Women of Vision

On November 6, when the Women’s Philanthropy Fall Brunch gets underway at the Milbrook Club, there will be plenty to celebrate – Women of Vision. Three Greenwich women have been especially instrumental in leading the charge, harnessing their passion, know-how and values to build Jewish community and support global Jewry. That’s why admiring kudos will be offered for Honoree Silvina Knoll and Community Builders Wendy Schreiber and Jessica Rickert.

Guest speaker Sara Esther Crispe, Co-Director of Interclusion.org, will add to the celebration. Interclusion.org is an educational nonprofit celebrating the convergence between contemporary arts and timeless Jewish wisdom. Sara is the creator of Lumin Story, a website highlighting inspiring and transformative stories, people, situations and breakthroughs in a wide array of fields and featuring people of every religion, race, background and place. Sara’s topic on November 6 is “What’s Love Got to Do with This?”

Honoree Silvina Knoll served as President of Women’s Philanthropy for two years and was Co-President with Andi Fern for a third year. Her passion for the Jewish people and strengthening Jewish community has engaged area women in collaborative projects and inspired the Women’s Philanthropy board to create new educational programs, opportunities for learning, local excursions and emerging leadership among community women. “Now more than ever, Jewish communities need to be unified and strong,” said Knoll. “It’s been an honor to work with such a talented and dedicated group of female philanthropists seeking to enrich our community and deliver much needed support to Jews in need.”

Community Builders receiving salutes are credited with literally buttressing the ramparts of Jewish Greenwich with brick and mortar and bringing Jewish families together. Wendy Schreiber served as President of Greenwich Reform Synagogue for four years, where she championed the construction of its new home and worked tirelessly with fellow community members to bring the vision of a new synagogue to life in Greenwich. Wendy has been a Trustee of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy for 25 years, currently serves on the UJA-JCC Greenwich Board and is active in the regional Anti-Defamation League.

Jessica Rickert served as Greenwich’s PJ Library Chair for two and a half years, personally welcoming new families to Greenwich and working with PJ Parent Planners to deliver ten programs per year for children and families. She has helped to implement family volunteer programs and applied for grants to support the Greenwich PJ Library. She also served as PTA Chair at Selma Maisel Nursery School of Temple Sholom. Outside of the Jewish community, Jessica has advocated for a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending human trafficking and the exploitation of children around the world.

Continued on page 3

KIDS – Good luck trying to peel them from their video screens. Then tell them it’s so they can absorb Jewish tradition, and watch their eyes roll. A new UJA-JCC Greenwich initiative combining fun and enrichment promises to be cultural heritage catnip. It’s called 345 Community Kids.

The program is targeted to third, fourth and fifth graders, and it meets from 4 to 5:15 pm. That’s the extent of the math. The meet-ups, stretched over five Thursdays, invite young participants to explore Jewish values while having a blast. While 345-ers may not “up” their STEM scores, they stand to soak up some Jewish identity while having a blast.

345 Community Kids is a way of connecting young kids to Jewish foundations in a low pressure, social setting where they will be encouraged to explore, create, imagine and collaborate with new friends from all over the community. With experienced Jewish educator and parent, Bob Abrams, leading the group they won’t even notice they’re learning! It’s the perfect age for kids to stretch beyond themselves and learn the values that guide Jewish ethics, traditions and behavior.

Programming for the 2019-2020 series centers around four main themes, beginning with “Gratitude” (Hakarat Hatov), which encourages an appreciation of the positive and sharing it with others, and “Community” (Kehillah), an omnibus celebration of community centered around connectedness, kindness and caring for the vulnerable. Then there’s “Respect” (Kavod), instilling a culture of understanding the value of each human being and treating oneself and others with decency. To round it off, hands-on activities will uphold “Honoring Elders” (Zekaynim/L’dor Vador).
Fresh air and fun for moms and babies...invite your friends!

J Babies Greenwich
Going Green

Mondays | 10:30 AM
Nashotah Park | Free
First 30 min. will be led in private space
September 9 | Nashotah Park
October 7 | Cos Cob Park
November 4 | Glenville Park

New location for an old favorite – PJ Library Storytime at the Library!

Chaired by Laura Launer and Rita Teichner

We would like to thank those who are stepping off the Board this season. Kudos and many thanks for your thoughtful and dedicated service to PJ Library Greenwich!

Alona Altman
Erika Brunwasser
Stephanie Esquenazi
Kelly Freishtat
Jamie Kesmodel
Rebecca Tipermas

*Executive Board Members

Nature or Nurture? Why not have both! Join J Babies Chair Alexandra Saltis and meet new friends for fresh air and active play in Greenwich’s beautiful parks. Enrichment for babies, young toddlers, and moms together.

Would you like to honor a loved one with a gift that keeps on giving? Consider supporting PJ Library of Greenwich’s mission to gift Jewish children’s books and programming to the community. Sponsor an event or subscriptions in honor of your loved one(s) and spread the joy. For more information please call the office (203) 594-4567 or email: JBrooks@jgh.org

Thank you!

PJ Library Parent Planners
2019-2020

Marissa Cohen
Romy Cohen
*Rebecca Cooper, Chair
Jill Derikrava
*Joui Hessel
Natalie Landres
Laura Launder
Jody Lazlo
Staci Levy
Stephanie Otten
Jessica Rickert
*Hillary Rosenthal
Alexandra Saltis
*Cori SaNogueira
*Rita Teichner
Abby Vorobeychik
*Samantha Young
Shayna Zachary
Ron Zate
Jennifer Zigler

*Executive Board Members

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Rebecca Tipermas

*Executive Board Members

New location for an old favorite – PJ Library Storytime at the Library!

Chaired by Laura Launer and Rita Teichner

PJ Library Storytime

Thursdays 3:45 – 4:30 PM
Cos Cob Library, 5 Sinawoy Road, Cos Cob | Free

October 24, November 14, December 19 and January 16

Drop in for classic and interactive PJ Library stories, with talented special guest readers. Meet new friends and enjoy songs, stories, movement and crafts. Storytime brings together families with young children around Jewish themes and traditions. Best for ages 5 and under and siblings are always welcome!
Women of Vision—
Continued from page 1

Event Chairs Marissa Cohen, Sheila Neilinger and Michele Stuart look forward to the big day. “UJA Women’s Philanthropy Brunch is a beautiful and inspirational event. It is a great opportunity to meet amazing women who want to improve our community and enhance our legacy in the world,” said event chair Sheila Neilinger. Event chair Marissa Cohen added, “The women’s philanthropy brunch is a wonderful morning. It is a great opportunity to spend time with each other, learn and be inspired.” And according to event chair Michele Stuart, “This special brunch always leaves us feeling inspired. It has that certain element of education, and we love to come together to celebrate and honor our well-deserved lay leaders!”

The Fall Brunch is an annual fundraising event for families who make a gift of $500 or more to the 2019 UJA-JCC Greenwich campaign. The event, which starts at 9:30 am, carries a coutert of $118 and can be sponsored for $180 per person. Registration and further details are available at ujajcc.org or by contacting Tracy Daniels at 203-552-1818 or tracy@ujajcc.org.

Continued from page 1

345 Community Kids begins on Thursday, September 26, and continues through April. The dates are November 14, January 9, March 5, and April 23. The series culminates in a showcase for parents, friends and community members in which 345 participants present the big take-aways absorbed over the course of the series.

The fee for 345 Community Kids is $180 per child. Sessions will take place at One Holly Hill Lane in Greenwich. Further details and registration are available at ujajcc.org or by contacting Tracy Daniels at tracy@ujajcc.org or 203-552-1818.

NEW PROGRAM FOR 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS!

Wednesdays 4 – 5:45 pm | One Holly Hill Lane | $180 per child
September 18, November 20, January 15, March 11, April 22

345 Community Kids is a unique after school program putting Jewish values into action with hands on projects, teamwork and community service. Bringing it all together at the final session, kids will have an opportunity to make presentations to parents, friends and community members about the lessons they learned.

Community Kids experience will focus on:

GRATITUDE – Hakarat Hatov | Focusing on good things and paying it forward.
COMMUNITY – Tikvah | Create a community of connectedness, kindness and caring for the vulnerable.
RESPECT – Koach | Treating others and self well. A true understanding of what it means to love another the way you should love yourself.

HONORING ELDERS – Dor L’Dor | Connecting generations to link our history.

Living Room Learning with Rabbi Joui Hessel & Friends

OCTOBER 11 | 9:30 AM | Private home | Sukkah | Free, reservations required*
MEET THE UHSPITZIN!

Traditional Sukkah customs include welcoming the stranger, the poor and seven patriarchs to join us in the Sukkah. In this session we’ll invite the patriarchs – Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, Leah – to gain inspiration from these and other heroic women, ancient or modern, who have lived exemplary lives. Bring your best list to share! Rabbi Hessel is a Vice President of UJA-JCC Women’s Philanthropy and an Executive Board member of Greenwich United Way. She was formerly the Rabbi at Washington Hebrew Congregation in Washington D.C.

NOVEMBER 8 | 9:30 AM | Private home | Free, reservations required*
ARE THEY COMING? A CONVERSATION ABOUT FAMILIES AND HOLIDAYS

Even the closest of families experience inadvertent of misunderstanding, hurt feelings or downright disdain among family members. While holidays invoke joyful anticipation, they may also stir unspoken anxiety and conflict. Relationship expert and educator Dr. Betsy Stone will share how to survive and enjoy the holidays while Rabbi Joui teaches the Judaic perspective of family systems. Dr. Stone is a psychologist, author, adjunct instructor and Board member at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

*Seating is limited; reservations are first come, first served.
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

Main Phone: 203-344-2400  
Fax: 203-344-2409  
1700 East Putnam Avenue, Suite 211  
Old Greenwich, CT 06870  
www.cutlerandrewscapitalmanagement.com

Carmel Academy recently received a commitment for a multi-year, multi-million-dollar investment to grow and enhance its educational offerings across all curricular areas. The commitments are from a small group of dedicated Carmel community member donors with deep ties to the school, and who believe deeply in Carmel’s mission to educate the whole child.

“These are transformational gifts that will enable Carmel Academy to continue to expand and enhance its unique educational experience, and it is thrilling to be recognized as a center of innovation and excellence” said Dr. Michele Sli书法, who became the president of the Board of Trustees of Carmel Academy in July.

“The development of a five-year plan has commenced, and Carmel has been able to attract some fantastic new talented professionals in just the last few months,” she continued.

“This is an exciting time in the history of Carmel Academy, and a unique opportunity to grow and enhance the elements of the educational approach that make Carmel unique,” said Nora Anderson, Head of School at Carmel Academy.

Carmel Academy
Receives Transformative Multi-Year Gift
From the Rabbi

For the Sake of Heaven

by Rabbi Mitchell Hurvitz, Temple Sholom

A year before I started college, I lived in Israel, on Kibbutz Ein Tzurim. I studied Talmud with my adopted “Kibbutz Father,” Shmuel Eli Melech, who was a Sephardic Jew and second generation Israeli. At the end of every day of study, he would pat my chest and say: “Don’t forget, first the heart, then the brain.”

In a similar manner my rabbincal school dean, Rabbi Lebeau, began the first day of his seminar on practical rabinics with the proclamation: “To be a rabbi you must have kindness and compassion more than mere intelligence.” Rabbi Lebeau then taught us that wearing the yarmulke, or kippah, is traditionally understood as a sign of respect for God, a sign of humility. But, “We really should see the head covering as a symbol of putting a lid on the intellect; so we can better affirm our heart as the true conduit to God.”

During the past 25 years in my personal rabbinate I’ve tried to live up to the spiritual mandate to be a mensch, to try and make love and kindness define my mensch, to try and make spiritual mandate to be a spiritual Jew. “TWO JEWS, three opinions.” Throughout history we Jews are known for our culture of disagreeing with one another, and there’s nothing wrong with disagreeing. Rabbinic law even tells us how to disagree. We’re to be sure that we’re arguing L’Shem B’Shamayim, for the “sake of heaven”. “For the sake of heaven” means that there’s never name calling. There’s never a charge of disloyalty. And, there’s never an accusation that another caring Jew is a bad Jew.

Arguing “for the sake of heaven” means we choose our tone, our words, and our actions, very, very carefully. We master the art of sensitive communication and we don’t allow ourselves to believe that our thoughts and opinions are the ruling truth. Rather, at a minimum, we focus on being civil with the ultimate goal of embracing love and kindness.

The rabbis said that the destruction of the Great Temple of Jerusalem, 2000 years ago, occurred because of the Jews’ “senseless hatred of fellow Jews.” This is the historical truth, and it is still continuing. We must be concerned about it, and succeed in the challenge to anchor our feelings in love and kindness, so that huge tragedies don’t occur because of hurtful words and hurtful actions.

Greater Greenwich is a diverse Jewish community. We vary in our beliefs and our practices. There’s a temptation to think “my way is the right way.” It’s easy to fall into this trap. We fail to realize that it hurts our argument. We have to change our ways, and time is running out. Too many Jews are distancing themselves from Judaism, and anger pushes them farther away.

This problem is not exclusive to us as Jews; it’s also true for the American people. Hostile partisan rhetoric and constant incivility has limited effective leadership, and national harmony. In poll after poll, Americans cite their distaste for politicians. Yet, we Americans mostly read only the articles we agree with, attend only the lectures that we can nod our heads to, and socialize only with our like-minded fellows. This is an American tragedy. Argument should be “for the sake of heaven,” and love and kindness must be the starting, middle and end points of our tone, words and actions.

We’re told by God, over and over again: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” “LOVE” is God’s commandment to us. We are not told to merely tolerate, or just “LIKE” the other. God’s commandment is to “LOVE,” to show love and kindness in what we say and in what we do. Love and kindness are the right way to be, and the most effective way to be. Any venom in our tone, words, or our actions, renders our arguments useless. We only influence people when our love and kindness is apparent, and when we argue for the sake of heaven. Only then do we find ourselves being listened to, sometimes being accepted as being right; but always being appreciated. Love and kindness are the signals that we are present and available to the other.

If, in addition to speaking with love and kindness, we also listen with love and kindness, we may find what we hear influencing our views and changing our positions.

Let’s live peacefully with one another; be civil to one another; and only “argue for the sake of heaven.” When we succeed in this holy endeavor, we’ll fulfill the truth as taught by the Psalmist: Hinei Mah Tov U’manayim, shvet achim gam yachad – “Behold what is truly good; brothers and sisters sitting together.” Let’s sit together with our love and kindness omnipresent. Then we will fulfill the sacred teaching of our tradition: “All of Israel is one fellowship, held together by love and kindness.” Amen!

Editor’s Note: The rabbis of Greenwich alternate in providing messages for each issue of the Greenwich Jewish News. These comments are those of the Rabbi alone and are not meant to reflect the opinions of UJA-JCC Greenwich.
Carmel Academy Opens New STEM Lab

Carmel Academy is expanding on its award-winning STEM program with the opening of a new STEM lab this fall. Structured as a ‘maker’s lab,’ it is designed to provide multiple opportunities to construct, create, and innovate. Students will engage in experiments to explore the laws of mechanics, optics, and thermodynamics, and study foundational mechanical and electrical engineering, including robotics, technology hardware design, and circuitry and electromagnetic principles. “Roles in engineering are shaping our world now more than ever, and we want to ensure that our graduates have the strongest background and experience in these areas of study,” observed Nora Anderson, Carmel Academy Head of School.

The lab will also provide a structured opportunity for students to innovate and design with tools including 3-D printing. “The learning opportunities provided by a focus on imagining and creating are endless,” said Lisa Corner, Director of Educational Resources at Carmel. “This is a unique opportunity to merge science, innovation, and social engagement, and this focus on rigorous and cutting-edge learning rooted in strong social systems is wholly consistent with the Carmel Academy educational approach.”

The STEM lab opening is the latest example of a dedication to STEM education that has been a hallmark at Carmel Academy for over a decade. In 2007, Carmel was one of the first Jewish day schools in the country to implement E2K, an inquiry-based and problem-centered educational enrichment program. Carmel’s STEM program has produced middle school student winners of fifteen international, national, and regional STEM awards, and has been featured in the journal of the National Science Teachers Association.

Please contact Danielle Cohen danielle.cohen@carmelacademy.com, and/or attend the Carmel Academy Open House on October 27, 2019 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm to learn more.

Kindergartners Lance Feinstein and Jordy Rosenthal are amazed at the effect of water temperature on glow sticks.

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.

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WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
We are delighted to welcome and introduce you to Greenwich. If you know of newcomers in town who would like to learn more about our vibrant and exciting Jewish community, please contact us at 203-552-1818.

We will extend a hearty “Welcome!”

Bonnie Citron, Chair
UJA-JCC Greenwich Newcomer Committee

GRS Discussion on Gun Legislation and Safety in Greenwich and Beyond
September 25, 7-8:30 pm

Join us for this free panel discussion, featuring:

Sandy Litvack
Greenwich Selectman
Jonathan Perloe
Director of Communications, CT Against Gun Violence
Alexis Gevanter
CT State Chapter Leader of Moms Demand Action
Rabbi Jordie Gerson

Please RSVP: HadasElias@GRS.org or 203-629-0018
The March of the Living was started in 1988 as an educational program for students from all over the world. Eventually, adult groups started participating as well. Since its inception, more than 250,000 students and adults from more than 52 countries have joined together every year on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, to march together from Auschwitz to Birkenau as a tribute to victims of the Holocaust.

From April 18 to April 29, a Connecticut statewide adult delegation led by Voices of Hope will join 10,000 participants to keep alive the memory of the millions of people who perished in the Holocaust. The delegation will spend a week in Poland and travel through Warsaw, Krakow, Lublin and Lodz, touring Auschwitz, Birkenau, Majdanek and Chelmno, visiting the remnants of street life, honoring the Righteous Among the Nations, experiencing Jewish life in Poland today at the Krakow Jewish Community Center and celebrating Shabbat in Warsaw or Krakow. The group will then travel together to Israel to observe Yom Hazikaron, Israel’s Memorial Day, and to celebrate Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day. The delegation will march again, this time to the Kotel in Jerusalem where together we will affirm Am Yisrael Chai – the Jewish nation lives.

Even if you missed the informational meeting on September 12, with Eli Rubenstein, National Director of March of the Living Canada and Director of Education of the International March of the Living, we encourage your participation. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Robin Landau, Voices of Hope Director of Programs & Development, at robin@ctvoicesofhope.org.
HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5780

CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

2019 ~ HIGH HOLY DAYS ~ 5780
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

★ ROSSHASHANAH ★
Sunday, September 29 7:00-9:00pm
Monday, September 30 10:00am-12:30pm

★ YOM KIPPUR ★
Tuesday, September 8 7:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, September 9
Morning Service 10:00am-12:30pm
Meditation Interlude 1:00-2:00pm
Afternoon*Yizkor*Concluding 2:30-5:30pm

Rosh Hashanah Luncheon and Yom Kippur BreakFast
ALL ARE WELCOME reservations required
Register at www.congregationshirami.org | 203.900.7976

May the sound of the shofar herald in a year of health and peace for all

HEBREW WIZARDS CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

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

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: AS WE WELCOME IN THE NEW YEAR 5780
ROSSHASHANAH DAY 1-
(METHODIST CHURCH)
MORNING SERVICE
Sunday, September 29 7:00am-9:00am
ROSSHASHANAH DAY 2-
(RABBI DEB’S HOME)
TUESDAY, OCT 1ST 10:30AM-12:15PM
LUNCH FOLLOWING SERVICES
YOM KIPPUR SERVICES
KOL NIDRE EVENING
(TUESDAY, OCT 8TH- 7:30PM-8:45PM)
YOM KIPPUR DAY
(WEDNESDAY-OCT 9TH 10:30AM-12:15PM)
NEILLAH/BREAK FAST
(WEDNESDAY- OCT 9TH 6:00PM-8:30PM)

*FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 59 EAST PUTNAM-GREENWICH
*RAZABI DEB’S HOME-130 CUMMINGS POINT ROAD-STAMFORD
FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT RABBI DEB 203-249-4036
WWW.HEBREWIZARDS.COM

Visit the JFS website (jfsgreenwich.org) for a full schedule of High Holiday services offered at local senior residences.
# HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5780

**Greenwich Reform**

**High Holy Day Services 2019/5780**

92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob • (203) 629-0018 • www.grs.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rabbi</th>
<th>Cantor</th>
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<td>Jordie Gerson</td>
<td>Harriet Dunkerley</td>
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## September 2019

**Greenwich Reform**

High Holy Day Services   2019/5780

Rabbi Jordie Gerson Cantor Harriet Dunkerley

92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob     (203) 629-0018     www.grs.org

Please bring your tickets to all services.

To join GRS and ensure High Holy Day tickets, contact the office at info@grs.org

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### Erev Rosh Hashanah

**Sunday, September 29**

- **Rabbi**
  - Family Program
  - Moin Sanctuary
  - Early Childhood

- **Cantor**
  - Shabbat Morning Service

- **Services**
  - **Kol Nidre**
  - **Congregational Service**

### Rosh Hashanah

**Monday, September 30**

- **Rabbi**
  - Small in-home dinners hosted by fellow members
  - Literary and Poetic Commentary
  - Inspiring Seder Prayer
  - Rabbis Sermon

- **Cantor**
  - Shabbat Morning Service

- **Services**
  - **Day 1**
  - **Day 2**

### Yom Kippur

**Tuesday, October 8**

- **Rabbi**
  - Selichot
  - Yom Kippur Kol Nidre

- **Cantor**
  - Yom Kippur Kol Nidre

- **Services**
  - **Day 1**
  - **Day 2**

### Selichot

**Saturday, September 21**

- **Services**
  - **Day 1**
  - **Day 2**

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## Services for Chavurat Deevray Torah and Chavurat Aytz Chayim

Mark S. Golub, Rabbi

**Rosh Hashanah**

**Sunday, September 29, 2019**

- Evening Services – 8:00pm

**Rosh Hashanah**

**Monday, September 30, 2019**

- Morning Services – 10:00am

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### Yom Kippur Services

**Tuesday, October 8, 2019**

- Kol Nidre Services – 8:00pm

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

- **Yom Kippur Services**
  - **Kol Nidre**
  - **Congregational Service**

- **Services**
  - **Day 1**
  - **Day 2**

---

All Services will be held at West Hill High School Auditorium, 125 Roxbury Road, Stamford

There will be ample seating • No tickets are required • All are welcome
Exciting Transitions at the Temple Sholom Learning Center

Students at the Temple Sholom Learning Center will be greeted by two new, yet familiar faces on the first day of religious school this year. Over the summer, Nursery School Director David Cohen was promoted to Director of Schools for Temple Sholom, and Rabbi Kevin Peters, the Temple’s Senior Rabbinic Fellow, accepted the position as the religious school’s new Director of Judaic Studies.

Since joining the Selma Maisel Nursery School in 2016, Cohen has succeeded in keeping the nursery school on the cutting edge of early childhood education. Not only has he transformed the curriculum with STEAM-based learning, but he has also expanded the school to include a full-day program for children as young as six weeks old, as well as a new summer program for rising 3’s, 4’s and 5’s.

“Over the past few months, we’ve been preparing David Cohen for his new position as Director of Schools,” said Executive Director Eileen Robin. “We know David will bring his passion for learning and Judaism to this new role, and many of our Temple families are thrilled to have him oversee the educational programs in both the nursery school and the religious school.”

Rabbi Kevin Peters first came to Temple Sholom in 2018 as a Rabbinic Fellow. He recently graduated with an MA from the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and is currently a fourth year rabbinical student at JTS. Before attending JTS, Rabbi Kevin worked in the field of developmental disabilities with the goal of making Jewish communal and educational environments more inclusive and sensitive to individuals with learning disabilities. In his new role as Director of Judaic Studies, Rabbi Kevin will assist in creating a vibrant Jewish learning environment for all students, implementing family programs and services, and providing support and mentorship for the religious school staff.

“We are excited to have Rabbi Kevin expand his role to include Director of Judaic Studies,” said Robin. “Rabbi Kevin has been working closely with David Cohen to review the religious school curriculum and to get resources in place for the new school year. We are confident that his input and feedback will enhance the Learning Center experience.”

It’s not too late to register your Pre-K through eighth grade student at the Temple Sholom Learning Center! For more information, contact David Cohen at 203-869-7191 or david.cohen@templesholom.com.

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut Announces New Faculty Members

Dr. Malki Feuer is Bi-Cultural’s new curriculum coordinator for Judaic Studies, in which capacity she will work closely with the Judaic Studies staff on developing and implementing curriculum, goals and objectives for PreK through Grade 8. A graduate of Stern College for Women, Dr. Feuer received her PhD in Jewish Education and Administration from Yeshiva University’s Azrieli Graduate School. She has experience in the classroom, as well as in creating, designing and aligning curricula in several prominent Jewish schools, including Ramaz Lower School in New York.

Dr. Avi Block is Bi-Cultural’s new Judaic Studies middle and upper school teacher and upper school Mashgiach Ruchani (religious inspirational counselor). He has extensive experience as an educator, psychologist and congregational rabbi. A graduate of Yeshiva University, where he also received his rabbinic ordination, Dr. Block earned both his Masters of Science and Doctorate of Psychology from St. John’s University in New York. He previously served as a school psychologist for the New York City Department of Education and as a staff therapist with Cognitive Behavioral Health Psychology in New York.
New! Women’s Rosh Chodesh Group at Shir Ami

Enjoy Sunday morning coffee or tea and bagels and join together for a women’s Rosh Chodesh study group. Gather monthly to discuss a defining book of our time entitled, The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding by Rayna Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. The book challenges all of us to understand the “other” more deeply, as we investigate what it means to be Jewish, while affirming the faith of others. Each participant should acquire a copy of the book either online or at a local library. Our discussions will center on a specific chapter of the book and will function as “stand alone” conversations.

The Rosh Chodesh study group is open to all. It will be led by the new Spiritual Leader at Congregation Shir Ami, Cantor Jill Abramson. It is free for members and $20 for guests. The location will be announced shortly.

The group meets from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The dates are: October 27, November 24, December 22, January 26, March 1, March 29, April 26, and May 17, which coincide with the beginning of each new Jewish month on the lunar calendar.

To learn more about Shir Ami and our Learning and Living Programs or to register for this Rosh Chodesh group, please visit congregationshirami.org.

Genetic Testing for This Generation – It’s Not Just Tay-Sachs
by Hillary Kener Regelman

Did you know that genetic testing technology has become so advanced that screening limited to Tay-Sachs is obsolete? We can now test for more than 200 diseases on saliva, including those found in Jews with Ashkenazi, Mizrahi and Sephardi ancestry, along with screening for diseases common in the general population. Now that these scientific advancements are readily available, it’s important for anyone who is planning on starting or expanding their family to know about genetic carrier testing. Even if the parents of childbearing age have been tested for Tay-Sachs, it’s vital that they update their screening with the extensive panel that is currently offered.

JScreen is a national nonprofit effort based at Emory University. It uses an at-home saliva test to help all couples, including interfaith couples, learn if they are carriers of genetic conditions such as Canavan disease, spinal muscular atrophy, and cystic fibrosis. Approximately 80 percent of children with a serious genetic disease are born to parents with no known family history of the disease, making JScreen important for anyone planning on having children. Most couples receive reassuring results from JScreen’s certified genetic counselors. For those at increased risk, there are many available options, such as in-vitro fertilization with pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, to help plan ahead for healthy children.

For those who have already been tested or are not planning to have (more) children, consider giving the gift of screening with a JGift card, which allows you to pay for the already highly subsidized $149 cost of the test for someone you love. Together we have the ability to save lives.

Hillary Kener Regelman works in the Department of Human Genetics at Emory University. This article reflects the views of the author. To learn more or request a kit, please visit www.JScreen.org.

Selichot Dinner and Service Saturday, September 21, 7-10 pm

Selichot (Hebrew for forgiveness) marks the beginning of the High Holy Day season.

We begin with dinners in the homes of GRS congregants. Next, we’ll gather at the synagogue for dessert, followed by an inspiring service in the sanctuary.

Dinner will start at 7 pm, followed by dessert at 9 pm and the service at 9:30.

RSVP required. All are welcome. 92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob, CT 203-227-0018; info@grs.org
ADULT EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

CARL AND DOROTHY BENNETT CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES

“Eleven Months After Pittsburgh: What Did We Learn?”
Rabbi Danny Schiff, PhD, Foundation Scholar, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh
Wednesday, September 18, 7:30 pm
Kelley Center Presentation Room

“New Jerusalem Down Under:
The Search for a Jewish Homeland in Australia”
Adam Royner, PhD, University of Denver
Monday, October 28, 7:30 pm, Dolan School of Business

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 RabbiFeldman@ChabadGreenwich.org for information.

Parsha with Classic Commentaries – Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 am
Chassidic Philosophy Class – Shabbat, 8:45-9:30 am

Lunch and Learn
Last Monday of every month, 12:00-1:00 pm at Chabad

Jewish Women’s Circle
Tuesdays: 12:15 pm, beginning October 29

TEMPLE SHOLOM

“Be Strong and of Good Courage”
A Conversation with Dennis Ross and David Makovsky
Sunday, November 3, 7:00 pm
$18 for Temple Sholom members and $36 for guests with registration in advance ($36 for all attendees at the door).
Register with payment to Alice Schoen at 203-542-7165 or alice.schoen@templesholom.com.

“In Good Faith”
An evening with Scott Shay
October 17, 7:30 pm, at a private home

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

Lunch & Learn
Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 pm – See page 13

GOLDEN WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Women coming together to recharge the mind, body and soul

Chairs: Erica D’Antonio, Jennifer Zigler

September 19
The Greenwich Chabad Bake
with Mrs. Rochie Herson
Author of “Rising The Book of Challah”

October 24
JWC Fashion Show: Beauty Within & Without

January 5
Discussion: Intimacy:
What Goes on Behind Closed Doors
with Gavriel Pollock

April 2
JWC Cooling Event: @ wildlife
Healthy Recipes for your Holidays

Register online at:
chabadgreenwich.org

GREENWICH REFORM

Israel In Your Life
Rabbi Robert Rothman
Sundays, 10:00 am

Introduction to Judaism
Rabbi Jordie Gerson
Two Tuesdays a month, 7:00 pm

SHIR AMI

Women’s Rosh Chodesh Group
Sundays, 10:30 am-12 noon, beginning October 27

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

“Cancer Solutions: Enabling the Body’s Own Defenses”
with guest speaker, Sarah A. Weiss, MD
Tuesday, September 24, 7:00 pm
Presented by the Israel Cancer Research Fund. Free but register at alice.schoen@templesholom.com.
The Accusation: Blood Libel in an American Town
Dr. Edward Berenson ................................................................. September 19
Investigate America’s only alleged case of blood libel, and what it reveals about anti-Semitism here and in Europe.

Artists and Poets Face Abraham’s Dilemmas
Rabbi Lewis Warshauer ......................................................... September 26
On Rosh Hashanah we read of the expulsion of Hagar and the binding of Isaac; let’s explore these events in word and picture.

Positive Repentance
Rabbi Simha Berger ................................................................. October 3
With Yom Kippur on the horizon, learn how to do Teshuva in a positive way.

Best of Torah Lessons
Rabbi Moshe Edelman ......................................................... October 10
‘Best of’ Torah lessons from the teachings of the first Chief Rabbi of Palestine/Pre-State of Israel.

Connecting with Compassion
Rabbi Sarah Reines ................................................................. October 17
What does Judaism say about the divine potential within each of us?

“Creation” in the Rabbis’ Perspective
Rabbi Eric Hoffman ................................................................. October 24
Let’s take it from the beginning as we restart the annual cycle of Torah readings this week.

Living Courageously
Rabbi Daniel Cohen ................................................................. October 31
Explore stories and strategies for leading a heroic life and fortifying your character every day.

Nativism in 17th-Century America
Rabbi Oran Zweiter ................................................................. November 7
How unwanted were the first Jews of New York?

When Is Thanksgiving Day in Judaism?
Chaim Lauer ................................................................. November 14
Achieving a Jewish understanding of gratitude.

Check UJA-JCC Greenwich calendar at uja-jcc.org for updated schedule.

Exploring Exodus
Text Study with Pam Ehrenkranz

October 17, November 7, December 5
January 9, February 6, March 5 | 10 AM

One Holly Hill Lane | $150

A close look at Moses, from the burning bush to encounters with Pharaoh, and how he led the Jewish people from slavery to Sinai.

In Good Faith: An Evening with Scott Shay

OCTOBER 17 | 7:30 PM

At a private home | $36 includes book and dessert

A special evening with author Scott Shay, co-founder and chairman of Signature Bank and a longstanding Jewish community activist.

Religion can be both inspiring and distressing. And many critiques of it are simultaneously compelling and dubious. Shay examines atheist arguments with a refreshing modern eye in this look at our most fundamental questions about faith and reason. Join this important discussion on faith — no matter what you believe.

Event Chairs: Sheila & Brian Neilingner
DAVIS FILM FESTIVAL

Standing Up
Q and A with filmmaker Jonathan Miller
Sept 25 | 7 pm | $15
An ultra-Orthodox Jew, a couch-surfing janitor and an Egyptian lawyer walk into a comedy club...and end up in a documentary. David Finklestein lives for standup but risks expulsion from his community with every show; Sara Parks quits work to chase her mic dreams and Raafat Toss is a lawyer who would toss everything to make it. Each comic must decide how much they’ll sacrifice for a laugh.

Jonathan Miller / Documentary / USA / 74 min.

Holy Lands
Oct 23 | 7 pm | $15
James Caan leads an all-star cast, including Rosanna Arquette, Tom Hollander, Jonathan Rhys Myers and Efrat Dor, as a retired American cardiologist who leaves everything behind to become a pig farmer in Israel. Adapting her critically acclaimed novel Les Terres Saintes, Amanda Sthers weaves a wry, moving tale of a dysfunctional family replete with an ex wife, an alienated son and a perennial student daughter striving for reconciliation and acceptance.

Amanda Sthers / Drama / France / 100 min.

Forgiveness Project

For You & Your Mom

NOVEMBER 19 | 9:30 – 11:45 AM
One Holly Hill Lane | $18 per person

Emmy award-winning filmmaker, speaker and coach, Gayle Kirschenbaum helps you discover forgiveness and self-healing in this immersive, hands-on workshop that lets you become the hero, not the victim, of your story. Following a screening of Gayle’s film Look At Us Now, Mother! which charts the transformation of her relationship with her mother from turbulence to love and friendship through understanding, acceptance and forgiveness, Gayle will help guide your own process of turning negatives into positives and anger into compassion. Learn her 7 Steps to Restoring Relationships That Matter and experience freedom and power like never before.

Co-Sponsored with:
UJA-JCC Greenwich and YWCA Greenwich Team Up for “Book Talk”

A new initiative seeks to get the Greenwich community on the same page – literally. UJA-JCC Greenwich and YWCA Greenwich are partnering on the first “Book Talk,” a community-wide reading series that curates literary titles and meaningful conversations around them.

On Thursday, November 21, at 10 am, Book Talk participants will gather at the YWCA (259 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich) to swap insights about the inaugural selection, *The Cloister*. This latest novel by National Book Award-winning author James Carroll, entwines the post-WWII dramas of a priest and a Holocaust survivor with the doomed 12th-century affair of Abelard and Héloïse.

“It’s the ideal book to kick off a community book discussion,” says Pam Ehrenkranz, who is thrilled that Sacred Heart University professor, Dr. June-Ann Greeley, with her expertise in medieval literature, religion and the Holocaust, will lead the discussion for *The Cloister*. “Set in 1950s Manhattan, Nazi-occupied Paris and Saint Denis of the 1100s, its themes of prejudice, violence and love commend it as a powerful springboard for exploring what’s happening in the world around us.”

Check ujajcc.org for the dates of the remaining two Book Talk sessions, which will take place in 2020; Nathan Englander’s *Dinner at the Center of the Earth* is the selection for session number two. Each Book Talk session is $15 per person. For registration and further information, visit the website or call 203-552-1818.

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Home-to-Dorm Care Packages

“The next best thing to having your children or grandchildren for Shabbat dinner is sending a care package,” says Gaby Isman, Chair of a new delivery service called Home-to-Dorm Traditions. The service, cooked up by the UJA-JCC Greenwich Women’s Philanthropy, lets parents send goodies for Shabbat during September, November, January and March. And for other occasions too: During the month of September, Home-to-Dorm Traditions is offering a Rosh Hashanah package with Round Challah, honey sticks, grape juice and two LED tea candles.

Beyond sending a taste of home to campus, parents can help children in need. Those who take advantage of this new service are asked to also donate to The Sandwich Club, which guarantees a sandwich at school for children who go without food at home. All are also welcome to donate to the Sandwich Club, even if not ordering a package. Big thanks to the Jewish Life and Education Committee: Joui Hessel (VP), Gaby Isman, Suzanne Katz, Kim Sands and Madeline Simon.

For additional details, visit ujajcc.org or contact Tracy at tracy@ujajcc.org.

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Braiding Community: The Greenwich Challah Bake

**A NEW VISION OF WINE, WOMEN AND SONG**

**SEPTEMBER 19 | 7 PM**

Carmel Academy, 270 Lake Avenue, Greenwich
$36 per person, $54 Sponsor, $180 Chai Sponsor (includes 3 tickets), $300 Mega Sponsor (table of 10)

Let’s gather as many women as possible for a spirited community challah bake! Invite your mother, sister, friends and Bat Mitzvah-age daughters to roll up their sleeves and prepare challah dough for Shabbat. Wine tasting, music and an inspiring challah maven who will present her secrets to success. Let’s bake history together!
On November 17, with Thanksgiving around the bend, PJ Library Greenwich gets a head start on practicing gratitude. Chaired by Rebecca Cooper and Jill Derikrava, PJ will host its first-ever “Giving Thanks Tea Party” for children who are able to sit and enjoy the company of their closest loved ones – from age 3-4 and up. Over tea and snacks, children and their special guests will have an elegant tea time visit, classic PJ Library story and memory-making craft together.

“Our Giving Thanks Tea Party is designed to connect PJ kids to the Jewish values of gratitude and honoring others, says PJ Library Chair Rebecca Cooper. “It’s time for sharing special moments with your child’s favorite person, like grandparents, close relatives – or any individual who’s very special in your child’s life.”

The party takes place at the Milbrook Club (61 Woodside Drive, Greenwich) at 3:30 pm. Tickets will be $36 per adult; $25 per child; Sponsorship at $180 includes three guests. Registration and further details are available at ujjjcc.org or by contacting Tracy Daniels at tracy@ujajcc.org or 203-552-1818.
**Greenwich Reform Book Group**

All are welcome at Greenwich Reform for the next meeting of GRS READS on Thursday, October 17, at 7 pm, for a spirited discussion about an extraordinary book, *The Great Shift – Encountering God in Biblical Times* by James Kugel, available from the Greenwich Library, bookstores, and on Amazon in print, as an e-book, or in audio format.

Author James Kugel, a world-renowned scholar, brings a lifetime of study to reveal how a pivotal transformation in spiritual experience during the Biblical Era made us who we are today.

Why does the Bible depict a world in which humans, with surprising regularity, encounter the divine – wrestling an angel, addressing a burning bush, issuing forth prophecy without any choice in the matter? These stories spoke very differently to their original audience than they do to us, and they reflect a radically distinct understanding of reality and the human mind. Yet over the course of the thousand-year Biblical Era, encounters with God changed dramatically. This transition allows us to glimpse a massive shift in human experience – the emergence of the modern, Western sense of self.

Contact Temple Administrator Hadas Elias at HadasElias@GRS.org or call 203-629-0018 with questions or to make a reservation for this free event at GRS, 92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob. Light refreshments will be served.

**Carmel Academy Announces New Director of Educational Resources and PALS Program**

Carmel Academy welcomed Lisa Corner in July as the new Director of Educational Resources and PALS (Carmel’s program for twice-exceptional students who, with appropriate supports, can be successful and achieve grade level standards and beyond).

Corner is a special educator with deep experience using many social, emotional, and behavioral curricular approaches. She began her career teaching adolescents, subsequently segueing to early childhood education when she joined the team of the Therapeutic Nursery at the Tenafly JCC. There she led the program that included speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, and intense focus on social-emotional learning, while running multiple social skills groups for children of all ages. Corner has also collaborated extensively with Dr. Michelle Dunn in her research and authorship of the Social Skills in Our Schools (SOS) curriculum, which Carmel Academy began using in 2018, and is one of the authors on the newest SOS book being published this fall.

**Homeland Security Leads Bi-Cultural Staffers in Active Shooter Drill**

Led by the US Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, as well as representatives from Stamford’s Police and Fire Departments, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy held an “Active Shooter-Based Table-Top Exercise” to test the school’s Emergency Management Plan, and validate its ability to respond to an active shooter incident on campus.

A group of key administrators, faculty and staff of BCHA spent a half day in July focusing on the most effective ways to protect the school’s students and ensure their safety in the event – however unlikely – that the school building is breached by an active shooter.

“”This was an invaluable exercise,” said Head of School Jackie Herman. “The safety and security of our children is our top priority, and we well understand the need to be prepared with a comprehensive plan that covers all bases. This exercise not only provided us with specific strategies, it also helped us zero in on what in our plan is working well and what needs to be reviewed and refined. And we’re already working on doing just that.”
Executive Director’s Corner

Why JFS – now? Historically Jewish Family Services of Greenwich has valiantly carried out the mission to improve the lives of families and individuals of all ages in Greenwich and beyond, while embracing Jewish wisdom, tradition, and compassion. But what exactly are we doing here? Let me dispel any myths and give the hard facts about the work taking place at JFS of Greenwich.

Our focus is singular: to fill the needs in this community with high quality mental health and volunteer support services. When people hear the word “need” it is understandable that most think about financial need. We proudly serve the community regardless of ability to pay. And, many of our voluntary services meet the needs of low income Greenwich residents to fill gaps in care. However, blessed with all levels of income, our therapy clients are community members just like you, dealing with common life challenges. People struggling with everyday issues have come to recognize the need for change to live more fulfilling lives. Those who reach out to JFS of Greenwich find that we have a team of seasoned professionals with decades of experience ready to welcome them in, and begin working toward emotional health.

Are you concerned about privacy? Your privacy is guarded by the Healthcare Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). When you walk through our discreet, separate entrance at the top of 1 Holly Hill Lane; you will find a serene space to begin your journey toward well-being. We make every accommodation to secure your peace of mind. If privacy is a barrier to seeking treatment we can discuss that with you before your appointment. And, please know that tele-therapy is an option for those unable to come to JFS in person.

Our mental health services include individual, family, couples, and group counseling. We have expanded our services to include an adolescent specialist. In addition to our quality mental health care, we also offer a number of volunteer services through our Bikur Cholim Program and Supermarketing for Seniors. Our Immigration Services provide crucial assistance to those obtaining citizenship or in need of information to begin the process.

Still not sure what we do at JFS of Greenwich? Call me! I guarantee your inquiry will be answered with genuine empathy and respect to guide you to the services that will fit your needs.

Respectfully,

–Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

Your Center for Wellbeing

*We Accept Most Major Insurance Plans*

♦ Moms Group
Moms will find a place to be real about the adjustment to motherhood, lifestyle changes, and anything else they are facing, in a safe and non-judgmental environment.

♦ Grief and Loss
Those who have lost a family member, spouse, or companion will gain sustenance from community, support from psychological insight, coping strategies from shared experience, and receive support from peers.

♦ Fractured Families
Are you in a broken relationship with a parent, sibling, son, daughter, grandparent, or someone else? Tune in to yourself and share your story; explore your feelings of grief, anger, forgiveness, and understanding; and identify your emotional triggers to rewire your thoughts.

♦ Stress Less
Mindfully reduce your anxiety by identifying your triggers and learn how to manage daily stressors by participating in group discussion and mindful healing.

♦ Divorce Group
Gain support, strength, and friendship from people who can relate to what you are going through.

All are welcome!

If you are interested in any of these groups or would like individual counseling, contact Melissa Knee 203-622-1881 or mknee@jfsgreenwich.org

Tribute Contributions to Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

Sammy Kafah in memory of Harold Akrongold
Robert Driesen in memory of David Resnick
Daniel Eason in memory of Richard Grossman
Nancy and Bill Zisson in memory of Richard Grossman
Phyllis Shapiro & Marty Flashner in memory of William Heller
Rita Edelston in memory of Burt Albert, father of Debbie Rosmarin
Evelyn Lampert in memory of Saul Cohen
Rachel Kornfeld honoring Barbara and Evan Salop on the birth of their first grandchild

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.
Our Newest Friendly Visitors

by Lisa Goldberg

On Friday August 2, in partnership with Greenwich Hospital, JFS of Greenwich was proud to graduate six students from our fourth class of Bikur Cholim volunteers. These six dedicated individuals are now certified to be “friendly visitors” at the hospital and senior facilities in Greenwich. Over the past three months, these candidates have studied traditional Jewish sources, combined with psychological insights, strategies, and tips for visiting patients in the hospital, all aimed at readying them for the task of visiting the infirm.

They are now ready to practice the highest ideal of our tradition, and we are extremely proud to have them as part of our caring Jewish Community. They join their fellow Bikur Cholim graduates in ensuring that no person who identifies him or herself as Jewish upon admission to Greenwich Hospital will go without a visit from and connection to our Jewish community. On average Greenwich Hospital has roughly 40 patients who self-identify as Jewish each week. We are excited to add these six talented individuals to our roster of certified Greenwich Hospital visitors. This new group of volunteers also allows us to make a greater impact to our Jewish seniors in the community longing for that connection and elated to receive a visit from one of our Bikur Cholim volunteers.

Congratulations to our graduates!

If you are interested in becoming part of an upcoming class of Bikur Cholim training, please contact Lisa Goldberg at 203-622-1881 or lmgoldberg@jfsgreenwich.org.

Book Beaters Meet to Select Titles for New Season

A number of our Book Beat readers met for dinner last month, where they chose the 2019-2020 book selections for our group to discuss. We were pleased to welcome back Lisa-Lorraine Smith, former Executive Director of JFS of Greenwich, who joined us just for the evening.

The 2019-2020 season of Book Beat, the JFS Greenwich book discussion group, will begin on Wednesday, October 2, with Button Man: A Novel, by Andrew Gross. Based on (an “only slightly embellished” version of) the author’s family history, this novel is “equal parts historical thriller, rich with the detail of a vibrant New York City in the 1920s and 1930s, and Jewish family saga….complete with appearances by real-life characters like mobsters Louis Lepke and Dutch Schultz…” (Amazon.com review) Other book titles in the 2019-2020 season include: Joshua: A Brooklyn Tale, The Mandela Plot, A Bend in the Stars, and The Diamond Setter, dates to be announced.

New members are always welcome to join Book Beat! Our first meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 2, in a private home. We convene at 7 pm to nosh and socialize. Discussion, led by Judi Margolin, gets underway at 7:30.

If you wish to join us, please contact Elyse Brown at 203-622-1881 x102 or email ebrown@jfsgreenwich.org. The fee for the six-book series is $180 (sliding scale available).

Supermarket for Seniors is Literally a Life Saver

by Elyse Brown

From the shoppers…

“My client was listless, but didn’t want to go to the doctor. I insisted that she be seen, and eventually called 911. It turns out she had a 104°F temperature due to the flu. She was treated at Greenwich Hospital, and I felt like I helped save her life. This program is so important for seniors in the community!”

“My shoppee had me pick up a cheesecake, ‘for her sister’; she later handed it to me before I left – it was really a gift for my brother, for his birthday!”

Supermarketing for Seniors is valuable not only for our clients, homebound seniors living in Greenwich, but also for their shoppers, who report satisfaction from the relationships they form with their clients. Our youngest shopper is currently a high school student; our oldest shopper is 88!

We are always looking for volunteers to join Supermarket for Seniors and would love to get you involved in this worthwhile program. In addition to shopping, we have meetings throughout the year to share ideas and learn about relevant topics of interest to seniors and those who care for them.

Please call Elyse Brown, program director, at 203-622-1881, or email ebrown@jfsgreenwich.org if you would like to learn more about Supermarket for Seniors.
Imagine the challenges a child with dyslexia faces as he or she learns to read. Then imagine how that same child feels when he or she begins trying to read Hebrew. Carmel Academy teacher Sonia Levin, a Hebrew language and reading specialist, understands this challenge better than most. She has conducted extensive research on teaching Hebrew decoding skills to children with dyslexia and other language-based learning challenges. She is using her research to develop a revolutionary Hebrew reading program at Carmel Academy.

Levin originally developed this methodology to support the students in Carmel’s PALS program. PALS is a program for twice-exceptional students with specific academic, social, or attentional challenges who, with appropriate modifications and supports, can be successful and achieve grade-level standards or beyond. She soon found, however, that her methodology was a powerful and highly effective tool to teach any child. “Hebrew is an entirely phonetic language, so this approach lends itself well to teaching Hebrew reading. We piloted the program at Carmel Academy three years ago and have seen significant gains,” Levin said. “I’ve found that it can be used to teach Hebrew reading not only to children with specific learning challenges, but to students at any level.”

Levin is now sharing her techniques with teachers throughout the country, including recently presenting her program at MATAN, a national organization that educates Jewish leaders, teachers and communities on how to create supportive learning environments. “We are thrilled to share our experience with educators in both day schools and after-school Hebrew programs,” said Carmel Head of School Nora Anderson. “There has been an immediate and overwhelming response to these workshops, making obvious the need for this novel methodology and program.”

Please contact Danielle Cohen at danielle.cohen@carmelacademy.com, or attend the Carmel Academy Open House on October 27, 2019 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm for more information.

**HEBREW WIZARDS/CONGREGATION KEHILAT SHALOM** launched its very first Adult B’Nai Mitzvah class in 2019 to allow adults to have an opportunity to make their commitment to Judaism as sons/daughters of the Commandments. The prospect of learning prayers, chanting from the Torah and delivering your heartfelt interpretation of the Torah portion may seem daunting. But…it does not have to be. Big Wizard Learning classes will be held once a month beginning in fall 2019 with adults seeking to bring out their spirituality and faith as they study and learn together. From exploring the Jews of the world, to experiencing the Jewish holidays, to developing a deeper meaning of the prayers, to Torah discussions, we will provide a fulfilling Jewish or inter-faith experience. Private one-on-one tutoring is provided in the convenience of your own home. A joint B’nai Mitzvah service can be done with fellow classmates, or individual private ceremonies can be arranged for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Our mission is to bring spirituality and the excitement of Jewish learning to everyone.

For more information contact Rabbi Deb at 203-249-4036. rabbizwizard@gmail.com www.hebrewwizards.com

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**TEMPLE SHOLOM PRESENTS**

“Be Strong and of Good Courage”

A CONVERSATION WITH DENNIS ROSS AND DAVID MAKOVSKY

Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Dennis Ross and David Makovsky will highlight four towering figures in Israeli history who “took great risks for an elusive” peace and will discuss why those qualities are needed in our current time.

$18 FOR TEMPLE SHOLOM MEMBERS & $36 FOR NON-MEMBERS IN ADVANCE

($36 FOR ALL ATTENDEES AT THE DOOR)

Register with payment to Alice Schoen at 203-542-7165 or alice.schoen@templesholom.com.

Temple Sholom
300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 203-869-7191 • www.templesholom.com

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**NEW! Terrific Tots**

15 – 22 months

This three-hour class will feature free play, circle time, art exploration, movement, and lunch. Parents/caregivers should plan on participating in the first two sessions to aid in separation.

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY
9 AM – 12 PM
at GRS | 92 Orchard Street • Cos Cob, CT

For more information, including tuition, contact Sarah Gregoire at 203-487-9444 or sggregoire@stamfordjcc.org.
Passing the Torch at Shir Ami

Passing the torch from one spiritual leader to another can bring up so many emotions as congregants and clergy simultaneously experience an ending and a new beginning. At Congregation Shir Ami we handled this recent passing of the torch in a way that demonstrates the intimacy, warmth and joy that makes our small but mighty congregation so special.

Rabbi Vicki Axe’s installation to Rabbi Emerita Axe was led by past presidents who shared meaningful words in a speech that highlighted her strengths and contributions to Shir Ami over the past 15 years. As a group they blessed her as they held a tallit she had received from the congregation over her head, and chanted a mishaberach. A gift of an orchard of 15 trees – one for each year and each one named for the many roles she played in our lives from Cantor, to Rabbi, to mentor, to friend and everything in between – was planted in her honor in Israel.

In her very thoughtful and emotional response, Rabbi Axe shared, “I know that you are in loving and caring hands with Cantor Jill Abramson, a true visionary. She brings a depth of wisdom and compassion to everything she does, and I am honored to pass the torch of leadership to my worthy successor as I embrace my new role as rabbi emerita.”

Cantor Jill Abramson was then installed by her stepmother, Rabbi Stacy Offner, who began by saying “I know who you have – you don’t know yet – but I do know, and I am so excited for you all!” Toward the end of her impactful speech she added, “You will partner with Cantor Abramson. You will watch her, you will learn from her, and you will grow into better people because of her.” The Congregation gave Cantor Abramson a beautiful new tallit, which we hope will bless her for years to come.

In her moving and inspiring response, Cantor Abramson said “Rabbi Axe, special thanks to you: I am standing on your shoulders. You have spent many years building this holy community. This congregation is the work of your hands and your heart; I pledge to dedicate myself to this community with my fullest hands and heart.”

Rabbi Emerita Axe then uninstalled Rick Mason and Dahni Nisinzweig, outgoing Board Presidents, and Cantor Abramson installed the new Co-Presidents, Jenny Lake and Susan Nisinzweig, as her first official act as Spiritual Leader of Congregation Shir Ami.

We then celebrated these most significant endings and beginnings by doing what Shir Ami does best – singing together, eating (we had a BBQ) and having fun in and out of the swimming pool. It was a perfect day!

Miriam Sperber Named Director of Admissions at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

Miriam Sperber has been appointed Director of Admissions of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford, it was announced recently by Head of School Jacqueline Herman.

“We’re pleased to welcome Miriam to our Bi-Cultural family,” noted Ms. Herman in announcing Miriam Sperber’s appointment. “Her warmth and dynamism and her commitment to the growth of the Stamford Jewish community make her the perfect person to introduce young families to all Bi-Cultural has to offer.”

A native of Montreal, Miriam Sperber received a B.A. from Yeshiva University’s Stern College in Fashion Design in a joint program with the Fashion Institute of Technology. Prior to joining Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, she provided freelance interior and website design services, as well as creative marketing services, for several Connecticut businesses.

Since moving to Stamford seven years ago, Ms. Sperber and her husband, David – the parents of two young children – have become integral parts of the Jewish community.

“Since we moved to the community, we have been welcomed with such warmth. Stamford has become the place that we call home,” says Ms. Sperber. “That’s why I am thrilled to join the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy family and excited to help grow the school and give back to the community that has given so much to me.”

To contact Miriam Sperber call 203-329-2186 x1310 or email msperber@bcis.org.

Hebrew Wizards 5780 Color War Teams: The Kings vs. The Angels
Connecticut kids with special needs set off on a fishing expedition organized by three students from Stamford’s Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, working with the C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation, an organization that enriches the lives of children with special needs, supports their families, and strengthens communities through the sport of fishing. 

Led by Ben Marcus, an avid fisherman and a junior at the BCHA Upper School, where he founded the school’s Environmental Club, kids and volunteers spent the morning fishing on the Saugatuck River in Westport, then returned for a BBQ lunch and an awards ceremony.

C.A.S.T. for Kids hosts annual fishing and boating events across America to provide children with special needs a quality outdoor recreational experience. Participants are supplied with a fishing rod & reel, t-shirt, hat, and tackle box. They are partnered with an experienced volunteer angler and escorted onto a boat where, with the supervision of a parent or guardian, they are shown proper fishing techniques and receive natural resources education.

Bi-Cultural Teens Cast Off for a Day of Fun with Special Needs Kids

Rabbi Rachmiel Gurwitz joined Carmel Academy as the school’s Rabbi-in-Residence in August. He received his smicha from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in Riverdale, and brings broad experience, having served as Jewish Chaplain and Hillel Director at Muhlenberg College Hillel in Allentown, PA, unit leader at Eden Village Camp, educator and trip leader with Jacobs International Teen Leadership Institute, and teacher with Anshe Chesed Hebrew School and JCC Meyerhoff Early Childhood Education Center.

“One thing that truly impressed me during my visit to Carmel Academy was when I asked a group of parents why they chose Carmel Academy. Every parent had their own unique answer. It showed me that Carmel Academy is a place where each student, each family is nurtured according to what they need to grow and develop their own authentic Jewish identity. I am so excited to join a community...where students of many religious observances and backgrounds can come together to enrich each other’s Jewish experience,” said Rabbi Gurwitz.

Rabbi Rachmiel Gurwitz Joins Carmel Academy

Stay in the know about the happenings in our Greenwich Jewish Community.

Send your email address to karen@ujajcc.org.

We will keep you up to date on everything you need to know – about kids, teens, young families, travel, PJ Library, newcomers, films, Lunch and Learn, Women’s Philanthropy, Israel and other Greenwich Jewish organizations.

CAMP GAN 2020

DATES & RATES

OVER 30 SPECIALTY PROGRAMS!

WEEKLY SPORTS CLINICS • RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS • HIP HOP • GOLF • INTENSIVE TENNIS • CIRCUS • LACROSSE • CODING • CULINARY • THEATER • CERAMICS • ADVENTURE AND MORE

2020 Camp Dates: June 29 - August 14

PAY IN FULL BY 8/31 FOR AN EXTRA $300 OFF FULL SUMMER

ADD UP YOUR SAVINGS:

BEST SAVINGS BEFORE 1/2/21

EXTRA SAVINGS BEFORE APRIL 30

AFTER MAY 1

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CAMP RATES INCLUDE:

- DAILY HOT LUNCH AND SNACKS
- TRIPS FOR GRADES 2 AND UP
- BUS TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT GREENWICH & STAMFORD
- PRIVATE BUS STOPS AVAILABLE

CAMP GAN FAMILY FUN DAY

12:30 - 3PM

CAMPGAN.COM

NEW THIS FALL

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

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November 17, 2019 at 6:00 PM

Hilton Stamford

Israel Cancer Research Fund
Connecticut Chapter

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ICRF Connecticut Honors 2019 Humanitarian Stuart Berni

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tali Lando Aronoff
Pediatric ENT, Surgeon, Wife, Mother and Cancer Dragon Slayer

Honorary Chair: David Martin, Stamford Mayor
Honorary Host Committee Co-Chair: Richard Blumenthal
US Senator

Tickets, Sponsorships, Donations and Information:
www.ICRFCTGala.org

ICRF-CT Chapter Chairman: Leslie Freedman, PhD
Heroes for Hope Event Chair: Jerry Silber

Is a US based non-profit, for 45 years enabling Israeli scientists to devise major breakthroughs in Cancer Research.
ICRF has funded 2500 grants totaling more than $70 million throughout Israel’s major institutions.
Dear Friends,

Just a few weeks ago, I began as Cantor and Spiritual Leader of Congregation Shir Ami. I am blessed to have begun a new chapter in my own professional life and the life of the congregation.

For the last twelve years, I have served as the Senior Cantor of Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, NY. Before coming to New York, my husband and I lived in Chicago where I began my career as Cantor and Director of Education of Congregation Sukkat Shalom in the Chicago suburb of Wilmette, IL.

I’ve also served as adjunct faculty for a number of years at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City, where I’ve taught in the Cantorial School; this fall I began a new appointment as Program Associate to the Cantorial School to extend efforts in the areas of curriculum development, admissions, recruitment and alumni mobilization.

We are no strangers to the Greenwich community: our son is a rising third grader at Carmel Academy in Greenwich. As a family, we are drawn to Jewish community that embraces diversity of practice and values pluralism. In fact, those same values drew me to Shir Ami, which welcomes those from diverse Jewish backgrounds or those choosing Judaism as a spiritual path. I look forward to meeting and welcoming anyone wishing to join our community.

I also look forward to meeting other Jewish clergy in the Greenwich community and clergy partners of other faith traditions. Now is a time to join together as people of faith to be voices for justice.

Please join us for an adult education offering or a worship service. I’ll be teaching a number of courses that apply ancient wisdom to contemporary dilemmas. In my teaching I aim to stimulate the mind and cultivate spiritual depth. Perhaps the medieval Jewish commentator, Rashi, said it best: “Study in joy and good cheer according to your head and your heart.” Our worship is also a place to join in; come ready to sing! I believe there is powerful spiritual expression in joining our voices together in song and praise. Our worship is a tapestry of music and liturgy, where creativity and tradition live side by side.

We value legacy and innovation. We are excited about the Jewish future, and we look forward to welcoming you.

L’Shalom,
Cantor Jill Abramson
With a history going back more than 5000 years, Israel is a country that offers travelers historic, spiritual and cultural experiences, with more than 200 museums, unique opportunities for engaging with the local community, and to enjoy a thriving night life and vibrant food scene, riveting architecture and beautiful hotels. Whether you are a first-time visitor, a family looking to add an element of “giving back” to your trip, or an expert traveler who would like to find “out of the box” curated experiences, Israel has a multitude of opportunities.

For first-time visitors, we realize not everything can be covered in one trip, so let’s take a peek at a few of Israel’s main highlights: Enjoy the life of an archaeologist as you participate in an actual excavation in underground caves, and tour through the ancient subterranean city of Maresha; discover a secret bullet factory where Jews worked and helped Israel win the War of Independence; take a thrilling ATV drive through fruit orchards and historical areas in Northern Israel; take a spiritual and artistic journey through Tzfat, the capital of Kabbalah; go on a spectacular hike through the gardens, and waterfalls of Ein Gedi, the largest oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea; climb Masada early in the morning to see the sun rise; float in the saltiest water on earth, the Dead Sea; explore Caesarea, an awe-inspiring ancient city built in the 1st century; delve into the history of the magnificent city of Jerusalem, and visit the Old City, Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Ben Yehuda Street, The City of David and the South Wall Excavations.

In addition to Israel’s historical sites, there are numerous opportunities to volunteer in a meaningful way with local organizations. The Jewish people have a deep-rooted understanding and longing to be engaged in Jewish causes. What better way to express this interest, while proudly standing in the land of Israel?

UJA-JCC Greenwich has many opportunities to volunteer in Israel, and here are just a few of our partners, where our community members have volunteered.

**Leket Israel**, the National Food Bank, rescues healthy, surplus food and delivers it to more than 200 nonprofit partners throughout Israel. Volunteers have various opportunities to provide hands-on help. They can pick fruits and vegetables from the agricultural fields or they can sort and pack in the logistics center for distribution. Leket Israel relies on more than 50,000 volunteers per year, and this has truly made a difference for the hungry people of Israel.

**Pantry Packers** is a large food distribution center. Every month Pantry Packers delivers crates containing all the necessary foods and household supplies to Israel’s poorest families and senior citizens. At the Pantry Packers facility in Jerusalem, visitors age eight and up don gloves, aprons and caps in order to fill bags of rice, beans and other commodities for the food baskets. UJA-JCC’s sister city **Afula** always welcomes people from our community, where you can spend time volunteering by making sandwiches at The Sandwich Club or visiting the teenagers at the youth center. In addition to volunteering, you are always welcome to visit the many JDC and Jewish Agency supported programs that will warm your heart and connect your family in a hands-on way with Jewish philanthropy. This is the best way to see how your gift has made a difference, from Holocaust survivors to youth at risk.

If you are interested in custom-tailored experiences, there is something for every interest. For wine connoisseurs, Israel’s wineries offer wine education, cheese and chocolate tastings and private vineyard tours. For art enthusiasts, Tel Aviv has a thriving art scene, and you are invited to visit modern Israeli artists in their studios. These are just a small sampling of the many experiences seasoned Israel travelers can enjoy.

Michele Stuart is the owner and founder of Stuart Luxury Travel. You can reach Michele at 917-916-2819 or michele@stuartluxurytravel.com.

**JDC photography with Joy** – a project for Holocaust survivors. **RSVP:** 203-983-3503

**Journeys to Israel Are Always Meaningful**

**by Michele Stuart**

Judy Blumberg at Leket Israel.

Michele Stuart is the owner and founder of Stuart Luxury Travel. You can reach Michele at 917-916-2819 or michele@stuartluxurytravel.com.

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**Carmel Academy Open House**

**Sunday, October 27th | 10 AM - 12 PM**

Take a tour of our state-of-the-art, 50,000 square foot campus located in East Greenwich, RI. You’ll be greeted by our faculty and students who will show you around and answer any questions you might have. Recruiters will be available to speak with you about financial aid, admissions and the college application process.

**RSVP:** 203-983-3503

**hello@carmelacademy.com**

www.carmelacademy.com

A private school in Greenwich, CT for children of all Jewish affiliations serving students through 8th grade.

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**“JDC photography with Joy” – a project for Holocaust survivors.**

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**Come learn how Carmel Academy’s individualized, whole-child approach nurtures and challenges our students to achieve their fullest potential.**
We are thrilled to welcome Cori as the new JTAC advisor! Cori is a “wandering Jew” who has lived all over the world. She has finally put down roots in Old Greenwich with her family. When not trying to get a laugh on social media, she enjoys baking, dreaming of fast cars and hanging out at community events. Cori is actively involved with UJA-JCC Greenwich and a member of the Women's Philanthropy Board.

Cori SaNogueira is the New JTAC Advisor!!

JTAC Teen Action Committee

One Holly Hill Lane | $136 per year includes all meetings and projects

Teen-led activities and community service projects for middle and high school students in grades 6-12. Sunday evening meetings include dinner, discussions and project planning.

For more info contact Cori SaNogueira, JTAC Advisor, cori@ujajcc.org

SEPTEMBER 22 | 5:30-7 PM
Opening Meeting | $12

OCTOBER 27 | 5:30-7 PM
Meeting | $12

DECEMBER 8
Community Service Project, Warm-Up to Giving | $12
We will meet in Greenwich, take the train to NYC and go to an apartment building run by the Met Council. Next, we will prepare warm-up packages (gift bags with gloves, hand warmers, a special treat and tea) and deliver them door to door.

JANUARY 5
5:30-7 PM
Meeting | $12

NOVEMBER 17
Thanksgiving cooking project | $30
196 Greyrock Place, Stamford
Meet at the Schoke JFS in Stamford to cook Thanksgiving items for the Food Pantry.

MARCH 29
Community Service Project | $36

APRIL 26
5:30-7 PM
Meeting | $12

MAY 3
Yom Ha'Atzmaut Volunteer Project | 10:30 AM | Town Hall

MAY 17 | 5:30-7 PM
End of year meeting & celebration | $25

PJ in the Park with My Gym
Emerging Leaders and Philanthropists celebrated the start of summer together at Summer Fiesta! hosted by Stephanie and Marc Esquenazi. The group enjoyed a festive social evening with signature drinks and Mexican fare while also learning how they are helping to create stronger Jewish communities in partnership with UJA-JCC Greenwich. Stephanie, who serves as Vice President of Women’s Philanthropy and Chair of Emerging Leaders and Philanthropists, was delighted to plan the program and welcome guests for a meaningful evening. “UJA-JCC Greenwich is the hub of a diverse community that includes Jews of all backgrounds. As Emerging Leaders and Philanthropists, we feel that together we can make an impact within our community and beyond, invest in experiences that connect Jews to one another, and help shape our Jewish future.”
"You taught me that I can make a difference."

YOU POWER COMMUNITY

When I moved to Greenwich, I didn’t really know anyone. I was greeted with a basket, invited to the UJA-JCC’s Women’s Education Symposium and welcomed to the community. By attending programs, I made friends and became an active member in UJA-JCC’s Emerging Leaders and Philanthropists. Through our shared interest in caring for others, I’m proud to say that I’m part of something that’s making a difference in people’s lives – here in Greenwich and around the world.

Your support of UJA-JCC powers programs that build community and help thousands of Jews in need, wherever they live.

THAT’S WHO WE ARE.

GIVE TODAY