philanthropy Morning of Celebration –
Honoring Andi Fern on November 4

For the first time ever, the UJA-JCC Women’s Philanthropy Fall Celebration was held virtually, via Zoom. The Celebration honored Andi Fern, current President, who has been a member of the UJA-JCC Greenwich Women’s Philanthropy Board for more than ten years. Andi has inspired and motivated others through projects that exemplify her deep-rooted love for Judaism, the Jewish Community and Israel.

Keynote speaker Yvette Manessis Corporon, and author of Something Beautiful Happened, enthralled attendees with her story of how her 70-year old grandmother helped hide a Jewish family on a Greek island during World War II. Corporon shared how she herself discovered a new way to understand tragedy, forgiveness, and the power of kindness in the process of tracking down her ancestors. According to event chairs, Dina Klein Lunder and Abby Vorobeychik, it was a life-affirming and intellectually inspiring morning of celebration and learning for women in attendance.

Thanks to Mia Brenner who crafted pictorial music videos for both virtual events.
Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School Adds Imagination Playground

The Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School has recently added a new playspace called Imagination Playground. Imagination Playground is a breakthrough concept designed by architect David Rockwell to encourage child-directed, unstructured free play. Imagination Playground is comprised of an assortment of loose parts in uniquely designed shapes. These parts can be reconfigured by children as they design their own course of play. Children are prompted to manipulate their environment and create a playspace of their own.

“This type of creative free play is critical to a child’s intellectual, social, physical and emotional development,” said David Cohen, Director of Schools. “Kids need to exercise their minds as well as their muscles. We’ve seen our children create airplanes, trucks, forts and so much more.” The teachers at SMNS have all been trained in how best to utilize this new addition.

Enrollment for the 2021-22 school year begins in November. SMNS offers programs for infants, toddlers, 2’s, 3’s and 4’s. For more information or to take a tour, contact David Cohen at 203-622-8121.
Ever heard of Gerotranscendence? It refers to the more urgent search for meaning by older, rather than younger, individuals. Swedish gerontologist, Lars Tornstam, developed his theory of Gerotranscendence over a period of two decades. According to geriatric authority, Dr. Bill Thomas, “the core of the theory suggests that normal human aging includes a range of vital and commonly overlooked components.”

Thomas adds that in the later years, “there is an increased feeling of affinity with past generations and a decreased interest in superfluous social interaction. There is also often a feeling of cosmic awareness, and a redefinition of time, space, life and death. The individual becomes less self-occupied and at the same time more selective in the choice of social and other activities.”

On the High Holidays, our liturgy asks us “who shall live and who shall die,” but what about the time in between? How do we want to spend our days? What are our highest values?

Here are a few stories that reflect my own values:

• After Pope Francis’ historic visit last year to the United Arab Emirates and his meeting with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, the Imam announced the establishment of an Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi, where a Mosque, Church and Synagogue will be co-located in the same complex.
• Around that same time, a new kosher caterer launched in Dubai to serve the growing Jewish community, the first new (Jewish) community in the Arab world in more than a century.

As I consider my own aging, I realize that I wish to spend more time in efforts that bring diverse groups of people together. Don’t get me wrong, I’m committed to a strong, vibrant and dedicated Jewish community. But when I look at my calendar, the invitations I tend to accept in my limited free time (after I teach, preach or sing), often involve bringing together different religious or cultural groups.

While aging bestows its share of indignities, the more urgent search for meaning (that gerontologist Tornstam describes) has the potential to enrich our lives in countless ways. In a landmark multi-decade study known as the “Longevity Project,” researchers Howard Friedman and Lesley Martin sought to understand what characteristics are correlated with those who live the longest. They found that people who see ripe age do not die from working long hours at a challenging job – [in fact] many who worked the hardest lived the longest. Getting and staying married is [also] not the magic ticket to a long life, especially if you’re a woman. [And] it’s not the-happy-go-lucky who thrive – it’s the prudent and the persistent who flourish over the years.

What factors do correlate with long lives? One of the key markers of health and long life is participation in a congregation. It’s not piety or religious belief that matter, but rather being part of a community of practice. Friedman and Martin write: “The guideposts we identify…do not point directly to the church, the synagogue or the mosque. Nor do they steer us to the meditation garden with incense and candles. Instead, the most important characteristics…are linked to social networks and community engagement.”

Being part of a congregation or community and finding people with whom we can mark life’s transitions or soften the impact of ‘curveballs’ not only nourishes us, but has the power to help us live longer lives. In a New York Times opinion piece, novelist Tara Isabelle Burton explains that most of us long for “…a meaningful world, a viable place within it, a community to share it with, [and] rituals to render ordinary life sacred.”

Let me conclude with this: The 71st Psalm tells of an aching plea: ‘Al tashlicheni l’ayt zikna.’ “Do not cast me off as I grow old.” Let us each serve as builders of sacred community that we may flourish in all the years of our lives.

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 authors alone and are not meant to reflect the opinions of UJA-JCC Greenwich.

### Laptop Learning at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

Tyler Kaplan, a 2nd-grader at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, practices math using XtraMath on the iPad he and his classmates received from the school this year.

Second graders at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford enjoyed spending time together in their socially distanced reading group. Pictured (clockwise from top) Nili Steinberg, Shlomo Licht, Alexander Siegel, Eva Tipermas.
Shir Ami has found a way in this unusual year of 2020 to make all of our Zoom events feel warm, celebratory and participatory! We were able to do it for Passover, High Holy Days and for each Shabbat Service, and we will do it for Chanukah Live via Zoom on the 2nd night of Chanukah. We know that many people feel isolated at home as they try to stay healthy. Being part of our Chanukah celebration will provide you with fun, spirit, connection and a sense of community. We welcome all!

Leading up to Chanukah Live 2020, we will offer an evening of song learning with Cantor Abramson via Zoom on Monday, November 30, for those who want to learn new songs that we will be singing during Chanukah Live. Although we won’t be able to have our famous and delicious Chanukah pot luck dinner together, we will instead share our favorite Latkes and Sufganiyah (jelly donut) recipes with each other the week before, so that each home can come prepared to enjoy eating Chanukah delicacies together during our service.

Join Shir Ami’s Chanukah Live 2020 from your home to:
• Celebrate a special Chanukah-Shabbat with our warm community.
• Light all of our menorahs together to create a screen of flickering candle light during dark winter days.
• Sing Shabbat and Chanukah songs together led by Cantor Jill Abramson on her guitar.
• Enjoy the beautiful sound of the clarinet played by guest performer Matt Garrison.
• Participate as other Shir Ami Members contribute special, uplifting moments during our gathering.

Register for Chanukah Live 2020 at www.congregationshirami.org

**Greenwich Reform Book Group**

All are welcome to join Greenwich Reform on Zoom for the next meeting of GRS READS on Thursday, December 3, at 7:30 pm, for a spirited discussion of *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*, by Barbara Brown Taylor, available from the Greenwich Library, local bookstores, and on Amazon in paper, as an e-book, or in audio format.

This *New York Times* bestselling author recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world’s religions to college undergraduates in rural Georgia. In *Holy Envy*, she contemplates the ways other people and traditions encounter the transcendent, both by digging deeper into those traditions herself and by seeing them through her students’ eyes on field trips to monasteries, temples, and mosques.

Throughout *Holy Envy*, Taylor weaves together stories from the classroom with reflections on how her own spiritual journey has been complicated and renewed by connecting with people of other faiths. “Taylor reminds us that religion is more than beliefs, that it involves our deepest selves and is the fabric of our shared lives.” (*Library Journal*)

Barbara Brown Taylor is also the author of *An Altar in the World, Learning to Walk in the Dark*. She has been an Avon lady, a cocktail waitress, a horseback riding instructor, and a hospital chaplain, but her favorite job was teaching world religions at Piedmont College in Georgia for twenty years before putting the chalk down in 2017. Barbara and her husband now tend a small farm in the foothills of the Georgia Appalachians.

For questions or to get the Zoom login information for this free discussion group, contact Temple Administrator Hadas Elias at HadasElias@GRS.org or call 203-629-0018.
Tamim Academy of Greenwich welcomed its first class of students in the Fall of 2020. Greenwich’s Tamim Academy is one of four to open across the country this year. The others, in Florida, New York City and Vermont, share an interdisciplinary curriculum that bridges secular and spiritual education. With two teachers and fewer than 10 students, Tamim Academy also shares a campus with Chabad Lubavitch’s preschool on the former Carmel Academy campus.

With 20 years’ experience in education, Tamim Academies provides critical support, from concept and design to curricular materials, technology tools, and ongoing professional learning and development. The Tamim network makes it possible for communities of all sizes to build a high quality new school. Their name is sourced from Tomchei Temimim, the first formal Yeshiva system of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

Tamim Academy’s Natural Playground and outdoor-learning ideology enables children to engage in independent and collaborative problem solving, hypothesize and experiment, and construct a concrete understanding of environmentalism. The time learners spend outdoors builds healthy bodies and also minds – as yet another area of authentic learning. Inspired by Chabad, guided by leading educators and enriched by the spirit of community, Tamim Academy prepares students for purposeful lives by empowering them with a positive self-concept, a passion for learning, and eternal values.

The curriculum was one of many draws for local parent Vanessa Avery, whose daughter attends the kindergarten program.

Avery, a lecturer at Yale and leader of a local nonprofit, said she liked that the curriculum was rigorous, while also emphasizing the spiritual aspect, which she said was especially important during uncertain times. “I think everyone feels unsafe these days to a certain degree, and I think the spiritual grounding is super important for (my daughter), but also for all of us during these times,” Avery said. “We need something to ground ourselves and engender hope.”

The school also provides an alternative to the town’s public schools, since during the pandemic, many parents have serious concerns about the number of students in a building and the safety protocols that would be necessary as a result. At Tamim Academy of Greenwich, masks are worn by all students while inside the building, and social distancing is practiced. But because of the small class size and access to a campus, the children spend much of their day outside.

The school’s directors, Rabbi and Maryashie Deren, hope that word will get out to more people who are looking for innovative educational models. Their plan is to expand to add more grades. “We feel that when you offer a good quality program, combined with strong academics, nurturing, loving and emotionally healthy teachers, parents come to trust you because they see how happy their children are, and they see how much they’re learning,” Deren said.

Tamim’s ultimate goal lies beyond the walls of our schools. By creating the Jewish Day School of the future, today, we’re revolutionizing the way Jewish children learn and we want to share it nationwide. Our schools prepare the next generation of Jews to take on the world.

Visit the website at tamimgreenwich.org.
Welcome to Zoomukah 5781! While Greenwich Reform won't be hosting its usual celebrations, we do have eight days of festive events lined up, and everyone is welcome to join us!

Starting with the first night of Chanukah, on December 10 at 5:30, we'll be lighting our own hand-crafted, giant Chanukiah. Each night's candle lighting will take place outside, so bundle up and wear your masks! The candle for each night will be dedicated to a particular Jewish value, including *chesed* (compassion), *tzedakah* (charity) and so on. The last night of Chanukah, December 17, will be extra sweet with hot chocolate and sufganiot (jelly donuts).

On Sunday morning, December 13, from 10:30-11:30 am, the GRS Religious School will enjoy a virtual Chanukah celebration, including a Mitzvah project, dreidel spinning games, and Chanukah-themed activities and treats. Since COVID-19 restrictions don't allow for a usual holiday visit to a local nursing home, our students plan to record an online concert for residents and send them homemade holiday cards.

Last but not least, the GRS membership will be collecting cold weather coats, mittens, gloves, and hats for distribution to those in need.

If you would like to join us, or need more information, please contact the GRS office at 203-629-0018 or email info@GRS.org.

---

**Chanukah 5781 at GRS:**

**Why Is This Chanukah Different From All Other Chanukahs?**

---

**Essential Jewish Conversation at Shir Ami**

Join our Essential Jewish Conversation Class at Shir Ami. 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 – a sacred conversation meant to bring meaning to our lives.

Cantor Jill Abramson invites you to join us as we focus on the Jewish perspectives on a range of beliefs and values, while expanding or affirming our own values and beliefs. The course will draw on classical Jewish texts to understand these core topics. Each class is a stand alone and we welcome both members and non-members to participate. Please visit our website to learn more and to register. [www.congregationshirami.org](http://www.congregationshirami.org).

The Topics on Values and Beliefs include:

- **12/21:** *Tikkun Olam/Repair of the World: What Specifically Are We Supposed to Repair?*
- **1/18:** *Is There a Heaven and Hell in Judaism? What Does Judaism Say About the Afterlife?*
- **2/22:** *Can I Be an Atheist and a (Good) Jew? What Does Judaism Say About God?*
- **3/15:** *What Does Judaism Say About Organ Donation?*
- **4/26:** *What Do Jews Believe About Jesus?*
- **5/17:** *What Exactly is the Messiah in Jewish Practice?*
Over the summer Temple Sholom launched its first-ever Scavenger Hunt. The first place team was comprised of Sharon and Andy Holmes. The Goldstein Family – Melissa, Glenn, Reid, Molly and Bodie – came in second.

The staff and clergy at Temple Sholom came up with the questions and tasks to perform. Each question offered a variety of ways to respond, and points were awarded accordingly. All questions involved taking pictures and sending them in. One entailed identifying the original location of Temple Sholom and taking a photo of a team member standing there. Another involved finding a location appropriate for the ritual of *Tashlich*. Another involved naming all of the matriarchs and patriarchs in the Bible and then taking a picture of someone with one of their names. There were also *mitzvah* missions to fulfill, including making food donations to Neighbor to Neighbor, painting kindness rocks and thanking first responders. “We knew people were tired of being stuck inside” said Lori Baden, Associate Executive Director of Temple Sholom, “so we created a fun activity that would be appropriate for all ages, that would engage participants and get them thinking and moving and ready for the New Year.”

Over the summer Temple Sholom launched its first-ever Scavenger Hunt. The first place team was comprised of Sharon and Andy Holmes. The Goldstein Family – Melissa, Glenn, Reid, Molly and Bodie – came in second.

The staff and clergy at Temple Sholom came up with the questions and tasks to perform. Each question offered a variety of ways to respond, and points were awarded accordingly. All questions involved taking pictures and sending them in. One entailed identifying the original location of Temple Sholom and taking a photo of a team member standing there. Another involved finding a location appropriate for the ritual of *Tashlich*. Another involved naming all of the matriarchs and patriarchs in the Bible and then taking a picture of someone with one of their names. There were also *mitzvah* missions to fulfill, including making food donations to Neighbor to Neighbor, painting kindness rocks and thanking first responders. “We knew people were tired of being stuck inside” said Lori Baden, Associate Executive Director of Temple Sholom, “so we created a fun activity that would be appropriate for all ages, that would engage participants and get them thinking and moving and ready for the New Year.”

Sharon Holmes drops off a donation to Neighbor to Neighbor. Molly, Reid and Bodie identified a great location for *Tashlich*.

---

**GILA LEWIS**

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.

GILA LEWIS

Real Estate Salesperson

M 203.249.0858

GLewis@HoulihanLawrence.com

gila.lewis@houlihanlawrence.com
Rabbi Jordie Gerson of Greenwich Reform Awarded LEAP Fellowship for 2020-2021

Greenwich Reform is pleased to announce that Rabbi Jordie Gerson is one of only ten U.S. rabbis selected to receive a LEAP fellowship from Clal – The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.

LEAP is where the rabbinate and academia meet. An innovative partnership between the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and Clal, LEAP stands for Leverage, Expand, and Popularize. It was founded in recognition of the pivotal role played by rabbis, not only as teachers, leaders, and pastoral caretakers, but also because of their unique position to leverage, expand, and popularize (LEAP) the most cutting-edge work coming out of Judaic academic studies. The program brings together outstanding academics at the Katz Center with equally outstanding rabbis who serve in a variety of roles and settings, including the pulpit, Hillel, chaplaincy, education, organizations, and more.

Bridging the worlds of the academy to those served by rabbis, this year’s theme at the Katz Center is “America’s Jewish Questions.” Fellows will delve into some of the most pressing debates within U.S. and Jewish history, examining vital questions shaping Jewish cultural studies, literary theory, and social scientific inquiry. Scholars will direct their attention to the diversity of Jewish practices, politics, and peoples, reconsidering many of the basic assumptions and concepts that have shaped the study of American Jews. This theme provides the perfect opportunity for rabbis, already in positions of leadership and influence, to more effectively and meaningfully serve the thousands of people in their networks.

“We are deeply proud of this initiative, bringing together leading rabbis from across the nation and outstanding academics from around the world, empowering both to contribute, lead, and serve ever more widely,” said Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, Clal President.

To learn more about LEAP, contact Rabbi Brad Hirschfield at bhirschfield@clal.org.

Shir Ami Holds Meaningful Discussion Groups for Women and Men via Zoom

Last year Shir Ami offered a monthly Women's Rosh Chodesh group, which was very meaningful and successful. As our enthusiasm to learn and grow together continues, here is what Cantor Abramson is currently offering. All are welcome!

Women’s Monthly Rosh Chodesh

Interested in forging a deeper connection to the holidays? Come celebrate the new month and do a “deep dive” into the Jewish calendar with Cantor Jill Abramson and other women from Shir Ami. Noted author and feminist, Abigail Pogrebin, takes us on a one year journey through the entire Jewish calendar in her book, My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew. Although she grew up with some basic holiday rituals, Pogrebin realized how little she knew about the origins, purpose and current relevance of the entire Jewish calendar. She wanted to understand what had kept the oldest traditions vibrant and the more-recently-added-holidays urgent. She embarked on an entire year of research, observance and writing about every ritual, fast, and festival in one Jewish year. Each session/holiday will be a stand-alone class with the book as the backdrop. If you have not read the book, you may still participate in and enjoy the discussions. Dates and registration links may be found on our website www.congregationshirami.org.

Exploring Male Identity in a Reform Jewish Context

Drawing on a number of historic Jewish texts, we will meet several times during the year to explore the topic of male identity in a Reform Jewish context. Meeting on Zoom or outside (around an outdoor fire pit), weather permitting, the group will focus on the following key questions:

- How do major historical position papers in Reform Judaism affect male identity in contemporary Jewish life?
- What rituals can add meaning to our lives as men?
- What is the role of family and community in shaping male identity?
- What are the implications of male identity for leadership in the Jewish community?

Cantor Abramson and the men from Shir Ami welcome non-members to join these discussions. If you are interested in participating or would like more information please send us an email at shirami.info@gmail.com.
What will you do?

my mind this fall, I will look to the beautiful fall foliage to do just that. I will give even more because people need more. I am always keenly aware of the changing events such as job changes, divorce or death in the family. Beth believes in empowering people to plan their financial goals while understanding their income needs, tax-efficient investing strategies, and different retirement horizons.

Max Depree once said, “We cannot become what we want by remaining what we are.” These words ring true for JFS Greenwich as we continue to fulfill our stated mission to “improve the lives of families and individuals of all ages in the community of Greenwich, Connecticut and beyond, while embracing Jewish wisdom, tradition, and compassion.”

Rachael and I have had an inordinate number of conversations discussing how to continue the upward trajectory of our impact on the community. There is so much good happening, yet we strive to do more. The staff at JFS of Greenwich has laid a strong foundation, and we rely on volunteerism to accomplish the depth and scope of our mission. Now more than ever we need your help to provide sustained support for our programs, and to build engagement for those isolated in need within our community.

My entire tenue at JFS Greenwich has coincided with the pandemic. What has inspired me most is to witness the passion, care and determination of our volunteers. In my first month on the job the number of people who shopped and delivered to tripled, and yet every single person who was on our list received their groceries. It was the very definition of a crisis, yet we were able to manage it due to the dedication of our volunteers. We are ever grateful for our army of volunteers. The Greenwich community recognizes JFS as a leader in service provision for light hearted banter.

Join me in acknowledging what is happening around us and be a part of change now. Here at JFS of Greenwich we are working tirelessly to meet community needs in real-time. Every day we increase our services providing case management and counseling to people of all ages and stages. The number of families managing food insecurity continues to rise locally, and JFS has been there to fill in the gaps, providing much needed healthy food to families in need. Our immigration services have picked up momentum since government offices reopened to guide people through the citizenship process. Our seniors continue to receive weekly groceries and personalized calls from our army of devoted Supermarketing for Seniors volunteers. We now serve dozens of families affected by COVID-19 helping them to set goals to improve their current situation.

While my work days revolve around the ever-increasing impact of JFS of Greenwich in our community, there is personal change as well. Much of my work over the past 20 years has involved listening, yet this new time of divestiveness I have taken a step back to see how I can learn to listen more. I have given in many ways as long as I can remember; this year I will give even more because people need more. I am always keenly aware of my surroundings, and now more than ever if I need to quiet my mind this fall, I will look to the beautiful fall foliage to do just that. What will you do?

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

Tribute Contributions to Jewish Family Services of Greenwich
Norma Perlstein in memory of Neil Shapiro
Jan and Roni Kaplowitz in memory of Myron Bagwin
Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Irene Gotto
Rita Edelman in memory of Sarah Brady
Susan Davis in memory of Howard Tichauer
Ellie Silber in honor of Rachel Kornfeld
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goodman in honor of Barbara Epstein
Diane Wolf in honor of Sandy and Stephen Soule

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone special in your life or community, you may do so by making a donation to Jewish Family Services and we will send a note of acknowledgment to the person or family involved, informing them of your generosity.

CEO’s Corner
For most New Englanders Fall is our favorite time of year. It is hard not to admire the beauty around us, the vibrant colors of the changing leaves and the crisp fall air. Yes, I am totally going positive here! We need to acknowledge the challenges facing us – and there are many. We also need to see the light through the darkness, to remain hopeful for a better tomorrow. Looking to the positive is in no way masking the truth or ignoring the state of our country and the world. Rather, it is a form of self-care.

And, we all need it. We are struggling with the negativity around us that seeps into every communication, whether phone calls, the rare in-person chat, the newspaper, and even those moments on ZOOM calls typical for light hearted banter.

Join me in acknowledging what is happening around us and be a part of change now. Here at JFS of Greenwich we are working tirelessly to meet community needs in real-time. Every day we increase our services providing case management and counseling to people of all ages and stages. The number of families managing food insecurity continues to rise locally, and JFS has been there to fill in the gaps, providing much needed healthy food to families in need. Our immigration services have picked up momentum since government offices reopened to guide people through the citizenship process. Our seniors continue to receive weekly groceries and personalized calls from our army of devoted Supermarketing for Seniors volunteers. We now serve dozens of families affected by COVID-19 helping them to set goals to improve their current situation.

While my work days revolve around the ever-increasing impact of JFS of Greenwich in our community, there is personal change as well. Much of my work over the past 20 years has involved listening, yet in this new time of divestiveness I have taken a step back to see how I can learn to listen more. I have given in many ways as long as I can remember; this year I will give even more because people need more. I am always keenly aware of my surroundings, and now more than ever if I need to quiet my mind this fall, I will look to the beautiful fall foliage to do just that. What will you do?

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

Jewish Health and Healing, Calling All Volunteers
by Larry Stoogenke,
Director of Community Engagement for Family Life Programs

Max Depree once said, “We cannot become what we want by remaining what we are.” These words ring true for JFS Greenwich as we continue to fulfill our stated mission to “improve the lives of families and individuals of all ages in the community of Greenwich, Connecticut and beyond, while embracing Jewish wisdom, tradition, and compassion.”

Rachael and I have had an inordinate number of conversations discussing how to continue the upward trajectory of our impact on the community. There is so much good happening, yet we strive to do more. The staff at JFS of Greenwich has laid a strong foundation, and we rely on volunteerism to accomplish the depth and scope of our mission. Now more than ever we need your help to provide sustained support for our programs, and to build engagement for those isolated in need within our community.

My entire tenue at JFS Greenwich has coincided with the pandemic. What has inspired me most is to witness the passion, care and determination of our volunteers. In my first month on the job the number of people who shopped and delivered to tripled, and yet every single person who was on our list received their groceries. It was the very definition of a crisis, yet we were able to manage it due to the dedication of our volunteers. We are ever grateful for our army of volunteers. The Greenwich community recognizes JFS as a leader in service provision for light hearted banter.

Join me in acknowledging what is happening around us and be a part of change now. Here at JFS of Greenwich we are working tirelessly to meet community needs in real-time. Every day we increase our services providing case management and counseling to people of all ages and stages. The number of families managing food insecurity continues to rise locally, and JFS has been there to fill in the gaps, providing much needed healthy food to families in need. Our immigration services have picked up momentum since government offices reopened to guide people through the citizenship process. Our seniors continue to receive weekly groceries and personalized calls from our army of devoted Supermarketing for Seniors volunteers. We now serve dozens of families affected by COVID-19 helping them to set goals to improve their current situation.

While my work days revolve around the ever-increasing impact of JFS of Greenwich in our community, there is personal change as well. Much of my work over the past 20 years has involved listening, yet in this new time of divestiveness I have taken a step back to see how I can learn to listen more. I have given in many ways as long as I can remember; this year I will give even more because people need more. I am always keenly aware of my surroundings, and now more than ever if I need to quiet my mind this fall, I will look to the beautiful fall foliage to do just that. What will you do?

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

Financial Workshops for Women:
Managing Money in Uncertain Times

Join JFS of Greenwich for a free interactive educational workshop to help you minimize the stress of financial uncertainty in your life.

Women and Wealth: A Clear View to Retirement
Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 7 pm

Led by Beth Cutler, Founder and President of Merritt Point Wealth Advisors
Explore how to build and protect financial stability, detailing how to build a Retirement Plan for different retirement horizons.

This Zoom workshop will be led by Beth Cutler, who has 40 years of experience helping families plan their financial goals while understanding their income needs, tax-efficient investing strategies, wealth transfer objectives and planning for retirement. She will also review finances during life-changing events such as job changes, divorce or death in the family. Beth believes in empowering women with financial information, so they can take control of their own financial lives.

Visit jfsgreenwich.org to register
FACTS – Families Affected by COVID-19 Transition Services

When Nancy Heller heard about Supermarketing for Seniors through the Social Action committee at Congregation Shir Ami, she reached out to ask if her adult son, Mark Lob, who is on the autism spectrum, could be a shopper. We had no idea at the time what a wonderful gift she was bringing to the agency.

Mark loves to shop and to cook, and he quickly became a superstar in our program. He and his parents have been delivering home-baked goods to his two clients in addition to shopping for them. When one of them had trouble with her SNAP benefits, the family brought her home-cooked meals to supplement what she receives through Meals on Wheels, and provided some items from their own pantry.

Mark’s dad, Roger Lob, is fluent in Spanish, and he helped us understand the client’s situation, so we could advocate for her with the Greenwich Department of Human Services. JFS provided a Stop & Shop gift card to tide her over until her SNAP benefits renewed, which Roger reported left her giddy with relief.

Mark’s other client, when told her former shopper was returning from a summer trip and would once again be available, was close to tears at the thought of not losing Mark. As fond as she is of her former shopper, the bond she had formed with Mark and his family is something she didn’t want to give up. Nancy’s response to hearing this was equally moving: “We have become very attached to her and look forward to our weekly phone conversations and outdoor, masked chats during food delivery. She is a very special woman, and we are so happy that we’ll be able to continue to shop for her. Supermarketing for Seniors has become an enriching part of our lives.”

Every shopper brings something unique to their clients, who in turn enrich their shoppers’ lives, weaving together the fabric of our community into a beautiful tapestry. If you or someone you know who either needs shopping services or is looking for a meaningful way to help the community, please reach out!

Supermarketing for Seniors has become an incredible gift to many of our FACTS families and has expanded to include quick mock interviews.

We often misread the struggles of others when we do not understand the origin. The work of JFS of Greenwich is to fill needs within the community to lessen the burden of others. We thank the Greenwich community for their ongoing support. If you know of a family in need, please visit our website JFSGreenwich.org, under Programs and services, COVID-19.
For many years, driven by disruptions from innovation, technology and entrepreneurship, businesses have turned to the “Theory of Change.” For the past eight months, faith groups have been driven by disruption, too, because of community and family needs. They have had to reimagine outcomes and co-create roadmaps. How do we practice our faith if not together as a community? How do we stay in touch with our families as the world around us has spun out of control?

Congregation Shir Ami turned to our history, heritage, and heroic moments in order to effect change. We went virtual. We found God online.

At Shir Ami as at other synagogues, dependent on community to keep faith and family together, social distancing – virtual services, livestreamed celebrations and online education classes – was a risk with a vertical learning curve. But like the ancient Jews who figured out fast they’d better follow Moses across the Red Sea, so, too, did Shir Ami during the pandemic.

“By April, Shir Ami services and classes were ‘Zoom-friendly’, and for High Holy Days, member participation was nearly 100%,” according to co-President Susan Nisinzweig. “Nearly one-fourth of our livestreamed High Holy Days participants were from outside the Greenwich-Stamford-Westchester area.”

Even so we sacrificed a lot to learn a lot. “Coronavirus hurts many more than those who get the virus,” said Shir Ami Rabbi Emerita Vicki Axe. “My beloved husband Harold died in April in a locked-down nursing home – alone. We said our goodbyes on FaceTime.” “Synagogue life is changing,” observed Rabbi Emerita Axe. “Despite the obvious downsides, COVID has addressed this epic change and organically created new ways of creating community.”

Our Jewish faith has sustained us these past eight months. Broadway may be dark, MetroNorth may be empty, schools may have hybrid models, but as Jews have repeatedly proven for the past 4,000 years, the call of our faith is stronger than the closing of our congregations.

For information on Congregation Shir Ami’s services, programs and classes, visit https://www.congregationshirami.org/.

---

The Theory of Change for Faith and Family During COVID

**Personal reflections by Marie Orsini Rosen, Shir Ami Congregant**

“Mom would be so happy to know that someone else can use this stuff,” words of gratitude Elliot Sloyer, the founder and CEO of Wheel It Forward, is still not quite used to hearing. After a recent trip to Yad Sarah in Israel and seeing their extensive network of Durable Medical Equipment (DME) provided at no cost to the community, Elliot was inspired to investigate a similar need for accessibility in the United States. What he discovered motivated him to launch Wheel It Forward in October of 2020. A new kind of library, Wheel it Forward is a “Lending Library” for DME that makes it easy for folks in Fairfield and Westchester counties to donate or borrow the equipment they need to make their lives more accessible.

Because there is no one brand associated with this type of service, when people have a need to borrow or share DME, they are unsure about where to start their search. The Wheel It Forward team is creating templates for all of their procedures and sharing them with other groups looking to build a DME library in their home community.

“Our team’s goal is to accomplish three important things with one new idea” Sloyer explains.

1. Meaningfully improve people’s quality of life.
2. Measurably save money for individuals and society. Out of pocket costs for this type of DME is four times higher than that of prescription drugs.
3. Help save the planet! Borrowing and donating DME means less mining, manufacturing, packing, and shipping of this type of equipment.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering, or would like to borrow or donate DME, please call 203-652-8600 or visit us at Wheelitforwardusa.org.

---

Wheel It Forward – A New Kind of Library Launches in Greenwich and Greater Fairfield County

Hebrew Wizards Launches Virtual Community Service

Better Together/Better2B

Hebrew Wizards receives a Grant to run a Virtual Better Together in a Box to connect students and seniors virtually. From Zoom concerts to art projects online, our Virtual Better Together Service, and making great intergenerational connections. We are trying our best to make the world a better place to be. Team Leadership training is provided to make this experience extra special.

https://youtu.be/PwFflUa4qDs

Temple Sholom’s Socially-Distanced Shofar Drive Through

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, Temple Sholom invited the community to “Drive Through Shofar Blowing.” Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz and congregant Josh Fields greeted cars as they pulled into the Temple’s circular driveway. Each car stopped, rolled down the windows, and riders were treated to the sounds of the shofar.

---

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

---

Personal and Commercial Insurance

Steve Batkin
www.lampebatkin.com
The Good You Do Just Got Better!

The Human Services Relief Matching Fund Increases Your Impact!

Make a new or increased gift to the UJA-JCC annual campaign by December 31 and every dollar of your increase will be matched by 50%!

While your gift to UJA-JCC strengthens our community in so many ways, the top priority of this grant is to support the Jewish vulnerable and maintain the essentials of Jewish life.

In light of the ongoing pandemic and economic crisis, job loss and isolation, there is serious and immediate need all around us. We have been working very hard to provide support through programs like Dignity Grows, which supports our neighbors in need of hygiene products. Our young families have continued our tradition of Picking for the Pantry, donating hundreds of pounds of apples for the kosher food pantry—and our teens provided baking kits for those with food insecurity. This new matching grant is intended to help us offer even more support to those with food insecurity, victims of domestic violence, families facing economic crisis and individuals struggling with mental health issues. This fund will match your new or increased gift by 50%—and will help us provide that much more relief and assistance.

Matching Funds Will Support:
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Food Insecurity and Support
- Mental Health
- Emergency Assistance
- UJA-JCC Special Assistance Programs
- Where It’s Needed Most

Click Here To Donate