A Celebration of Community and Service

Honoring Peter Tesei

Peter J. Tesei is First Selectman of the Town of Greenwich. Prior to serving as First Selectman, Peter worked in the financial services sector for close to twenty years, serving as a Vice President of the Wealth Management Group of BNY/Mellon. In 2005, he was recognized by the Fairfield County Business Journal as one of the 40 under 40 business leaders demonstrating achievement and promise.

During Peter's tenure as First Selectman, he has worked together with the Board of Estimate and Taxation and Representative town meeting to keep Greenwich’s tax rate at a modest and predictable level while ensuring quality of life services, safety, education and public infrastructure renewal as priorities.

The Hillel Silverman Community Service Award to the Lipton Family in Memory of Amy Lipton (z’l)

Amy’s life was shaped by passionately held values that centered on family, friends and acts of goodness. She cared deeply about making the world a better place, and was respected for her intelligence, generosity, persuasive advocacy, and thoughtful philanthropy. Amy was also active in Israel education. After a long career as an attorney, she received the Letter Writer of the Year Award for 2012 from the Committee for Accuracy in Middle Eastern Reporting in America.

Amy served on the board of UJA Greenwich for many years, as well as Literacy Volunteers of Stamford/Greenwich and many other philanthropic organizations.

Performance by Yisrael Campbell

From the wildly successful Broadway play, he’s just your average Irish Catholic kid from Philly, Comic Actor, Sober Alcoholic, Recovering Drug Addict, Husband, Father, Reform, Conservative, Unorthodox, Orthodox Jew. A spiritual journey stretching across four decades, two continents, and three circumcisions.

What Do a Harvard Professor, Yoga Instructor, Food and Wine and a Bestselling Author and Journalist Have in Common?

Find Out at Our Annual Education Symposium on March 11

The annual Women’s Philanthropy Education Symposium returns! On Wednesday, March 11, Greenwich will once again shine a light on Jewish learning as four powerhouse speakers share their special areas of expertise. Now in its second decade, the 2015 Symposium is jointly presented by JCC Greenwich and UJA Women’s Philanthropy. This year it will be hosted by Kim and Marty Sands.

Our keynote speaker will be bestselling author, journalist and professor, Iris Krasnow, back by popular demand to further update her inquiries into the adult female growth cycle.

As we’ve done in prior years, three breakout sessions will be offered, appealing to a variety of tastes and interests. This year participants can choose to delve into Jewish-inspired yoga with Shelly Dembe. Or you can join Harvard professor Jon D. Levenson, for a scholarly look at the legacy of Abraham among the monotheistic faiths. Or perhaps you’d prefer to savor a food demonstration and wine pairing, all the while exploring the role of wine in Jewish history with Jeff and Jodie Morgan of California’s celebrated Covenant Winery.

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This year’s Symposium Chairs are Maura Shapiro and Irit Tratt, who are joined by Women’s Philanthropy Vice Presidents Andi Fern and Dina Klein Lunder. Joan Mann serves as Honorary Chair.

The Symposium co-tent is $60 per person prior to March 4 and $72 at the door. Sponsorship, at $136 or higher, comes with the gift of one book. Sponsors will be acknowledged in the print brochure and in all relevant JCC and UJA online communications. Register at jccgreenwich.org or contact Director of Women’s Philanthropy Tracy Daniels at Tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org or 203-552-1818.

More details on page 3
PJ LIBRARY IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR 8 YEAR-OLDS!

Aimed at encouraging love of reading and discussion, titles for this age include story collections and reference-type books that combine facts with compelling stories. Sign up for the first time or re-enroll 7 or 8 year-olds.

You’ll need to OPT-IN for these great “PJ” books.
Email or call Tracy@ujafedgreenwich.org (203-552-1818).

PJ Library® Books Coming Your Way…
Education Symposium, Wednesday March 11
Continued from page 1

Breakout sessions are as follows:

WRESTLING WITH YOGA
Shelly Dembe
Experience both energy and calm while discovering the kabbalistic sefrot found in the body and expressed in the soul. Along our spiritual journey, Shelly Dembe will touch upon her book, Wrestling with Yoga: Journey of a Jewish Soul. This is not your ordinary yoga class! No experience required.

INHERITING ABRAHAM: THE LEGACY OF THE PATRIARCH IN JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM
Jon D. Levenson, Ph.D
Who was Abraham and what is his legacy in Judaism, Christianity and Islam? Drawing from his award-winning book, Dr. Levenson will shed new light on Abraham’s role in the relationship among the three “Abrahamic” religions, while also revealing how the Abraham of Judaism has often been misunderstood.

THE COVENANT KITCHEN: FOOD AND WINE FOR THE NEW JEWISH TABLE AND COOKING DEMO
Jeff and Jodie Morgan
Jeff and Jodie Morgan are veteran cookbook authors and owners of the acclaimed Covenant Winery in California. They will give traditional dishes a creative makeover, discuss the art of wine and food pairing and tell the fascinating story of wine production and consumption throughout Jewish history.

Thank you so much for thinking to include us in this amazing presentation.

Alison Lebovitz Addresses Women’s Philanthropy

The Women’s Philanthropy kickoff meeting was well attended by Board members and guests who gathered to hear non profit executive and TV personality, Alison Lebovitz, speak about changing the world with one idea. At our invitation, Carmel Academy educators attended as well, and Erica Sokoloff, Director of Jewish Living, shared some of their reactions:

We are so glad that you invited us to attend today’s Women’s Philanthropy meeting with Alison Lebovitz.

Ali’s message was so inspiring and meaningful. We are looking forward to continuing conversations with her as well as with each other about how to make service learning even more prevalent at Carmel and in our own lives.

Thank you so much for thinking to include us in this amazing presentation.

Women’s Philanthropy board members: (left to right) Christine Toback, Bonnie Citron, Silvina Knoll, Yael Rosen, Sheila Neilinger, Bryanna Kallman.
Welcome to Greenwich!

WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

“Join us for Coffee”

“I remember receiving my newcomers basket when my husband and I first moved to Greenwich almost 10 years ago. I am happy to be able to give back to our vibrant, wonderful Jewish community. If you know of someone new to town, please let me know. I want to make sure they get a proper ‘UJA welcome’!

You can email me at bonnie.citron@gmail.com”

— Bonnie Citron, Newcomers Committee Chair

Planning for a Pleasant Passover... and Avoiding Passover Panic!

In 2015, Passover begins with the first Seder on Friday evening, April 3—a little over a month away! To ensure that you’ll be able to enjoy Passover to the fullest, Greenwich Reform Synagogue is offering three free fun and educational programs—you’re invited to attend any or all of them:

**Understanding Passover:**
Sunday morning, March 8, 10:30-11:30 am

Perhaps you’re attending or even hosting your first Seder. Perhaps you’ve been celebrating Passover since childhood, but never really understood the meaning and traditions behind the rituals. Perhaps you’re making the transition from an adults-only Seder to a more family-oriented one. Whatever your area of curiosity or concern, Rabbi Andy Sklarz will help you feel at home and comfortable with this beautiful holiday in an informal hour-long discussion, including why we celebrate, the major Passover themes, symbolic foods, and more.

**Creating (or Finding) the Right Haggadah for Your Family:**
Sunday morning, March 22, 10:30-11:30 am

Amazon literally lists dozens of Haggadot on its website, while many families go beyond that to create their own versions. Rabbi Andy Sklarz will explain the structure of the Haggadah, create a basic outline, and show you how to give the Haggadah your own personal flavor. A variety of professional and homemade Haggadot will be available to share and study.

**Coping with Pasta-less Passover:**
Tuesday morning, March 31, 10 am-12 noon

Please join us for a fun morning of shared ideas for coping with breakfasts without Cheerios, lunches without sandwiches or pizza, and dinners without macaroni and cheese! We’ll share easy and creative recipes for everything from kid-friendly meals to elegant adult repasts, as well as other tips for getting through the week.

Contact Stephanie Glaser at stephanieglasser@GRS.org for full details and locations or visit the GRS website at www.congregationshirami.org or call 203.274.5376.

Congregation Shir Ami Celebrates Passover

“Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are needy, come and celebrate.” These are the words Jews all over the world recite as they gather to eat the festive meal and recall the Exodus from Egypt at Passover Seder.

“The text is not in Hebrew like most of the prayers of the Passover Seder,” explained Rabbi Vicki L. Axe, spiritual leader of Congregation Shir Ami. “It is in Aramaic, the street language of ancient times, designed to be heard and understood by all who needed a place of refuge during the Festival of Passover. Today, it resonates as a call to reach out to people in need while inviting family, friends, and neighbors to share in the celebration of Passover.”

Shir Ami will celebrate Passover with a second night Community Seder led by Rabbi Axe on Saturday, April 4, 2015, at 6:00pm at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, NY. Always known for its family-friendly events where all are welcome, more than one hundred children, parents, and grandparents, friends, and guests will gather to share all of the traditional Passover customs and rituals with a sumptuous pot luck festive meal provided by members of Shir Ami. The evening will be rich with music, dancing, and fun for all.

“For thousands of years, the history and beliefs, the customs and rituals have bound together generations of Jews across five continents,” noted Rabbi Axe. “Especially designed to hold the attention of children, and the child in all of us,” she continued, “there is fun and prizes for all as we declare early in the Seder, ‘Let all who are hungry, come and eat. Let all who are needy, come and celebrate!’

“Shir Ami is known for welcoming all people—families with young children, like my 7-year-old twins, as well as interfaith, singles, seniors, boomers, and the LGBT community,” said Old Greenwich resident and Shir Ami officer Jennifer Stranzl. “Every time we get together,” added Cos Cob resident and co-president Rick Mason, “there is a feeling of family—even with over one hundred people.”

To learn more about Congregation Shir Ami events and programs visit www.congregationshirami.org or call 203.274.5376.
This gripping documentary film, which unfolds on the eve of Israel’s 1948 War of Independence, follows the mostly Jewish American pilots who helped build the Israeli Air Force’s historic 101 Squadron. They were with “Machal” (the acronym for “Mitnadvei Chutz LaAretz”), a group of volunteers from around the world who answered the clarion call of David Ben-Gurion. Fresh from World War II, these young idealists helped face down five charging Arab militaries, including that of mighty Egypt. Their aircraft was as slapdash as their training, yet they were absolutely essential in altering the course of the war.

This story actually has its roots here in Connecticut, where Al Schwimmer, a flight engineer from Bridgeport, began smuggling war planes and recruiting pilots to Israel – in defiance of America’s then embargo on weapons to the Mid-East. The idea for embargo on weapons to the Middle East. The idea for Above and Beyond, the idea for Above and Beyond, she tapped Roberta Grossman, whose hit documentary Hava Nagila JCC Greenwich presented to great acclaim two years ago.

On March 26 at 7 pm, JCC Greenwich will screen Above and Beyond in Greenwich Library’s Cole Auditorium. See why the film lives up to its title, and join Nancy Spielberg for what’s sure to be a riveting discussion. Here are some excerpts from our recent interview with Ms. Spielberg:

Q: What had you heard about “Machal” before tackling this film?

NS: In 1975 I went with my sister to Kibbutz Sderot Yitzhak to study Hebrew at their Ulpan. It’s very close to the airport – when the airport was just a spotlights that were so hot I’d burned by those lights so many times!... I got burned by those lights so many times!... I got burned by those lights so many times!... I got burned by those lights so many times!...

Q: Former pilot Harold Livingston talks about how the experience made him a “mensche.” Beyond the transformative arc of Israeli history, how did your subjects evolve?

NS: To me this story is about the human character. These guys didn’t go there because of Zionism or even due to a real connection to a Jewish state. Of them, only one Giddy Lichtman was brought up with an emphasis on Zionism. The other guys just said, ‘We did what we had to do.’ This experience really helped him get in touch with his Jewishness.

Q: Growing up, didn’t you literally help your brother “in need” on the films he was already shooting as a kid?

NS: Oh yes. Since he didn’t have a crew, we were the crew. We were also the actors. We handled the lighting. How my mother let him make us hold spots that were so hot I’d have beads of sweat on my forehead, I’ll never know! I was six, seven, eight… I got burned by those lights so many times!

To read the full interview with Nancy Spielberg, visit jccgreenwich.org.

Nancy Spielberg with former pilot Harold Livingston

Machal Pilots
Sunday, March 1
10:30 – 11:30 am • Stanwich School Campus

Join us for a cartoon-themed Purim celebration, featuring:

- Dr. Seuss Purim shpiel
- Purim carnival with games, popcorn and cotton candy
- Dress as your favorite cartoon character and win a prize!

All are welcome!

For more information, contact Stephanie Glaser at stephanieglaser@GRS.org

Purim at Temple Sholom!

Tot Purim

Wed., March 4, 5:30 pm

Come in your favorite Purim costume! Join us for a program filled with Ruach (spirit), singing and dancing. Led by music specialist Sarah Fradkin. To RSVP or for more information, contact Alice Schoen, 203-542-7165, alice.schoen@templesholom.com.

Hamantaschen Baking

Wed., March 4, 6:00 pm

Fun for the whole family! Get ready to prepare this three-cornered holiday treat with sweet, delicious fillings. Enjoy dinner while your hamantaschen are baking. $5/person; $20 max/family. Reservations REQUIRED. To RSVP or for more information, contact Alice Schoen, 203-542-7165, alice.schoen@templesholom.com.

Megillah Reading

Wed., March 4, 6:45 pm

Purim begins! Let's shake, rattle and BOO! Join us for the always entertaining Megillah reading. Fun for all ages. Costumes are encouraged! Calling all teens to volunteer for the megillah reading! To volunteer or for more information, contact Cantor Asa, 203-542-7160, cantorasa@templesholom.com.

Purim Carnival

Sun., March 8, 11:00 am

Games, activities, food & fun for everyone! Come in costume! Tickets in advance (must be purchased by March 2) are $18/child, $36 for two or more ($20/$40 at the door). Lunch is available for $7 per person. Parents enter free! For tickets or more information, contact Michele Strauss, 203-542-7161, michele.strauss@templesholom.com.

Purim under the Sea

Chabad of Greenwich

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 4 - 6 PM
YMCA GREENWICH, 50 E. PUTNAM AVE.

3:30 PM Mezuzah Reading
* 4:00 - 4:45 PM Bubble Mania for children of all ages
* Followed by Purim Carnival Party led by Teens & Purim Disco Party
* All costumes welcome

Dinner: Sushi, Fish n' Chips & Salads

CHABAD OF GREENWICH
Sponsored by the Levy Family
FREE for the entire community

ChabadGreenwich.org

Shir Fun @ Shir Ami for Purim

NOT JUST FOR KIDS

March 3 Purim Carnival
March 6 Shabbat, Purim Celebration
March 7 Adult Masquerade Party

Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School students, teacher and Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz celebrating Purim in costume.
Humor has proven to be an effective defense mechanism for the Jewish people. To mask the tears we might shed when we consider the countless cataclysmic events of our history, Jews have transformed biblical memories of fear and terror into days of celebration. With more than a hint of sarcasm, Jewish resilience has been encapsulated in the flippancy line used to characterize so many of our holidays: “They tried to kill us, we won, let’s eat.”

With the approaching celebration of Purim, we will sweeten the memory of brutal Haman’s attempt to destroy our people by eating triangular pastries in the shape of the henchman’s hat. Soon after, with the observance of Passover, we will drown our sorrow, as we reflect upon the evil of Pharaoh and our bondage in Egypt, with matzoh ball soup. Both Purim and Pesach not only call for, but require, the drinking of wine, to lighten the heart, anesthetizing us from the horror inherent in these biblical narratives.

In our observance of Purim and Pesach, which both conclude on notes of hope and herald promise for the future, we “self-medicate,” to use modern parlance, through the use of Jewish humor. Our ethnic gastronomy and libations soften the blows of the Hamans or Pharaohs who have unsuccessfully sought to destroy our people.

Not all holidays are celebrations, however: Our pain and outrage are not camouflaged during Tisha b’Av, which recalls the destruction of the Holy Temples and the sack of Jerusalem; Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass” of 1938 Nazi Germany; and Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, which resulted in pure darkness. Yet, the Jewish capacity to rebound and transform ourselves has come shining through.

The pages of our history have been filled with Pharaohs, Hamans, and Hitlers. Jews have always needed to be on guard. With the current wave of increasing anti-Semitism, the anti-Zionist Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement, and global terrorism, we are called upon to remain no less vigilant than when our ancestors wondered when the next breach upon the walls of Jerusalem would occur, or when another pogrom would destroy the shetels of Europe and Russia.

While Jews have expressed both laughter and tears when recalling our journeys, responding with mourning, spiritual and physical resistance, the key is the empathy and compassion our people have developed from the heartache of our experiences. As the Haggadah of Pesach commands, “You shall not forget the stranger, having been strangers in the land of Egypt.” This theme is reiterated throughout our daily, Shabbat, and holiday liturgy, and underscored in the prophets’ call for social justice. We are a people who are commanded to ever reach out to the downtrodden, the marginalized, and the afflicted. We have been instructed to keep a watchful eye and an attuned ear to those who cry out in physical or spiritual hunger for nourishment.

Our painful experiences have led the Jewish people to be champions of civil rights and humanitarian efforts. In America, rabbis and Jewish leaders have been in the vanguard of social issues, notably in our partnership with Martin Luther King and the Black community, and to those in our nation and abroad who have been cast aside or mistreated. Despite the continuing bombardment of Israel, both verbally and physically, the Jewish nation has led with humanitarian responses to earthquakes in Haiti, tsunamis in Japan, hurricanes in America, and life-saving surgery for Palestinian or Arab children. The list goes on.

And so, let us fully enjoy the joyful traditions created for our celebrations of Purim and Pesach. However, as we share food, drink and laughter, let us ever be conscious of the inherent message of these holidays – the quintessential message of Judaism: we are to be an Am Kodesh, a Holy People, ever spreading love and light to all of God’s children.

Editor’s Note: The rabbis of Greenwich alternate in providing messages for each issue of the Greenwich Jewish News.

From the Rabbi

★ Haman and Pharaoh: Dark Souls Who Remind Us to Be People of Light and Love ★

by Rabbi Andrew R. Sklarz, Greenwich Reform Synagogue
Upcoming Arts & Culture Programs at Temple Sholom

Temple Sholom invites all members of the community to attend their upcoming arts and culture programs. Leah Vincent, author of Cut Me Loose: Sin and Salvation After My Ultra-Orthodox Girlhood and Sal Tagliareni, author of the historical thrillers Hitler's Priest and The Cross or the Swastika will visit the synagogue to discuss their latest works. Additionally, Temple Sholom Sisterhood will host a special viewing of the documentary, “Mothers of Bedford” by Jenifer McShane, followed by a discussion about the film.

Named one of the Jewish Week’s “2014 36 Under 36”, Leah Vincent will visit the synagogue of Carmel Academy and her leadership role within her instrumental and transformative work on behalf of Carmel Academy and her leadership role within the educational world.

Jewish News

Save the Date!

Sunday, March 15th, 5:30 p.m.
Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY
Join Carmel Academy for our annual Erev Tov Celebration

As we mark our 18-year milestone, Carmel Academy proudly honors Head of School Nora Anderson for her instrumental and transformative work on behalf of Carmel Academy and her leadership role within the educational world.

For more information or to place a commemorative journal ad, please visit www.carmelacademy.com or contact Seth Young at 203-983-3508, seth.young@carmelacademy.com.

BCDS Announces 2015 Celebration Dinner Honorees

On Sunday, May 17, at the Hilton Stamford Hotel, Bi-Cultural Day School will be honoring a group of community members at the annual Bi-Cultural Celebration Dinner. Five people from different walks of life will be recognized for their involvement, contribution and dedication to the school.

The Guests of Honor for the evening will be parent members, Maria and Glenn Reicin. Maria Reicin is currently serving as the Co-President of the Parents Association and has served as a co-chair of the auction fundraising event and was one of the founders of the innovative R2 social responsibility program. She also was instrumental in the recent renovation of the school café space and is an important member of the Board of Trustees. Glenn Reicin has expertly chaired the Endowment Management committee and is an active member of the school’s Executive Committee.

Bi-Cultural parent Sarah Rich will be receiving the Young Leadership Award. Rich, who has served as a Past Parents Association President and Auction Chair, has helped manage numerous fundraising and school events and served as a positive role model for many incoming and current parents.

Alumni and faculty member Bob Abrams will be receiving the Alumni Award this year. Abrams has taught a variety of Judaic Studies courses throughout the years and exhibits a rare form of enthusiasm, while connecting with his students on so many levels.

Long-time faculty member Morah Yospa Lieberman will be awarded the Jane Shoztic Award. Lieberman, an icon of the Stamford Jewish community, has taught Judaic Studies at Bi-Cultural since 1981. She and her husband, Rabbi Abraham Lieberman z”l, a Director of Judaic Studies at BCDS for many years, helped foster a love of Judaism and learning for so many students throughout the years.

This year, Bi-Cultural will also be presenting Stamford Police Department Assistant Chief Jim Matheny a special Community Service Award. Assistant Chief Matheny has served as a security expert and guiding voice to BCDS in developing first-rate security policies and a system of safety protocols for the school, including training faculty and staff.

The Bi-Cultural Celebration Dinner is an annual event and is a gathering of current and past parents, alumni and community members to celebrate the achievements of the school.
Carmel Academy is thrilled to announce that it will honor Nora Anderson, the school’s longtime and innovative Head of School, at its annual Erev Tov Celebration on March 15, 2015. Anderson will be recognized for her instrumental and transformative work on behalf of Carmel Academy and her leadership role within the educational world.

“In her 12 years at the helm of Carmel Academy, Nora has overseen our school’s growth from a small community day school on the second floor of a synagogue to an institution with more than 250 students on a 17-acre campus that has been accredited with distinction. Nora’s vision, unwavering commitment to excellence, and her strong leadership skills have put Carmel Academy on the map of Jewish day school education,” said Carmel Academy President Evan Levy. Anderson’s commitment to a child-centered education, dedication to best-practices, and her emphasis on professional development have helped shaped Carmel Academy into the high-achieving school it is today. Her strong background in mathematics and the sciences has put Carmel on the forefront of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education. Her child-centered philosophy led to the start of the school’s groundbreaking PALS program for children with language-based learning disabilities. She has worked tirelessly to promote and encourage ongoing professional development for new and seasoned teachers alike. In addition to her important work at Carmel Academy, Anderson has done much to further the field of Jewish education on behalf of both students and professionals. She is a sought-after speaker and is a current mentor with the prestigious Day School Leadership Training Institute (DSLTI). Her leadership and vision have transcended the landscape of Jewish education. This past summer she was appointed to the Board of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools, in which she serves with some of the most renowned school heads in the country. And her passion for education is matched by her commitment to tikkan olam (repairing the world), an unwavering love of Israel, and a tremendous dedication to her family.

Erev Tov, which means “good evening” in Hebrew, will take place at Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY on Sunday, March 15th at 5:30 p.m. This year’s annual event will mark Carmel Academy’s 18th year. For more information about Erev Tov, or to place a commemorative journal ad, please contact Seth Young, Carmel Academy’s Associate Head of School for Institutional Advancement, at seth.young@carmelacademy.com, 203-983-3508 or visit carmelacademy.com.

Hebrew Wizards trip to Museum of Jewish Heritage
Yiddish Tish
Wednesdays, Feb. 11, Mar. 11 & Apr. 22, 2015, 12-1pm, Dodd Building
Bring a lunch; beverages provided.

Chabad of Greenwich
Sara Esther Crispe, Kabbalah for Women
Wednesdays, 9:30am, remaining sessions: Feb. 25, Mar. 25, May 16

Early Morning Torah Study
Monday-Friday, 6:30-7am

Sunday Morning Torah Study
9:30am-10:30am, email RabbiFeldman@ChabadGreenwich.org for info.

Jewish Parenting Class: Blessing of the Skinned Knee
Wednesday, 9:30-10:30am

Parsha with Classic Commentaries
Thursday, 9:45am-10:45am

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

Fairfield University Carl & Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies
Special Lectures
All lectures are complimentary. Please call to reserve a seat as space is limited (203) 254-4000, ext. 2066.

Anti-Semitism in Europe Today
with David Harris, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee
Tuesday, March 17, 7:30pm, Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts, Kelley Theater

9th Annual Lecture in Jewish-Christian Engagement
“From Enemy To Brother: Catholic Social Teachings on the Jews”
with Dr. John Connelly, Associate Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley
Tuesday, March 24, 7:30pm, Dolan School of Business Dining Room

Samuel & Bettie Roberts Memorial Lecture in Jewish Art
Jewish Women and American Art
with Dr. Gail Levin, Professor of Art History, American Studies, and Women’s Studies, City University of NY
Wednesday, April 22, 7:30pm, Dolan School of Business Dining Room

Greenwich Reform Synagogue
Advanced Beginner’s Hebrew
Sundays, 9:50am, with Rabbi Andrew R. Silzrz
Wisdom Literature of Psalms and Ecclesiastes
Sundays, 10:30am, with Rabbi Robert Rothman
To register for these free classes, call 203-629-0018 or email info@grs.org

Film Showing, “Above and Beyond”
with Documentarian Nancy Spielberg
Thursday, March 26, 7pm, Greenwich Library, Cole Auditorium

Shabbat Study with Temple Sholom Clergy
Saturdays, 9-10am

Lunch & Learn
Tuesdays, 12-1pm. Kosher lunch provided
The JCC Greenwich Teen Action Committee is selling these shirts to raise money which will help provide meals for needy Jewish children. Buy a shirt for $25 and be our partner in making a difference.


JCC Greenwich Teen Action Committee heard presentations from Leket Israel, Masbia and Jewish Family Service on Sunday, January 25th. They will work together to decide which proposals they heard best fit their philanthropic goals of addressing causes of childhood hunger. They will allocate the funds they raise in April.

JCC Teen Action Committee Members and PJ Library Parent Planners volunteering at the PJ Library/JCC Greenwich Hanukkah Party.
JCC/PJ Library Hanukkah Party and Toy Drive * December 7

Special THANKS to PJ Parent Planners Magic of Hanukkah Event Committee: Jill Derikrava; Penny Goffman-Vazquez (Co-Chair); Allison Jackson (Co-Chair); Jody Siegartel-Lazlo; Jessica Maiman-Rickert; Cori SaNogueira.

Photos by Asher Almonacy
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**SPRING 2015**

**THE HEIDI CHRONICLES**

*Broadway*

**Thursday, March 12, 8 pm, $100**

*Music Box Theater*

239 W 45th St, New York, NY

Wendy Wasserstein’s Pulitzer & Tony Award-winning drama heads back to Broadway, and so do we.

**JCC Cinema**

**ABOVE AND BEYOND: THE UNTOLD TRUE STORY**

With Producer Nancy Spielberg

*Thursday, March 26, 7pm, $12*

Cole Auditorium at Greenwich Library, 101 West Putnam Avenue

How Israel earned its wings in ‘48 thanks to volunteer pilots. With stunning aerial footage, along with a tale filled with heart, heroism and high flying chutzpah.

Roberta Grossman / Documentary / USA / 87 min.

This event is free but space is limited. Register online at JCCGreenwich.org or call 203.552.1818

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**JCC Cinema Presents**

**NUMBERED**

*In commemoration of Yom HaShoah*

*Wednesday, April 15, 6pm*

*Temple Sholom*

300 B Putnam Ave, Greenwich

*Community Remembrance Program: 7pm*

Uriel Sinai, Dana Doron / Documentary / Israel / 55 min.

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**BENEATH THE HELMET**

*From High School to the Home Front*

*Israel Independence Day*

Community wide celebration of Israel at 67

*Sunday, April 26*

4 p.m. Film Screening Commemoration and Flag Raising to Follow

Greenwich Town Hall, 101 Field Point Road
Tropp Family Celebrates 25 Years in the US

In 1990 the Tropp family arrived on our shores as refugees from the then Soviet Union, having escaped an anti-Semitic and abusive government in order to raise their family in a free world. The program that welcomed them was funded by UJA Federation, and JFS, which coordinated the volunteers who helped them settle into their new life.

Twenty-five years later they are still living in Old Greenwich. The Tropp children have grown to be happy and successful. Sasha graduated from Johnson and Wales University and works in Institutional Wealth Services at Fidelity Investments. Anna graduated from Clark University and is working as a marketing analyst at Planet Shoes, Inc. She has a daughter, Ayla, who is 3½ (the same age as Sasha when he arrived in the U.S.) Valentina graduated from Skidmore College and has started a new career as a computer programmer. Vitaly is a senior project manager working in construction management for Tishman Construction. He just completed work on the Freedom Tower at WTC.

And Rosa is now 101 years old! She participates in all activities offered. According to Vitaly: “We are blessed to have you (JFS and the Greenwich Jewish community) in our lives and in our hearts.”

Jewish Family Services

SUPERMARKETING FOR SENIORS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

For the past 29 years, Supermarketing for Seniors has provided free grocery shopping and case management services to the homebound frail elderly of Greenwich. Last month at our winter holiday meeting for shoppers, “File of Life” cards were distributed to our shoppers to give to their shopping clients in the new year. Lynn Ridberg, Director of Education at GEMS, made a presentation about the utility of these easy-to-complete packets, which are a quick way for first responders to find and access vital health records quickly in the event of an emergency. Supermarketing for Seniors is always thinking of ways to help our clients remain safe and independent in their own homes rather than being placed in institutional living environments. We know our clients feel better at home, and ultimately it is better for the Greenwich taxpayer, since it costs more than $150,000 a year to be placed in The Nathaniel Witherell. If you, or anyone you know could benefit from our program, please call or email the program director listed below.

IMPORTANT: We have a renewed need for shoppers this winter, due to new client referrals as well as the challenges presented by bad weather and the flu. Please consider donating a few hours per week to this valuable service! Call program director Elyse Brown to get involved, at 203-622-1881, or by email to ebrown@jfsgreenwich.org. Thank you so much, in advance, for doing so!

AmazonSmile
You shop–Amazon gives to UJA Greenwich!

You just need to select UJA Greenwich as your chosen charity, and start your first shopping session at smile.amazon.com.

Happy shopping!

Jewish Yoga
Sunday, February 22
9:30 – 10:25 am

In the Mussar tradition, simplicity is called histapkut – the ability to appreciate that what we have is enough. In yogic philosophy, santosha (simplicity) is the ability to be content with the moment.

Paring down, de-cluttering, brings us closer to the purity of our souls – the neshamah.

Yoga helps us slow down, tune into our breath, and appreciate our bodies.

Certified yoga instructor, Naomi Norman, helps us experience the freedom that simplicity brings.

All levels of yoga experience are welcome. Please bring a mat, if you have one; if not, we will provide extras.

Classes are free but donations are appreciated and reservations are required.

For more information and spring yoga class dates, contact Stephanie Glaser at stephanieglaser@grs.org.

The GHS Israel Club Gets Cooking

Israeli Emissaries, Matan and Itamar, teach the Israel Club how to make hummus and majadara and pita chips with zatar. This cooking event is an annual favorite among our members to bring a little taste of Israel to GHS.

Mary Karlan, bringing season’s greetings to shopping client Bernice Nadel.
Jewish Family Services of Greenwich Joins Forces with the Connecticut Chapter of the ALS Association

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich is proud to announce our new relationship with the Connecticut Chapter of the ALS Association. Starting in February we will be bringing our new innovative online support group programming to families of those impacted by ALS, as well as to the patients themselves. According to Stacey Rahl, LMSW, Care Services Director and Regional Care Manager of Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex, & New London Counties: “Working with the Online Support Group Project of Jewish Family Services of Greenwich is an excellent opportunity for our patients and caregivers. I really am impressed with the technology – so clear and easy to use/understand.”

JFS is also running two additional online support groups for the community starting in February: Our online support group for Those Coping with Chronic Illness takes place on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30am, and our Caregiver Support Group takes place on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5pm. If you know of anyone who could benefit from these online support groups, please call Lisa Smith, LCSW, Executive Director at JFS.

It’s stress-free to join an online support group. All you need is a computer and Internet access. Our groups, via easy-to-use video conferencing are confidential and secure, provided through JFS’s exclusive partnership with Vidyo, Inc.

The Jewish Health and Healing Center was proud to bring Itamar and Matan, the Israeli Young Emissaries, to The Greens of Greenwich this winter to give a talk entitled Israel: Culture, Language, Land and Growing Up There. Not only were the Greens residents completely enthralled by what Itamar and Matan had to say and the pictures they shared, but the questions just kept coming. Residents asked about the Israeli military, the language, the relationships with non-Jews and Arab neighbors, their families…it went on and on. Our gratitude goes out to the Israeli Young Emissaries for providing a wonderful presentation and for answering so many questions. One woman told us she would share what she learned with her children, just to prove to them that she wasn’t too old to learn about new things! It was a pleasure and by all accounts a huge success. Luckily, we’ll have more programs with Itamar and Matan, planned for this spring.

And now, with the fall and winter holidays behind us, the JHHC is gearing up for a wonderful spring of visits, holiday celebrations and some interesting programming. Please know you are invited to join us for some or all!

This year the Jewish Health and Healing Center is excited to announce even more programs, even more events, with an even greater numbers of participants. We can’t wait to share them all with you. Through the help and enthusiasm of the Greenwich community and partnering institutions, we have more than 50 planned so far this year with more coming! Please join us.

SPECIAL DONATIONS to JFS

In Honor of:
Stacey Delikat and Rob Marmor, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Stacey Delikat and Rob Marmor, by Ron and Kerry Moelis
Andrew Bernstein and Janna Goldhaft, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Rise Mattler, by Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg
Maren Audrey and Jillian Simone Axe, by Rabbi Vicki and Harold Axe

In Memory of:
Gerald Braunthal, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Howard Sugarman, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Leon Grossman, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
Leon Grossman, by Susan and Jerry Davis
Amy Lipton, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone special in your life or community, you may do so by making a donation to Jewish Family Services and we will send a note of acknowledgement to the person or family involved, informing them of your generosity in their honor/memory. If you wish, you may request that your donation be used to benefit a specific JFS program, e.g. our “Counseling Services & Support Groups”, our “Supermarketing for Seniors” program, our Refugee Resettlement program, our college scholarship fund, etc. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will help make it possible for us to continue to provide the highest quality programs, resources and services to all who come to us for assistance.

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Spring 2015 Programming

JFS BOOK BEAT: FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ
A thought-provoking book club with themes relevant to people of all ages held at JFS. Facilitated by Judi Margolin. 3/25 Not Me by Michael Lavigne
7:30pm at JFS

INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS
This series meets on Monday evenings and gives people a way to explore the opportunities and challenges associated with interfaith living.
7-8:45pm in a private home. 3/30, 5/4, 6/15

GREENWICH HOSPITAL SHABBAT
Every Friday, JFS leads a Shabbat Service, in partnership with the Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, at 1:00pm in the Greenwich Hospital Chapel. It is broadcast LIVE on channel 6 in all the hospital rooms. Joan Mann, Spiritual Care Counselor at JFS, Lisa-Lorraine Smith, Executive Director of JFS and Rabbi MJ Newman, Jewish Chaplain of Greenwich Hospital, lead the service.

RENEWAL OF BODY, RENEWAL OF SPIRIT
On the second Monday of each month, JFS, in partnership with the Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, conducts a Healing Service for the community in the Greenwich Hospital Chapel. Lisa-Lorraine Smith, Executive Director of JFS, Joan Mann, Spiritual Care Counselor at JFS, and Rabbi MJ Newman, Jewish Chaplain of Greenwich Hospital, lead the service. Sundays, 3/9, 4/13, 12-12:45pm

Volunteer Opportunities

Bikkur Cholim/Friendly Visitors/Grocery Shopper
Do a mitzvah! Get involved! JFS urges you to make a difference in the life of a Greenwich senior. Volunteers are needed to visit and/or grocery shop for home-bound and nursing home residents. The time commitment can be as little as one hour per week. The rewards are immeasurable!

B’nai Mitzvah Resource Center
This unique program provides young people with a carefully selected list of bar/bat mitzvah volunteer projects that cater to the child’s individual interests and personal goals.

For Current and Upcoming Programs, please visit www.JFSGreenwich.org or call 203-622-1881 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH

Spring 2015 Counseling and Support Groups

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP
An ongoing weekly support group for adults whose lives are impacted by divorce. Facilitated by Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW.
Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45pm

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
An ongoing weekly support group for those who have lost a loved one within the past year. Facilitated by Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW and a member of the Greenwich Jewish Clergy.
Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am

ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE WHO ARE CHRONICALLY ILL
Today, chronic illness affects nearly half of the adult population, according to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The chronically ill get tired of trying to explain to others why they can’t do it all. The JFS safe online support group is a refuge of understanding. Connect with others to reduce your isolation, and bond with others who really understand what you are going through. Learn strategies and tips for coping and make new friends at the same time. We understand how hard it is for you to leave the house; take advantage of the JFS Online Support Group Project so that we can come to you. All you need is a computer with Internet access! Facilitated by Jan Mittleman, LCSW.
Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30am. Set up for the online group is quick and easy!

PEACE OF MIND
This experiential and educational group teaches participants powerful exercises designed to focus the mind and relax the body, facilitating the empowerment of each individual. Members will discuss the evidence connecting mindfulness exercises to decreased stress damage caused to the brain and body. As a result of this 4-week group – members will learn creative relaxation and mindfulness techniques to help realize joy and success. Facilitated by Inessa Zaleski, DD, CMCH, RM.
Fridays, 10-11am

FRACUTED FAMILIES, HEALING HEARTS
This group is designed to give participants an opportunity to talk about strained family relationships, whether it is with a parent, a sibling, a grandparent, a son or a daughter. These relationships, when stressed or tense, are so painful to endure because family means so much to us. If you cut the ties, or someone in your family has cut you off, this group will help you explore your grief, anger, regret and forgiveness in a safe environment with other people who understand. Facilitated by Linda Schlaper, LMFT.
Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30pm

ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS
We know it is hard to get away when you are caring for a chronically ill loved one. So we are offering this group for you in your own home. Whether close by or far away, many of us are caregivers to those we love. Sharing feelings, concerns and, in some cases, frustrations with this role is a key component to effectively coping and managing caring for a loved one. All you need is a computer with Internet access! Facilitated by Lisa-Lorraine Smith, LCSW.
Wednesdays, 4-5pm. Set up for the online group is quick and easy!

LIVING WELL IN LATER LIFE
LivingWell in later life is a support group for individuals who are 70+ who would like the opportunity to talk with peers about the opportunities and challenges they face at this stage of life. Topics covered will explore how to: maintain and manage your health; retain independence with family members including adult children; continue to be involved in meaningful activity; cope with mourning and loss. Facilitated by Lisa Mounts, LCSW and Rabbi Vicki Axe, Congregation Shir Ami.
Thursdays, 2-3pm

COUNSELING
When you need someone to talk to…talk to someone who understands. JFS offers high quality, confidential counseling for families, couples and individuals in a welcoming, Jewish environment. Day and evening appointments; insurance and Medicare reimbursable; sliding scale fees.

For more information regarding specific groups, please call 203-622-1881. A JFS social worker will help to determine whether the group is a good fit for you, prior to start date.

Unless otherwise noted, all support groups take place at JFS, and cost $20 per session.
All individual counseling services are $150 per session
(Sliding scale fees are always available)
Carmel Academy Students Win First Place in STEM Competition

A team of Carmel Academy’s sixth grade students captured first place in a national STEM competition for gifted math and science students. Carmel Academy’s E2K team answered every question correctly for the first place trophy.

E2K, the acronym for Excellence 2000, is an enrichment program developed in Israel that encourages advanced students to use logic, analysis, creativity and teamwork to approach math and science. The Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE), which runs the E2K and other STEM-based programs in the United States, organizes national and international virtual contests throughout the year. Teams compete in real-time, using the Internet.

Carmel Academy’s 14-member sixth grade E2K team studied high school chemistry concepts to prepare for the challenging contest, which explored the phases of matter and transitions from one phase to another. During the two-hour competition, the students performed three experiments, observed results and answered questions based on the experiments. The sixth graders performed so well that the contest organizers asked them to further explain four of their answers to the competitor schools, Ginsberg said.

“I am so proud of our E2K students,” said Ginsberg. “They voluntarily spent much of their free time preparing for the competition, and they did so because they were excited to learn. Their enthusiasm is truly contagious.” “The CIJE E2K virtual activities foster a healthy sense of competition in an exciting and unique way,” said Linda Goldberg, the CIJE Math and Science Coordinator.

Carmel Academy was one of the first Jewish day schools in the country to implement E2K eight years ago, when it was invited by CIJE to pilot the program. “It is our intention to continue to be in the forefront of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) education,” said Carmel Academy Head of School Nora Anderson. “At Carmel we prepare our students to be leaders in our fast-paced, 21st century global economy. Starting from the earliest years, we offer cutting-edge curriculum, resources, facilities and tools so that our students have the learning experiences, the critical thinking skills and the foundation for future success in a competitive world.”
BCDS Uses “Flipped Learning” to Turn Traditional Classroom on Its Head

When third-grade teacher Beth Fritz had to teach her students how to measure angles with a protractor, she decided to make the lesson come alive in a new and different way. She asked her students to view a video online of a protractor lesson that night. When the students came to school the following day, instead of handing in written homework, they instead used what they had learned the evening before to complete the written protractor exercises during class. Fritz went from student to student, working with them one-on-one to make sure they understood the material. “At first, I was nervous about trying this method, but then I realized how well it worked – the students loved it and math class transformed from a lecture into an interactive workshop testing each student’s knowledge.”

At Bi-Cultural, teachers and students are experimenting with the flipped classroom model across a variety of disciplines, using class time for labs, exercises and interactive activities to illustrate new concepts. “The flipped classroom makes the learning process more engaging and meaningful for the students by tapping into the technology that has become part of their daily lives,” said middle-school teacher Adrianne Robinson. She continued, “We actually took our flipped lesson a step further and had students create the videos to teach the concepts we covered in class to other students. It was a fantastic way to see the skills that the students acquired – it really showed the depth of their knowledge.”

In addition to math and language arts classes, teachers like Rabbi Yehuda Jeiger in the Judaic Studies department have also embraced this interactive learning style. He uses the online educational tool, Blendspace, to post informative videos on topics such as Jewish history, holidays and current events for students to view at home in preparation for deeper in-class questions the next day. And Shoshanna Yaari, who teaches Hebrew language, “The students love it and the classroom environment is even more vibrant and alive with questions.”

Greenwich High School Grad Attends Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem

Dear Friends:

I am spending this year in Jerusalem at the Shalom Hartman Institute as part of Hevrutah, a program designed for Americans and Israelis who have just graduated from high school. We are a group of eight religious and secular Americans and 17 Israelis striving to create a dialogue between our diverse Jewish and cultural backgrounds.

The Hartman Institute is a remarkable place to be able to study. Our core classes are centered around two curriculums, iEngage (Israel) and usEngage (United States). Called on biblical, Talmudic, and modern philosophical sources, we discuss Zionism, Israeli politics, and religion through the lens of the tribes of Israel and Jewish denominations in the United States.

In the evenings, we have electives, choosing from classes including Tanach, Rambam, Israeli film, gender and Halacha, Kabbalah, literature, war ethics, and modern Jewish philosophy.

Community involvement is also an important component of what we do. We work in various volunteer positions, such as serving as mentors in elementary schools or as companions for the elderly. We also participate in social action projects throughout Jerusalem.

I am part of a team of three rebuilding a community garden, where eventually we’ll facilitate activities for volunteers with disabilities. In addition, we have internships once a week at various locations in the city. I am working in Ginot Ha’ir Community Council, an organization that runs events throughout the city.

In our free time, we’re able to take advantage of all the cultural events in Jerusalem, such as street festivals and free concerts, and on many Fridays, we have tours of different neighborhoods of Jerusalem, such as Ein Karem, Nachla’ot, and Mea She’arim. As much as there is to do in Jerusalem, we also travel in different parts of the country. Between Yom Kippur and Sukkot, we had a three-day hiking trip from Tel Azeka (near Beit Shemesh) back to Jerusalem and at the end of November we headed to the South for five days. Yet some of my most meaningful travels in Israel have been to my Israeli friends’ homes for our free Shabbatot and chagim.

I’m looking forward to the rest of the year!

Jackie Bein is a graduate of Greenwich High School and the daughter of Janet and Andrew Bein.
JEWISH NEWS

Cantors’ Concert at Bi-Cultural Day School

On November 20th, at Bi-Cultural Day School in Stamford, students in the early childhood school enjoyed a three-part cantors’ concert. Cantor Uriel Catton from The Conservative Synagogue of Westport, Weston and Wilton, Cantor Asa Fradkin from Temple Sholom in Greenwich and Cantor Magda Fishman from Temple Beth El in Stamford joined Bi-Cultural’s musical director, Jonathan Gahr, for a morning of song, dance, and musical education. Each cantor showcased his or her own musical style and explained the meaning behind each selection performed.

Rabbi Mitch of Temple Sholom Reads The Invisible String

On a cold evening in January, young children and their parents gathered near to Rabbi Mitch of Temple Sholom in Greenwich for a special reading of The Invisible String at Barnes & Noble in Stamford. The entertaining and poignant children’s book expresses the notion that humans are all connected by an invisible string of love. The reading was open to all and was followed by a pizza party.

For more information on upcoming events sponsored by Temple Sholom contact alice.schoen@templesholom.com or visit templesholom.com.

JHSC Students Experience Poverty

Students from the Jewish High School of Connecticut (JHSC) participated last week in a Poverty Simulation program run by the United Way and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven as part of their Neighbor-to-Neighbor Project. The program was designed to give us a glimpse of the struggles of living with poverty and the pressures of every day life,” said Katya, a sophomore at JHSC. The organizers simulated real life by creating stations that represented services such as supermarkets, pawnshops, a general employer, bank and also a jail. Participants were divided into families where each family was given a series of materials that explained their economic positions.

“Trying to navigate food stamps, transportation vouchers with the impossible tasks of daily living, such as getting children to school highlighted for us the anxiety and frustration of living a life under these conditions.” remarked sophomore Alex. “I was the mother in my simulated family. It was incredibly stressful managing the transportation vouchers and all of the things I needed to do in order to enable my family to eat and for me to pay utility bills and go to work. At one point, we simply did not have enough money for food and the devastation I felt was palpable.” While the students were cognizant throughout the exercise that this was a simulation, they left with a far stronger visceral understanding of the strife and burdens of poverty. “I now feel more than ever the responsibility of trying to help in whatever way I can to better the lives of people living with such pressure, anxiety and struggle.” said senior Batsheva.

To learn more about JHSC and its unique approach to education, contact 203-357-0850 or info@jhsct.org. JHSC is now located in Stamford at 1937 West Main Street, Stamford, CT.

Carmel Academy Teacher Wins ATID Day School Innovation Challenge

Talk to Carmel Academy seventh graders about their Judaic Studies class and they will likely tell you about the unique way in which their teacher, Sarah Zollman, teaches Talmud. Zollman was recently chosen as a winner of the ATID Day School Innovation Challenge for her “Tactile Talmud” lesson, which fit all the judges’ criteria, uses pages of text that are enlarged and laminated.

“The enlarged text is hung on a wall, written on and erased with dry erase markers. This enables students to physically interact with the text and to demonstrate their learning to the class in a way that everyone can see. The students can easily underline, circle and highlight sections with dry erase pens,” Zollman said. Zollman’s other strategy, which also gets students out of their seats and moving, involves cutting digital text into smaller segments and then gluing the text onto colored construction paper.

“Innovation and creativity in the classroom are hallmarks of the type of teaching that takes place every day at Carmel Academy. We are thrilled that Morah Sarah is being recognized,” said Head of School Nora Anderson.
On January 11, Bi-Cultural Day School produced and presented its first-ever talent show, showcasing individuals and groups from students in grades kindergarten through eight. The afternoon was a full force of creativity and celebration of the arts, as students showcased their unique talents, from song to dance to comedy. The funds generated by the BCDS Talent Show will be applied toward the school’s special lighting system, used extensively in the annual spring musical performance.

JNYC’s annual Pan Asian Dinner, which took place in December was another well-attended and successful event! JNYC began in 2010 as a way for young couples in their 20’s and 30’s to get together and socialize (regardless of their affiliation). The annual Pan Asian Dinner is just one of the many popular, signature events hosted by JNYC (in partnership with Temple Sholom) which also hosts game nights, barbecues and family-friendly outings. To attend a JNYC event or for more information contact JNYCGreenwich@gmail.com.

Temple Sholom Religious School and The Great Dreidel Relay Race

In December, Temple Sholom Religious School students and teachers gathered with Barry Gruber, Director of Congregational Learning in Temple Sholom’s Social Hall for The Great Dreidel Relay Race. Students cheered each other on excitedly throughout the game while learning the importance of teamwork.

Jewish Network of Young Couples Dinner

JNYC’s annual Pan Asian Dinner, which took place in December was another well-attended and successful event! JNYC began in 2010 as a way for young couples in their 20’s and 30’s to get together and socialize (regardless of their affiliation). The annual Pan Asian Dinner is just one of the many popular, signature events hosted by JNYC (in partnership with Temple Sholom) which also hosts game nights, barbecues and family-friendly outings. To attend a JNYC event or for more information contact JNYCGreenwich@gmail.com.

Shalom From Israel

From the Greenwich Melton Mission

Eating and learning in Tel Aviv.

Rye Ridge Deli


You can’t find better food.
SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, March 11
UJA Womens Philanthropy
Annual Education Symposium
at the home of Kim and Marty Sands, 9:15 am
Thursday, March 12
JCC Greenwich
Broadway Trip “The Heidi Chronicles” 8:00 pm
Sunday, March 15
Carmel Academy
Erev Tov
Brae Burn Country Club, 5:30 pm
Tuesday, March 19
UJA and JCC Greenwich
National Yiddish Theatre - Folksbiene
“The From Rosenfeld to Robeson”
Temple Beth El, Stamford, 8:00 pm
Tuesday, April 7
JCC Greenwich
Crossing Borders: Memory and Heritage in a New America
ArtsWestchester, 10-11:30 am
Thursday, April 23
UJA Annual Gala
The Hilton Stamford Hotel, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, April 15
Yom Hashoah
Community Wide Commemoration
JCC Cinema Screening “Numbered”
Temple Sholom, 6:00 pm
Sunday, April 26
Yom Ha’atzmaut
Community Wide Celebration Israel Independence Day
JCC Cinema Screening “Beneath the Helmet”
Greenwich Town Hall, 4:00 pm
Sunday, May 17
BCDS Annual Celebration Dinner
Honoring a group of community leaders
The Hilton Stamford Hotel

Where Your Money Goes...

Connecting with Young Jews

When Valerie Maier sent out invitations to her bat mitzvah last year they came with a heartfelt letter asking guests to forego presents and instead send money that she could donate to charitable causes. At the urging of her father Gary, Valerie turned to her local Jewish Federation to explore options for a hands-on giving experience. The Federation helped her establish a donor-advised fund from which she could support programs that resonated with her – like helping a young girl named Zoe who has cerebral palsy.

Volunteers working through the Federation had just renovated Zoe’s home to help her get around more easily. When the construction was complete, Zoe’s wheelchair could fit into the kitchen, allowing her to join her siblings and parents for meals rather than eating alone in her room.

When Hurricane Sandy hit, Zoe’s home was without power for a week. To help ensure Zoe’s health and comfort in the future, Valerie used some of the resources in her fund to purchase a generator for Zoe and her family so that the young girl’s bed and other important equipment won’t be without power again.

Expanding Her Reach

In addition to helping Zoe, Valerie has used her fund to contribute to other programs locally and around the world. She has bought blankets and other baby supplies for abused women in Israel, provided scholarships for kids to attend summer camp and helped those impacted by devastating tornadoes in Oklahoma.

“Valerie has leveraged all the gifts she received,” said her mother Lisa. “All her guests who participated in her bat mitzvah, and made contributions in her honor, in essence participated in this act of tzedakah.”

Giving to those in need is a tradition in Valerie’s family. “My parents are both Holocaust survivors,” said Lisa. “So they passed on a belief that if we are fortunate enough to be able to help someone else, we should.”

In addition to directing her fund, Valerie is considering getting involved in a variety of other programs through Federation. “The Jewish Federation has been great in giving us the right opportunities that appeal to her,” according to Lisa.

Making an Impact

Your gift to UJA Greenwich supports efforts like Valerie’s to help those in need through Jewish Federations across North America. We are connecting young Jews like Valerie to the larger Jewish community and helping them make an impact around the world.

JCC Greenwich Exclusive Tour at ArtsWestchester

Crossing Borders: Memory and Heritage in a New America
With Israeli Artist Yardena Donig Youner and Iranian Artist Nazanin Hedayat Munroe

Memory, heritage and identity are the most notable themes of this exhibition featuring installations, photography and mixed-media works by new and first-generation American artists.

Tuesday, April 7, 10 - 11:30am
ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY
For more information and to register visit jccgreenwich.org

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

Send your email address to nancy@ujafedgreenwich.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, Young Emissaries program, Women’s Philanthropy, Israel and other Greenwich Jewish organizations.
Greetings from Your Emissaries!

It’s been almost five months since we began our journey. When you read this message, we will already be back visiting our families and friends in Israel, and looking forward to our return, after gathering some “Israeli air” to bring back with us to Greenwich.

We will miss our host families with whom we did so many fun activities and spent wonderful quality time together.

In the past few months we’ve enjoyed getting to know the students at Carmel Academy and the Hebrew Schools at different local synagogues, and the teens at Greenwich High School’s Israel Club. Together we’ve learned about Israel and bonded over current events. We shared special dates together: November 24, the UN resolution date, and the Siged holiday, meaningful to the Ethiopian community in Israel. We explored the various youth movements in Israel, learned some new words in the Hebrew language and much more…

When we visited Greenwich Country Day School, we met a lot of kids who had very little knowledge of Israel. It meant a lot to us to teach them about an entirely new topic, and to share many positive aspects and the beauty of Israel.

We had a lot fun cooking Israeli food with members of BBYO and the Israel Club. It was great sharing Israeli culture with them by means of the wonderful tastes and smells of falafel, Israeli salad, Krembo for dessert, and many other delicacies.

Soon after we celebrated a new holiday for us – Thanksgiving in Greenwich – we enjoyed singing, eating latkes, spinning the Dreidel, and celebrating Chanukah with all of you. We were kept very busy participating in “Chanukah Live” with Shir Ami, Hanukkiah lighting at Carmel Academy and with the Hebrew School at Temple Sholom, the Hanukkah carnival with Hebrew Wizards, and lighting candles with the Israel Club via Skype with Itamar’s family in Israel. Over the holidays we also experienced watching a competitive basketball game with the children and youth of Chabad. Thanks to all who invited us to attend and be part of your holiday celebrations.

By getting involved with the many events sponsored by the JCC, we’ve been able to gain a better understanding of the Greenwich Jewish community and see how it comes together to learn and enjoy. At the ADL Gala, we met some really interesting people and were introduced to an important organization that works for an amazing goal. We also attended Carmel Academy’s 2nd annual “Lights, Camera, Auction!” It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with all the parents of the kids we teach.

Last but not least – we truly treasure meeting each and every one of you – members of the Greenwich community. Thank you very much to everyone who opened their homes and invited us to visit.
UJA Greenwich has been supporting, sustaining and revitalizing Jewish life for nearly a century. Today our work is far from finished. And we need your support.

Your contribution helps to care for our entire Jewish community, enabling us to use your gift wherever it's needed most: at home, in Israel and around the world.

Please give generously to UJA Greenwich today. Visit us at UJAFedGreenwich.org.

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