Making Jewish Fairfield County Safer

From its founding in 1955, the Jewish Federation of Greenwich put its resources and efforts toward supporting Jewish communities in need around the world. Now, with hate crimes on the rise in North America – often aimed at Jewish institutions such as temples, day schools, camps, JCCs and other Jewish organizations – its successor organization, UJA-JCC Greenwich, has allocated some of those resources and efforts to support the safety of Jewish Fairfield County.

The UJA-JCC Greenwich Board of Director members voted unanimously to hire a regional security advisor through the Secure Community Network (SCN) and approved the contract on June 15. The SCN, a nonprofit organization, was created in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Its strategy of information sharing and preventative security is recognized as a national model by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. UJA-JCC Greenwich will partner with the neighboring Federations of Stamford, New Haven and Western Connecticut to enlist the SCN’s services.

“Sadly, today’s escalation in extremism, terrorism and anti-Semitic violence has forced us to step up our preparedness and vigilance to protect our people and sacred spaces,” said Pam Ehrenkranz, CEO of UJA-JCC Greenwich. “These attacks are often perpetrated by individuals acting alone, with little or no warning, after robust engagement with anti-Semitic websites. We look forward to working with a SCN security professional to pool our intel and shore up communal safety in Fairfield County.”

“The Secure Community Network will enhance our awareness on the ground through timely and credible threat information while also developing and implementing the infrastructure and protocols to keep our communities safe,” noted Board Co-President Bryanna Kallman. “And God forbid, in the event of an incident, our security advisor will be there to liaise with local, state and federal law enforcement and to provide crisis management as events unfold.”

A critical facet of the SNC offering is to train and educate community members. The SCN advisor will offer trainings for UJA-JCC Greenwich and its sister federations in Fairfield County. Refer to ujajcc.org for details about these programs, which will include situation awareness trainings as well as trainings to counter active threats.

“A well-trained citizen corps can make a real difference in the safety of a community,” said Michael Delikat, UJA-JCC Greenwich Co-President. “We are fortunate to soon have the opportunity to learn fundamental security routines from a pro and to proactively take measures against threats that may arise.”
Cori SaNogueira Steps into New Role

Cori SaNogueira is thrilled to be taking on the role of PJ Library and Youth Experiences Director. She is an Old Greenwich resident who happily had numerous PJ Library books delivered to her three children over the years. As a past PJ Planner and Chair she has seen first hand the benefits of PJ family programming. Piloting the first Teen Changemakers cohort brings her passions of community building, education, Israel and philanthropy together. We welcome the additional time that Cori will be investing in the future of Jewish Greenwich!

PJ Pails Celebrates Tu B’Av – Holiday of LOVE!

The final PJ Pail in this year’s series of four distributions was in honor of the Jewish Holiday Tu B’Av, Holiday of Love. PJ children received red heart-shaped buckets filled with arts and crafts activities focused around the theme of love. For information about our next PJ Pail distribution, contact Cori SaNogueira at Cori@ujajcc.org or 203-552-1818.

PJ Library Hosts Sweet Summer Soirée

PJ Library members sipped wine and enjoyed delicious desserts under the stars at the beautiful Greenwich Historical Society on August 12, all to support PJ Library.

A very big thank you to the event hosts: Jessica and Daniel Alterbaum, Marissa and Jarret Cohen, Rebecca and Marshall Cooper, Stacey Delikat and Robert Marmor, Morgan and Phillip Druce, Vlad and Joshua Epstein, Meredith and Oren Isacoff, Becky and Brad Leader, Staci and Jonathan Levy, and Lauren Yeager and Elliot Wagner.

Thank You To Our Generous Sponsors:

- **JESSICA & DANIEL ALTERBAUM**
- **KAREN & ERIC BEILEY**
- **MARISSA & JARRET COHEN**
- **REBECCA & MARSHALL COOPER**
- **STACEY DELIKAT & ROBERT MARMOR**
- **VLADA & JOSHUA EPSTEIN**
- **ASYA & MICHAEL GELLER**
- **JORDAN & DOUG SANDERS**
- **RITA & MATTHEW TEICHNER**
- **CHRISTINE & JEFF TOBACK**
UJA-JCC Greenwich Welcomes Newcomers at the Beach!

UJA-JCC Greenwich held a fun newcomers welcome event at beautiful Tod’s Point Beach. Everyone enjoyed a hot cup of coffee, accompanying fresh bagels and cream cheese. While the adults mingled and introduced themselves to one another, the kids had a blast engaging in arts and crafts at picnic tables, while making new friends. Thanks to our event hosts, Abby Vorobeychik (Newcomers Chair), and Christine Toback (Women’s Philanthropy President).
THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

Bet Singer Youth Village
Making a Difference in Young People’s Lives

Our Greenwich Jewish Community is part of Southern New England Consortium (SNEC), which holds deep connections with the Gilboa region, in Northeast Israel. Some 100 children in need of a warm, safe house find it at this boarding school.

Not too long ago we contributed toward a therapeutic zoo for these young residents. Most recently, we were able to donate box games and educational equipment for the children during the summer camp season and for ongoing use in the learning center. These games and equipment help reduce the learning gaps the children experience, greatly exacerbated during the pandemic.

Here are some photos showing the kids with big smiles of gratitude.

If you wish to visit Bet Singer on your next trip to Israel, please contact Pam at 203-552-1818 to tailor your trip.

DONATE TO DIGNITY GROWS™

18 dollars can make someone’s month!

The lack of menstrual supplies can negatively affect a person’s quality of life, making it difficult or impossible to do routine things like attend school or go to work. Federal grant programs don’t cover these items, which are rarely donated to food pantries. Dignity Grows™ provides assistance to people in need of menstrual products and toiletries by providing a pre-packaged, one month’s supply.

UJA-JCC Greenwich is the first chapter in this national initiative started by the Jewish Federation in Hartford. In 2020, we distributed 265 bags to Jewish Family Services Greenwich and Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County, Neighbor to Neighbor, MetCouncil on Jewish Poverty and the YWCA. Help us do even more this year!

Visit www.UJAJCC.org to donate $18 or purchase products to impact someone’s life!

Hebrew Wizards Brings Camp into the Classroom

Each Year we choose two heroes whom we can honor and emulate as Captains of our Color War teams. This summer Blue team selected Zoom Founder, Eriam Gold to compete against Gold team selection, Pfizer CEO, Dr. Albert Bourla.

Our Teams compete in the following four categories: Learning: Hebrew Reading, Bible Boards, Prayer Ladders and Jewish Holidays.


COLOR WAR 2021-2022
HEBREW WIZARDS

HEROES OF THE PANDEMIC

DR. ALBERT BOURLA, CEO OF PFIZER-AND VACCINE INVENTOR
MR. ERIC WUAN, CEO & FOUNDER OF ZOOM COMMUNICATIONS
Greenwich Reform:
Exciting Programming for All Ages

Mark your calendars for these exciting programs. All are welcome but reservations are required!

Rabbi Laura Geller,
Sunday, October 10, 10 am: Rabbi Geller will lead a discussion on Jewish sacred aging, inspired by her book, Getting Good at Getting Older. Jewish tradition and culture gives you the tools to bring meaning and purpose to this stage of life, and transforms the paradigm of aging from decline to opportunity.

Rabbi Noah Greenfield, Sundays, October 24 and 31, 10:30 am: Back by popular demand, Rabbi Greenfield will be continuing his popular series, “Morals and Mammon: Jewish Ethics and American Business.”

Michal Nachmany, Sunday, November 14, 10 am: Join us for a multi-generational, family-friendly, multi-media collage-making workshop, led by Israeli artist Michal Nachmany: “The mixture of colors, sounds, and smells from the streets and the markets of Jerusalem shaped my awareness of the past as a foundation of the present. Together, we can create pieces with several layers, textures, and techniques, such as collaging, printmaking, acrylic painting, and drawing.”

For further details, call GRS at 203-629-0018, email info@GRS.org, or visit www.GRS.org.
**HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5782**

**Greenwich Reform**
High Holy Day Services   2021/5782
92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob - (203) 629-0018 - www.grs.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selichot</td>
<td>Saturday, August 28</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dessert Reception</td>
<td></td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erev Rosh Hashanah</td>
<td>Monday, September 6</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosh Hashanah</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 7</td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tot Service *</td>
<td></td>
<td>9:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Morning Service *</td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Morning Service</td>
<td></td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive In Shofar Service *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Day of Rosh Hashanah</td>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tashlich Walk in Pomerance Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom Kippur Kol Nidre</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 15</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom Kippur</td>
<td>Thursday, September 16</td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tot Service *</td>
<td></td>
<td>9:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Morning Service *</td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Morning Service</td>
<td></td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yizkor/Neilah Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Outdoor service
  Indoor services open to vaccinated persons only; masks required at all services for those age 3 and up.

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

---

**Nature Therapy Placemaking with Maura Smotrich on July 19**

UJA-JCC Greenwich hosted a Nature Therapy program at the home of Maura Smotrich, certified Nature Therapy Guide. Maura led participants through an immersive experience, inviting them to awaken their senses through nature – and the lens of Judaism for relaxation and restoration. The program ended with a tea ceremony.

Pictured from left to right: Felice Robinov, Gaby Iman, Maura Smotrich, Ellen Wolfson, Heidi Lobel, Joan Mann, Randie Katznel and Phyllis Schondorf
HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5782

Kehilat Shalom/Hebrew Wizards
High Holiday Services 5782
The First United Methodist Church
59 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT
Rabbi Deb’s Home
130 Cummings Point Road, Stamford, CT 06902

Rosh Hashanah 5782
Rosh Hashanah Day 1 (Methodist Church)
Tuesday Sept. 7th 10:30am-12:15pm
Rosh Hashanah Day 2 (Rabbi Deb’s)
Wednesday Sept. 8th 10:30am-12:00pm
Luncheon sponsored by Hebrew Wizards & the Bergman family

Yom Kippur 5782
Kol Nidre Evening (Methodist Church)
Wednesday Sept. 15th 7:30-8:45pm
Yom Kippur Day (Methodist Church)
Thursday Sept. 16th 10:30am-12:15pm
Neilah & Break the Fast (Rabbi Deb’s)
Thursday Sept. 16th 6:00-8:30pm

Sukkot 5782
Sukkah Decorating (Rabbi Deb’s)
Tuesday Sept. 21st 4:30-6:00pm

We look forward to sharing these meaningful Holidays with you and your family. May you all be filled with gratitude & appreciation as we meet in person once again. Wishing you a very Happy & Healthy New Year 5782.

With Love and Gratitude, Rabbi Deb and the Wizards Staff

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.
Greenwich Reform Synagogue Religious School

Our Kids Love Being Jewish!

Your kids will love these upcoming events and programs!

• Sukkot: Creating both model and edible sukkot
• Simchat Torah: Dancing & singing with the Torah and a Torah scavenger hunt
• Mitzvah Makers: Students earn “Mitzvah hours” through performing acts of loving-kindness
• Student-led family services complete with creative Torah plays
• Special music and art workshops and programs

Join us! For details, call 203-629-0018, email Religious School Director, Cantor Michelle Rubin: cantorrubin@GRS.org, or visit www.GRS.org.

Essential Jewish Conversation to Continue 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.

The enthusiastically attended Essential Jewish Conversation class will continue this year at Congregation Shir Ami. Together we will explore a variety of topics which seek to explore the nexus of Jewish values and contemporary issues. The class is open to anyone and we'd love for you to join us!

At this time, we expect this class to be held via Zoom. Pre-registration will be necessary for each date in order to receive the link.

Details can be found on our congregation's web site at www.conglicationshirami.org.

Enrollment at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Soars

Enrollment at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) is on a steep rise, with a near record 70 new students expected to enter the school this fall, according to Miriam Sperber, BCHA admissions director. With most of these new students entering pre-K and kindergarten, Sperber says, for the first time these grades will grow from one or two classrooms to three classrooms. While the school's two youngest grades are seeing the most impressive increase in numbers, other grades in the BCHA Lower, Upper and Middle Schools, are also seeing substantial increases.

Why? No one can say for sure, but Sperber believes it is at least partially a result of the sizable influx of families moving into the Stamford area from the New York area. “A lot of families with young children moved in this past year, and they're now looking for a Jewish day school for their children," she notes. BCHA Upper School Principal Rabbi Shimmy Trencher adds that the school's increased numbers are also accounted for this year by the school's reach into New York's Westchester County. In fact, says Rabbi Trencher, "Many new students are coming to BCHA from other schools, a range of other Jewish day and public and private schools."

Rachel Haron, BCHA interim associate head of school, believes there is yet another reason families from near and far attracted to the Jewish day school. "Rooted in Jewish teachings and values, Bi-Cultural is committed to nourishing, molding and shaping youngsters into lifelong learners inspired by curiosity, kindness and tikkun olam, improving the world," she notes. "We are thrilled to welcome so many new children and families to Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy!"
One day some years back, I took a bunch of our children out to the supermarket for a pre-Rosh Hashanah shopping spree. We made our way up and down the aisles, filled the shopping cart and proceeded to check out. The kids were relatively well-behaved, but it’s always a challenge responding to their requests for this treat, that snack or another drink. I must have seemed a bit overwhelmed because the woman behind us in the check-out line gave me this pitiful look and said softly, “Why don’t you leave half your kids at home?” To which I flatly responded, “I did.” Talk about being overwhelmed – she almost fell to the ground. “I need to meet your wife!” “Oh, you bet you do.”

I take this opportunity in the days leading up to the Jewish New Year when we celebrate the creation of the first human to address any parents-to-be in our community who are contemplating having a(nother) child. No doubt you are pondering – as you should – this awesome responsibility and the demands it will make on you, on your marriage, on your emotional capacity, and on your financial resources. I’m not here to tell you that your concerns are exaggerated. They aren’t. Conceiving and bringing a new life into this world is serious business. But that’s exactly the point – “business.” What a great analogy. Children are an investment. And when we bring everything to bear and focus our energies on this investment, then the rewards, the dividends and the profits to be gained far outweigh the costs and the risks associated with parenting. The “yield” rises to a scale that is absolutely unprecedented in any other type of investment on planet Earth. It makes compound interest look like bubkes.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the 70th birthday of a very prominent Jewish educator – may G-d bless her with many more years of health and happiness. What was fascinating about the family members, friends and students who had come to celebrate, was the multi-generational mix. There was the young mother who was a student in the first class of the pre-school this woman has founded. She showed me a picture of her Pre-K class, and pointed to her then-4-year-old husband sitting right next to her. Their children are, of course, enjoying that pre-school today.

Then there was the FaceTime call the birthday girl took from her 3-month-old great-grandson. And then there was a friend named Barbara, who described walking down the street with her children some 30-odd years ago and bumping into this prominent woman. The friend complained about how she doesn’t have much time anymore to devote to her artwork. “Barbara,” she said, while pointing to Barbara’s young children at her side, “these are your masterpieces.” Barbara shared that encounter as a transformative moment, one that gave her a paradigm that she treasures to this day, and to which she attributes so much of the happiness in her life.

The key is to see parenting as an investment, not a burden that gets in the way of anything else you would like to do. For there is nothing that any of us would like to do more than making this world a beautiful place. And there is nothing that makes this world a more beautiful place more than raising beautiful children.

Shana Tova U’Metukah!

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
The Town of Greenwich Department of Public Works is asking the community to visit greenwichstreetscape.com – a new and interactive website to solicit valuable public feedback during the conceptual stages of the Greenwich Avenue Streetscape project. With safety, accessibility, and aesthetics in mind, this project was created in an effort to revitalize Greenwich Avenue, an iconic street and the premier shopping destination in the heart of our town and to design key safety measures for everyone – including pedestrians, people with disabilities, bicyclists, motorists and baby carriages. To learn more about the Greenwich Avenue Streetscape project and to provide feedback, please visit greenwichstreetscape.com.

It’s YOUR Avenue and We Want to Hear From You!

Welcome to Greenwich
We’d Love to Hear from You!

We are delighted to welcome and introduce you to Greenwich. If you know of newcomers in town who would like to learn more about our vibrant and exciting Jewish community, please contact us at 203-552-1818. We will extend a hearty “Welcome!”

Abby Vorobeychik, Chair
UJA-JCC Greenwich Newcomer Committee

Advanced Electronic Systems, LLC
Howard Friedman
President

Phone (203) 846-0700
www.aesalarm.com
Fire and Burglar Alarms Serviced Locally Since 1973

AmazonSmile
You shop – Amazon gives to UJA-JCC Greenwich!

Just select UJA-JCC Greenwich as your chosen charity, and start your first shopping session at smile.amazon.com.

Happy shopping!
September 2021

September 2
Teshuva as Confession of Sin: Jewish Guilt or Christian Absolution
Tanya White

September 9
Would Sarah Have Sacrificed Isaac?
Dr. Aaron Koller

September 16
Yom Kippur, no class

September 23
Jewish Gangsters
Michael Feldstein

September 30
Searching for Eden
Rabbi David Silber

October 2021

October 7
The Noahide Flood as a Pandemic: Cosmic Vulnerability, Human Responsibility and COVID-19 from a Biblical Perspective
Dr. Job Jindo

October 14
Jewish Bioethics and Public Health
Rabbi Lila Kagedan

October 21
Jewish Spirituality and Mindfulness
Rabbi David Ingber

October 28
Joseph’s Bones and the Jewish Tradition of Memory
Reb. Simha Raphael, PhD

November 2021

November 4
The Most Radical Time of the Year
Rabbi Yonah Berman

November 11
To Repair the World: Which World and How Much?
Rabbi Joanna Samuels

November 18
The Mishnah’s Lost Rabbi: The Maidervant of Rabbi Judah the Prince
Rabbi Leah Sarna

November 25
Thanksgiving, no class

To register, please go to UJAJCC.org or call 203-552-1818.
Enjoy the Davis Film Festival (at home)!

Grab your popcorn and enjoy these quality films from the comfort of your own couch. All features streaming through 9PM on the final day of showing.

**THE RABBI FROM HEZBOLLAH**
Itamar Chen | Documentary | Israel | 64 min.
Who would believe that Avraham Sinai, an ultra-Orthodox Jew living in Israel, is also Ibrahim Yassin—one of Israel’s top international spies with a turbulent association to Hezbollah? What sounds like the plot of an action movie comes straight from the annals of Middle Eastern history.
Sun, Sept 12 at 5 pm through Tue, Sept 14 at 9 pm
STREAM FOR $9

**THE DEAD OF JAFFA**
Ram Loevy | Drama | Israel | 96 min.
Three West Bank children are smuggled into Israel and dumped on a Palestinian-Israeli couple in Jaffa. George fears that hiding illegal aliens will mean disaster, while Rita believes they could give meaning to her life. As he struggles to contain secrets, George is cast in a historical drama set during the civil war in British Mandatory Palestine. When the two stories intertwine, tensions erupt.
Sun, Oct 10 at 5 pm through Tue, Oct 12 at 9 pm
STREAM FOR $9

**IN THE NAME OF THE DAUGHTER**
Liran Shitrit | Dramatic Thriller | Israel | 39 min.
A father whose daughter was killed in a terror attack sets out on a quest for vengeance against the man who took everything from him and is now about to be released from prison. This quest will test his values and beliefs while threatening to cross the fine line between serving justice and blind revenge.
Sun, Oct 17 pm at 5 pm until Tue, Oct 19 at 9 pm
STREAM FOR $9

**THE TIGER WITHIN**
Rafal Zielinksy | Drama | USA | 98 min.
A young punk who thinks she knows it all and an old man who knows he doesn’t strike up a conversation on the streets of Los Angeles. He is a Holocaust survivor; she a massage-parlor worker on the run and a Holocaust denier. She tells him she hates Jews; he asks her if she needs a place to stay. The two form an unlikely bond. Ed Asner stars in this absorbing drama that sparks larger questions about family, love and our divided world.
Sun, Nov 14 at 5 pm through Tue, Nov 16 at 9 pm
STREAM FOR $9

**THE CONDUCTOR**
Alon Zingman / Drama / Israel / 40 min. per episode
Co-starring Lior Ashkenazi and Shira Haas, this acclaimed series from the director of Shtisel follows Noah, a world-renowned orchestra conductor who abandons fame and fortune to return home to Petah Tikvah after 30 years. There he finds his father in a state of progressive Alzheimer’s, with singing in the community choir as his only remaining joy. When the choir’s conductor passes away, Noah makes the choice of a lifetime and decides to take his place. All the while, he is slowly going deaf.
First five episodes available to stream from:
Sunday, December 19 at 5 pm through Wednesday, January 19 at 9PM
Second five episodes available to stream from:
Sunday, January 23 at 5PM through Tuesday, February 22 at 9PM
STREAM BOTH FOR $18

To register, please go to UJAJCC.org or call 203-552-1818.
UJA-JCC Greenwich and AuthorsLive at Greenwich Library Present

Wildland: An Evening with Author Evan Osnos.
In Conversation with Andrew Marantz, Staff Writer, The New Yorker

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 • 7:30PM
Free - Reservation Required

To register, please go to UJAJCC.org or call 203-552-1818.

After a decade abroad, the National Book Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Evan Osnos returns to Greenwich and two other U.S. cities he once called home, to illuminate the seismic changes in American politics and culture that crescendoed during the pandemic. His conversations with local residents in all three places coax out intricate details of individual lives and how they entwine with the state of the nation. Whether exploring the rightward shift of the Republican Party here in Greenwich, the collapse of social infrastructure and possibility in Clarksburg, WV or the compounded effects of segregation and violence in Chicago, IL, Wildland: The Making of America’s Fury exposes critical fault lines in the national psyche and envisions what it will take to once again see ourselves as larger than the sum of our parts.

Limited (110) in-person attendance at The Berkley Theater, Greenwich Library, 101 West Putnam Avenue. First come, first served.

December 1 | 7 PM
Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT
Patron $613 includes 4 tickets
Sponsor $360 includes 2 tickets
Event Tickets:
$36 in advance
$50 at the door

Join us for this delayed—but much anticipated—Golden Ticket Series Event! An Evening with the Gershwins features the singing quartet of Rebecca Cooper, Marissa Coretese, Jacob Litt and Brian Rosenblum who will be accompanied by a three-piece orchestra. Also back for an encore is Broadway producer Jack Viertel, who will give commentary on lyrics, plays and the history of George and Ira Gershwin. Enjoy this incredible performance orchestrated by Event Director, Rebecca Cooper, Artistic Director, Marissa Cortese and Musical Director, Zachary Kampler.

To register, please visit UJAJCC.org or call 203-552-1818.

Building Bridges Not Boycotts
30 Minutes with...Ashager Araro Live From Israel
Tuesday, October 19, 10:30 am
Born en route to Israel during Operation Solomon, this prominent Ethiopian Israeli activist and IDF veteran is on the frontlines of the faceoff against racism, anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on campus and beyond. Hear her story and her battle plan.
Zoom link will be provided upon Registration. FREE to attend.
To register, please visit UJAJCC.org or call 203-552-1818.
With the launch of my investment practice, Merritt Point Wealth Advisors, I am pursuing my core mission of empowering women with financial knowledge so that they can take control of their financial lives through comprehensive investment planning.

My areas of specialty include:
- Portfolio Management
- Comprehensive Investment Management
- Income Generation
- Retirement Planning
- Asset Diversification
- Liability Management
- Debt Management
- Alternative Investment Solutions
Your Used Vehicle Fuels Our Future
Donate a used vehicle (car, truck, van, or boat in ANY condition) to UJA-JCC Greenwich!
We pick up your vehicle for free
You get a tax deduction
Proceeds from the sale help care for those in need here in Greenwich, in Israel and around the world
Contact Karen at 203-552-1818 or karen@ujajcc.org
www.ujajcc.org/donateacar

WIZ KIDZ DAY CAMP
6 WEEKS – 2021

WE WERE SO PROUD TO OFFER 12 CAMPERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND OUR 6-WEEK CAMP. FROM ARTS & CRAFTS TO OUTSIDE SPORTS, TO SWIMMING, BOATING, AND THE BEACH, OUR WIZ KIDZ HAD A FABULOUS SUMMER. IN-NEED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER 2022.
INFO: RABBI DEB 203-249-4036

Camp Gan had another successful, sold-out summer with more than 280 campers!

Temple Sholom
“AN INSIDER’S PERSPECTIVE”
WITH FORMER ISRAELI AMBASSADOR
RON DERMER

Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 pm at Temple Sholom

Ambassador Dermer is an American-born Israeli political consultant and diplomat who served as the Israeli Ambassador to the United States from 2013 to 2021. He gave up his American citizenship in 2005 to become Israel’s economic envoy to the U.S. Additionally, Ambassador Dermer served as senior advisor to immediate past Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for four years.

$18 for Temple Sholom members • $25 for Non-members
$180 for Intimate Cocktail Reception & Meet & Greet Beforehand

Purchase tickets at: www.templesholom.com/ambassadorodermer
300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT • 203-869-7191

WFZ KIDZ DAY CAMP
6 WEEKS – 2021

WE WERE SO PROUD TO OFFER 12 CAMPERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND OUR 6 WEEK CAMP. FROM ARTS & CRAFTS TO OUTSIDE SPORTS, TO SWIMMING, BOATING, & THE BEACH, OUR WIZ KIDZ HAD A FABULOUS SUMMER. IN-NEED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER 2022.
INFO: RABBI DEB 203-249-4036

WE WERE SO PROUD TO OFFER 12 CAMPERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND OUR 6 WEEK CAMP. FROM ARTS & CRAFTS TO OUTSIDE SPORTS, TO SWIMMING, BOATING, & THE BEACH, OUR WIZ KIDZ HAD A FABULOUS SUMMER. IN-NEED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER 2022.
INFO: RABBI DEB 203-249-4036

WE WERE SO PROUD TO OFFER 12 CAMPERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND OUR 6 WEEK CAMP. FROM ARTS & CRAFTS TO OUTSIDE SPORTS, TO SWIMMING, BOATING, & THE BEACH, OUR WIZ KIDZ HAD A FABULOUS SUMMER. IN-NEED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER 2022.
INFO: RABBI DEB 203-249-4036

WE WERE SO PROUD TO OFFER 12 CAMPERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND OUR 6 WEEK CAMP. FROM ARTS & CRAFTS TO OUTSIDE SPORTS, TO SWIMMING, BOATING, & THE BEACH, OUR WIZ KIDZ HAD A FABULOUS SUMMER. IN-NEED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER 2022.
INFO: RABBI DEB 203-249-4036

“An Insider’s Perspective”
Ron Dermer
Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 pm at Temple Sholom

Ambassador Dermer is an American-born Israeli political consultant and diplomat who served as the Israeli Ambassador to the United States from 2013 to 2021. He gave up his American citizenship in 2005 to become Israel’s economic envoy to the U.S. Additionally, Ambassador Dermer served as senior advisor to immediate past Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for four years.

$18 for Temple Sholom members • $25 for Non-members
$180 for Intimate Cocktail Reception & Meet & Greet Beforehand

Purchase tickets at: www.templesholom.com/ambassadorodermer
300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT • 203-869-7191

Camp Gan had another successful, sold-out summer with more than 280 campers!

Donate a Car
Your Used Vehicle Fuels Our Future
Donate a used vehicle (car, truck, van, or boat in ANY condition) to UJA-JCC Greenwich!
We pick up your vehicle for free
You get a tax deduction
Proceeds from the sale help care for those in need here in Greenwich, in Israel and around the world
Contact Karen at 203-552-1818 or karen@ujajcc.org
www.ujajcc.org/donateacar
Bi-Cultural Upper School Grads Experience Israel Before Heading Off to College

“This is my first time in Israel, and it has been one of the best experiences of my life,” says Leo Koganov, a recent graduate of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy-Upper School who returned from spending the summer attending the Ascend program in Jerusalem.

Koganov is one of four BCHA 2021 high school grads who were part of Ascend’s inaugural six-week summer program, which began on June 28. In addition to Koganov, the BCHA group included Sydney Hoffman, Logan Terr and Gavin Rakitt – all of whom will be attending college in the U.S. this fall.

Affiliated with Onward Israel, OU Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus, and Yavneh Campus, Ascend was specifically created for high school grads who do not want to take a gap year but are eager to experience life in Israel. Participants live together in the Old City of Jerusalem, work at an internship of their choice during the day and study Torah and explore Israel in the evenings and on weekends.

Koganov, for example, interned at the Diplomatic Institute, where he researched the country of Albania and helped determine how to develop a startup ecosystem in that country. He also had the opportunity to meet the Albanian Minister of Entrepreneurship and to attend a conference led by a major Israeli law firm.

His classmate Sydney Hoffman (BCHA ’21) sums up the experience, saying, “I am so thankful to have the opportunity to learn, work, and explore Israel so independently. I have made a second home and family here in the Old City of Jerusalem.”

According to Ilana Bauman, an Ascend staff member who is also a Jewish studies teacher at BCHA Upper School, the program’s 23 participants come from many different places and backgrounds.

For Bauman, who knew the BCHA students before they arrived in Israel, the experience of watching them grow was very gratifying. “It’s very special for me to see them in this environment, where they’re really getting to focus on their own individual growth and figure out what it is that they want to contribute to the world,” she says. “They want to establish their own personal identity and build connections with this land and these people. It’s been great to be on this journey with them. It’s incredibly beautiful to be a part of that.”
Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy’s Fall Line-up of Free Family Programs

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy has announced its line-up of events for families with children ages birth to six years, scheduled for the 2021-22 school year. The FREE series is fun-filled, with children’s activities designed to inspire curiosity and discovery.

The following schedule includes events from September through December. For more information or a full schedule of family events for the entire school year, contact Miriam Sperber, BCHA Director of Admissions, at msperber@bcha.org.

**Family Fall Fest**
Co-sponsored by UJF’s PJ Library  
Sept. 19, 3 - 5 pm

**Celebrate Sukkot**
Sept. 2, 4 pm  
Build a sukkah in the BCHA Makerspace

**Tinker in the Garden**  
Oct. 13, 10 am  
Planting & sing-along

**Celebrate Chanukah**
Dec. 5, 10 am  
Little Chefs

**Winter Break Fun Day**
Dec. 26, 9:30 am  
Co-hosted by UJF’s PJ Library

---

**Chabad**

**HEBREW SCHOOL of Greenwich**

- Incredible Teachers  
- Warm and Inviting Atmosphere  
- Fun and Innovative Learning  
- No Membership Required

**GRADES K - 6**
Sunday Mornings 9:15 - 11:45 am

**6th AND 7th GRADES**
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Discovery Course:  
Tuesday Evenings 6:30 - 7:30 pm with the Rabbi

For more information contact  
Chani@chabadgreenwich.org  
718.915.6161

greenwichhebrewschool.com

---

**Meditative Walk and Tashlich:**
Second Day of Rosh Hashanah at Greenwich Reform

The second day of Rosh Hashanah at Greenwich Reform will include an in-person meditative walk and Tashlich service. All are welcome! Details at GRS.org or call 203-629-0018.
In the Words of Our Families

Families Affected by Covid-19 Transition Services (FACTS) are forced to confront other pandemic related challenges, such as mental health issues, food insecurity and general economic hardship. The importance of our services is perhaps best illustrated through the voices of our clients.

In one parent's words, “...as long as we have food, a roof over our kids' (heads) and clothing, we are very thankful...I am so embarrassed to ask for help, but we don't want to have our kids without food.” Before the pandemic, this family managed their lives without assistance as a dual-income household. The stress of the entire family contracting COVID-19, then recovery, managing the needs and wellbeing of their children, along with new medical issues, has not stopped them from fighting to move forward. The FACTS program is working with the father of this family to obtain his truckers license; the JFS Farmer’s Market assures that the kids are nourished with organic eggs, milk, yogurt and fruit. The mom has been working with our case manager to participate in supportive therapy to maintain her physical and emotional health.

A single parent we assisted had been affected from every angle with financial challenges: loss of work, divorce, a broken-down car, and health issues of a special needs child. JFS has helped this mother obtain benefits for her children, apply for Section 8 assistance, access almond milk and gluten free options for her allergic child, and find resources to replace her car. As she put it, “Thanks again so much for advocating for me and for your help. It is a blessing and I appreciate you. My kids got their final report cards... and my daughter was inducted into the National Honor Society! Being a single mother is a struggle, but I must be doing something right.”

If you would like to support our FACTS families, please reach out to JFS of Greenwich and find out about volunteer and philanthropic opportunities to help our neighbors in need.

Memorial Donations honoring Nancy's legacy made to the Nancy Peters Fund at Jewish Family Services of Greenwich:

Aaron Abelson, Patricia and John Bottomley, Elyse Brown, Rita Edelston, Lily and Ben Ellerin, Donovan Ford, Susan and Peter Furth, Sheryl Goodridge, Cathy Gorlin, Sima and Allan Greenberg, Andrew Haber, Paul Harrison, Linda Hochman, Melissa Hochman, Robin Hochman, Amy Horbar and Allan Ruchman, Sheila and Larry Kantor, Rachel Kornfeld, Robert Martella, Tom McLoughlin, Christine Prins, Caitlyn Reynolds, Eliot Riskin, Bunny Rosen, Alma Rutgers, Laura and Gary Saulson, Sue Schweber, Wayne Semmerling, Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner, David Sices, Jacob Silberberg, Elaine Stocum, Jan and Michael Sondberg, Joan Suter, Catherine Tapsall, Rachel Towbin, Aaron Weil, Margaret Wein, Lauren Wels, Anne Wichman, June Wolfman.
Bikur Cholim is Back!

by Larry Stoogenke, Director of Community Engagement

Bikur Cholim is back! In June, after a 16-month layoff, two of our trained volunteers were allowed back into the Nathaniel Witherell Senior Care Facility, to visit sick and long-term residents. Tony Correale, the Chaplain at Nathaniel Witherell, expressed the impact that our Bikur Cholim volunteers have when he wrote, “...they are a great addition to the chaplaincy team here, and are demonstrating each week that they are providing valuable and meaningful care for the residents and patients.”

Every week there are between 8-10 Jewish residents/patients who receive the best of what Bikur Cholim has to offer: kindness, empathy and trust during the most challenging times.

I met with Rabbi MJ Newman, Palliative Care Chaplain at Greenwich Hospital, to facilitate resumption of the Bikur Cholim program at the Hospital. When our trained and dedicated Bikur Cholim volunteers returned to the hospital at the end of July, not only did they bring comfort and companionship to patients, but they also helped ease an underreported consequence of the pandemic – the exhaustion that has fallen on the chaplaincy, as they alone have managed pastoral care during this challenging time. After a 16-month hiatus, during which residents of long-term care facilities and patients in hospitals were limited to phone calls and video chats, personal connections are very much needed – now more than ever.

If you are interested in learning more about Bikur Cholim, please contact me at Lstoogenke@jfsgreenwich.com.

The Healing Power of Pets

By Dr. Holly Schiff, Psy.D.

As a licensed clinical psychologist, I have cared for numerous emotional support animals. Recently there has been an uptick in requests, as the country opens up. Many mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and substance abuse were exacerbated by the pandemic, and the resulting lockdown. As we start to get back to “normal,” resuming school and work in person, many people are fearful and socially anxious and need the extra support a support animal can provide. Travel is also becoming widely accepted again, and for those who have a fear of flying or using public transportation, emotional support animals can offer comfort and lessen the severity of a wide range of symptoms.

Pet ownership can work wonders for mental health, even where an emotional support animal is not clinically warranted. Pets provide sensory stress relief – petting them can lower blood pressure and quickly help you feel calmer. Playing with a pet can elevate levels of serotonin and dopamine, reducing the incidence of depression. Pets also provide companionship, offer solace, ease anxiety and help build self-confidence.

Be sure to thank your furry friend; if you don’t already have one, think about bringing a pet into your life!

Summertime Wine and Beer Garden Fundraiser – Success!

Thank you to all those who supported our summer fundraiser. The weather cooperated as we reconnected outdoors at the beautiful home of Sandy and Stephen Soule. It was wonderful to host our first in-person event in over a year! The casual dinner, with spirits generously donated by Cap, Cork, and Cellar, was a great success. We exceeded our goal, raising crucial funds to support food insecurity, job loss, and mental health services in the Greenwich community.
**Did you know ...**

18 years ago last month, Shir Ami celebrated its first Shabbat Service together as a brand new congregation.

18 years ago this Fall we had our very first High Holy Day Service together.

With hopes and prayers that we’ll be able to live life more fully and physically together this year, we are beginning to imagine a number of meaningful ways we will honor this 18th year over the next 12 months! Stay tuned for more details on how we will mark this milestone.

Blessed are You Eternal Source for creating us, sustaining us and allowing us to reach this moment in time.

---

**Temple Sholom Celebrates Official Installation of Rabbi Kevin Peters as Assistant Rabbi**

Temple Sholom is excited to announce Rabbi Kevin Peters as the synagogue’s new Assistant Rabbi. Members of the Temple Sholom community gathered together to celebrate and bless Rabbi Kevin in his new role during a special Musical Shabbat Service with Cantorial Soloists Mikhal Weiner and Ella Joy Meir in July.

Since joining the Temple Sholom family as a rabbinic fellow in 2018, the Staten Island native has become an asset to the clergy team, leading services regularly alongside Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz and Shaliach Sibur/Ritual Director Ezra Konigsberg, and officiating at many life-cycle events. He has also been instrumental in fostering a vibrant Jewish learning environment for students in the religious school in his role as Director of Judaic Studies. Part of his portfolio for the last three years has been to develop new and innovative programming geared for youth and teens. “I’m really excited to begin my full-time career as the Assistant Rabbi at Temple Sholom,” said Rabbi Kevin.

Rabbi Mitch added: “Rabbi Kevin blesses our Congregation with his vision, passion, integrity, and humility. He has a wonderful spiritual depth from which we all benefit.”

Earlier this year, Rabbi Kevin was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, and was honored with the prestigious Kay and Rabbi Moshe Pomerantz Prize, awarded to a JTS rabbinical student who excels in congregational education. He holds an MA from the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education and a BA in Psychology from CUNY College of Staten Island. Before deciding to pursue his rabbinic studies, Rabbi Kevin worked for several years in the field of developmental disabilities.

As someone with dyslexia and ADD himself, his goal is to make Jewish communal and educational environments more inclusive and sensitive to the needs of individuals with learning disabilities.
Megan Nathan is responsible for providing pro-Israel students across the country with the tools and the resources to support Israel and fight BDS on campus. Megan began her career with AIPAC, then worked at the US Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) where she built coalitions of leaders from top NGOs, Fortune 500 companies, and the U.S. military to educate Americans about the importance of global development.

From the ICC Command Center: Anti BDS Emergency Ops

If you have a child in high school or college – they will face a new form of anti-Semitism: The Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions Movement.

Go behind the curtain with leading strategists from the Israel on Campus Coalition in the war on today’s shifting forces of anti-Semitism on campus.

Tuesday, November 9, 7:30 pm

FREE VIA ZOOM

To register, please go to UJAJCC.org or call 203-552-1818.
Thank You to Our Giving Tree Donors

Jessica and Dan Alterbaum
Karen and Eric Belley
Mackenzie and Ryan Brumberg
Marissa and Jarret Cohen
Stacey Delikat and Robert Marmor
Morgan and Phillip Druce
Vlada and Joshua Epstein
Stephanie and Marc Esquenazi
Asya Geller and Michael Geller
Emily and Daniel Keating
Rachel and Robert Koven
Staci and Jonathan Levy
Jordan and Doug Sanders
Samantha and Michael Soleimani
Julie and Tom Wall

Photos by Photography by Inga
What's a better way to start the weekend than with delicious ice cream and a PJ Library Storytime? Thank you to our incredible event hosts, Rebecca Cooper (PJ Library President) and Marshall Cooper, Lauren Yeager and Elliot Wagner, and Liza Kotler (PJ Planner) and Brad Kotler for hosting Ice Cream Truck Friday in their backyard. There were smiles all around as families enjoyed ice cream, arts and crafts and water activities. Friday has never been better! A special thank you to event chairs Rebecca Cooper and Becky Leader (PJ Library Planner).
On Rosh Hashanah, the blast of the shofar calls to us – not just once, but 100 times – rousing us to a higher purpose. This year, that purpose could not be more clear. And the summons to answer that call has never been more urgent.

This holiday, as we continue to confront a pandemic, there’s another threat, and it’s gaining momentum. Jewish people and institutions are under attack, whether through anti-Semitic slurs, hate speech, aggressive threats, or out-and-out violence.

And still, we must respond to all those in need of food, shelter, comfort, or connection to Jewish community.

This new year, the needs are great and the charge to defeat anti-Semitism is more urgent than ever. With each blast of the shofar, we are being called upon, to stand together, take action, and employ every available resource to stop the flood of hatred and bigotry. We must answer the shofar’s call – resoundingly – so Jews everywhere can live proudly. Openly. Free from anti-Semitism.

Want to help? Donate at ujajcc.org today!