

UJA-JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Volume XXXV, Number 3

April 2026 | Nisan 5786

Israel in Crisis – and the Power of Our Collective Response

Since the joint United States–Israel military action against Iran began, Israel has endured repeated missile and UAV infiltrations – sometimes multiple times a day. Each siren sends millions of Israelis scrambling to shelters, disrupting lives and shaking a nation already enduring unimaginable stress. Thousands have been displaced, entire families are living in temporary housing or hotels, and many homes have been badly damaged or destroyed. More than 110,000 reservists have been called up for active



photo courtesy of Jewish Federations of North America

duty, leaving families once again carrying the weight of the home front. Today, an estimated 2.6 million Israelis lack access to adequate, protected shelter. The physical and emotional toll is immense – especially as the sound of sirens has become part of daily life.

This is not a distant fear – it is today’s urgent reality. While Israel’s municipal governments are managing emergency logistics and displacement with remarkable courage, the long-term needs are only beginning to unfold. And yet, amid this crisis, hope and resilience shine through – thanks to you.

Because of the extraordinary generosity of UJA-JCC Greenwich donors, lifesaving help is already reaching those who need it most. Together with our trusted partners on the ground – including The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Israel Trauma Coalition, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee – we are ensuring that displaced families, traumatized children, and vulnerable populations receive both immediate care and long-term support.

Continued on page 5

Yom Ha’atzmaut Flag Raising

This Yom Ha’atzmaut, Jewish Greenwich once again comes together under one banner: We stand with Israel.

Join us for a formal flag-raising ceremony in honor of Israel’s 78th Independence Day. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 22, at 4:30 p.m. at Greenwich Town Hall, with official representation from First Selectman Fred Camillo. “More than ever, it’s important to show our support on behalf of the Jewish State,” says **Walter Primoff**, Co-President, UJA-JCC Greenwich. “Publicly raising the flag sends a message not only of solidarity but pride and support.”



UJA-JCC Greenwich CEO Pam Ehrenkranz adds, “Despite the challenges of rising antisemitism, the Jewish community continues to flourish in America. We recognize what a tremendous honor this public flag-raising is, and we are truly fortunate to have this privilege here in Greenwich.”

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All are welcome. While attendance is free, please register in advance at ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.

AMERICAN JEWISH PRIDE VIDEO CONTEST

Create a Song, Rap, or Spoken Word Poem About Jewish Pride & Identity

OPEN TO GRADES 5 - 8 and 9 - 12

HIGH SCHOOL PRIZES	MIDDLE SCHOOL PRIZES
\$1000 FIRST PRIZE	\$720 FIRST PRIZE
\$500 RUNNER UP	\$360 RUNNER UP

Prizes will be donated to a Jewish Charity of your choice in the U.S. or Israel

SHARE YOUR VOICE.
SHARE YOUR PRIDE.

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL
CARA@UJAJCC.ORG




A Flavorful Evening: Highlights from UJA-JCC Greenwich's Ladies' Night



UJA-JCC Greenwich hosted an exciting Ladies' Night for women of all ages. It was wonderful to see so many women come together to relax, connect, and enjoy a special evening out. The highlight of the evening was a delicious and engaging food demonstration and tasting with Amy Dell of Sababa Foods, creator of the famous "Saturday Sauce." This fun cooking event inspired everyone to go home and try out some recipes. Meanwhile we loved sampling the various flavors, all the while learning tips to take home to our own kitchens. It was an evening filled with great food, conversation, and community. Thank you to event chair **Rachel Barnwell** for coordinating a great night out.



Ladies' Night

Tuesday, April 21 | 6:00 PM
RSVP by Monday, April 13

McArdle's Floral & Garden Design
48 Arch Street, Greenwich

Ticket Price: \$118 | Limited Spaces Available

Event Chairs:
Jenna Krumholz
Natasha Luboski

Join us for a hands-on floral design experience! Guided by one of McArdle's expert florists, you'll create your own beautiful arrangement to take home. Light food and drinks will be served.



UJA-JCC Greenwich Welcomes Hila Reichman as Chief Development Officer

Hila is a native of Israel who moved to the United States with her family at a young age. Growing up in four states – Texas, Virginia, Michigan, and Wisconsin – and later building her career in Philadelphia and New York, she experienced firsthand the power of supportive, welcoming communities in helping individuals and families feel a true sense of belonging. These experiences shaped her lifelong commitment to creating and sustaining vibrant, inclusive communities for others.



Hila earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from American University and a

Master's in Social Work and Jewish Communal Service from the University of Michigan. A seasoned development professional, she spent more than 13 years at The Heschel School in New York City leading and growing the Annual Campaign, followed by a successful term as Executive Director of Bigvision Community, a nonprofit that runs programs for young adults in recovery from addiction.

Hila comes to UJA-JCC of Greenwich with more than two decades of professional experience strengthening Jewish institutions through successfully leading comprehensive fundraising plans and fostering cultures of philanthropy rooted in Jewish values.

She lives in New Rochelle, NY with her husband Josh, their two sons, and their rescue dog.

Empowering Innovation and Leadership at FedPro

Cori SaNogueira, COO of UJA-JCC Greenwich, recently attended FedPro, a conference of over 800 federation employees from across North America. Cori tells us that it was an inspiring and educational experience where she learned more about the latest best practices for federations like ours.



UJA-JCC Greenwich Leader Lindsey Kupferman Appointed to National Women's Philanthropy Board

UJA-JCC Greenwich is proud to share that **Lindsey Kupferman**, Co-President of the UJA-JCC Greenwich Board, has been appointed to the Board of National Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federations of North America. **Bryanna Kallman** has just completed her eight-year term on the board of JFNA's National Women's Philanthropy.

National Women's Philanthropy empowers women leaders, strengthens communities, and connects women philanthropists across the globe. Board members commit to leadership development, learning, and immersive experiences that support the priority areas of the Jewish Federations of North America.

Lindsey brings deep dedication, insight and passion for building vibrant Jewish communities. We are confident she will serve as a thoughtful and inspiring ambassador in this national leadership role. We look forward to learning from her experiences and sharing those insights with our local community throughout her eight-year term.

Mazal tov, Lindsey, and thank you for representing Greenwich on the national stage.

Wishing you a very Happy Passover 2026 filled with joy, prosperity, and above all, peace!



COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

- UJA-JCC Greenwich (203) 552-1818
- Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Lower School (203) 329-2186
- High School (203) 357-0850
- Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich Gan of Greenwich Preschool (203) 629-9059
- Congregation Shir Ami (203) 900-7976
- Greenwich Reform (203) 629-0018
- Congregation Kehilat Shalom Hebrew Wizards (203) 249-4036
- Jewish Family Services of Greenwich (203) 622-1881
- Jewish Riverside Old Greenwich (203) 441-1137
- Mozaic Senior Services (203) 365-6400
- Temple Sholom (203) 869-7191
- Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School (203) 622-8121

SHABBAT & HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

- Fri., April 10 7:12 pm
- Fri., April 17 7:19 pm
- Fri., Apr. 24 7:27 pm
- Fri., May 1 7:34 pm
- Fri., May 8 7:41 pm
- Fri., May 15 7:49 pm
- Shavuot
- Thurs., May 21 7:54 pm
- Fri., May 22 7:55 pm
- Fri., May 29 8:01 pm
- Fri., June 5 8:06 pm
- Fri., June 12 8:10 pm

Greenwich Jewish News

- Published by
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- JUDITH MARGOLIN
- Editor

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

At end of Federation



**Our Wizards students making their Mitzvah Moments count...
By helping the Pet Rescue Center with food, treats, and ❤️ love.**



EACH MONTH OUR WIZARDS STUDENTS HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND BRING DONATIONS, TREATS & MEALS FOR THOSE WHO NEED EXTRA ASSISTANCE. THIS MONTH WE BROUGHT LOVE ❤️ AND DONATIONS TO THE PET RESCUE CENTER THAT CONNECTS LOVING FAMILIES WITH 50 ADOPTABLE PUPPIES AND OLDER DOGS WHO NEED A HOME. MAKE YOUR MITZVAHS MOMENTS!

Upcoming Events at Greenwich Reform Synagogue

GRS has plenty of wonderful adult education opportunities coming up, covering everything from the Jewish holidays to the Parshat HaShavua, taught by Rabbi Gerson and special guests.

Sunday morning Torah study will be held on March 29, April 12, and May 3. Rabbi Gerson leads lively discussions of the week's Torah portions, with readings from noted Torah scholars.

On Friday night, April 10, Reverend Max Grant of Second Congregational Church in Greenwich will be speaking at Shabbat services about Parshat Shemini, as part of a pulpit exchange with Rabbi Gerson. Then, on Sunday morning May 31, Rabbi Gerson will speak at Second Congregational Church's Sunday services. Both services are open to the entire community.

On Friday night, May 1, we will be joined by David Weisberg, Executive Director of World Jewish Relief USA, an organization working to provide a robust crisis response for hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian Jews in need of clothing, shelter and food. Weisberg brings more than three decades of executive experience leading organizations of local, regional, national, and international scope. WJR dates back to 1933, when it succeeded in bringing some 65,000 Jewish refugees to safety.



*David Weisberg,
World Jewish Relief USA*

COME HEAR THE POWERFUL TESTIMONY OF OCTOBER 7TH SURVIVOR



Barak Morag

"Choosing Life: From Survival to Resilience"

May 4, 2026, 7:00 pm at Temple Sholom
300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT

Barak Morag and his family's lives were changed in an instant on October 7, 2023. Hiding in the safe room of their home in Kibbutz Nir Oz, they were forced to make life-or-death decisions at every moment until their eventual rescue. Barak will share their story of survival and the journey of rebuilding from the ruins.

FREE FOR TEMPLE MEMBERS
\$18 FOR NON-MEMBERS
REGISTER AT: WWW.TEMPLESHOLOM.COM

BH

JWC Shavuot

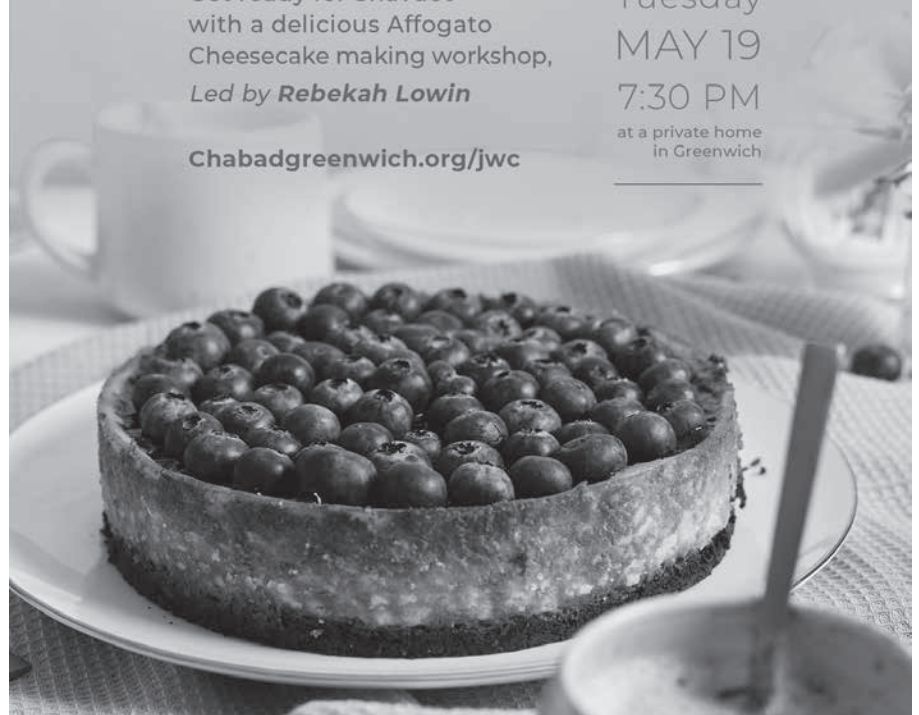
**Our Sweetest Tradition
Affogato Style**

Get ready for Shavuot with a delicious Affogato Cheesecake making workshop,
Led by *Rebekah Lowin*

Tuesday
MAY 19
7:30 PM

at a private home in Greenwich

Chabadgreenwich.org/jwc



**Pack a Little Kindness.
Share a Lot of Dignity.**

Families are invited to make a difference at our Family Dignity Grows Pack. Together, we'll pack essential care totes that provide dignity, comfort, and practical support to Greenwich neighbors in need.

Sunday, May 3, 2026 | 3:30 PM UJA-JCC Greenwich

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

Participants will have the opportunity to sponsor and pack:

Regular Totes – \$25 Family Totes – \$30

Each tote delivers care, dignity, and essential supplies to our Greenwich neighbors.

TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS

One Family Ticket – \$54 Sponsor Ticket – \$250

Event Chair: **Natasha Luboski**

Come for the community. Leave knowing you helped make someone's day a little brighter. | **Register Today!**

| |

Israel in Crisis –

Continued from page 1

From the first days of the escalation, our Federation partners in Israel have been assessing needs in real time, coordinating with local authorities and national organizations to deliver smart, compassionate, and rapid-response aid. Current priorities include:

- Emergency relief for families displaced by missile attacks
- Support for reservists and the families they leave behind
- Strengthening local municipalities providing frontline assistance
- Specialized care for the elderly, disabled, and other vulnerable citizens
- Trauma care and resilience programs to heal a nation under fire

Our Federation core partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the JDC, have mobilized with speed to provide emergency services: financial grants for families whose homes were destroyed or damaged, as well as financial support to bereaved families. In addition, they are providing mental health and trauma services to meet the growing need.

Every dollar given translates directly into relief and resilience. Every act of support reinforces Israel's strength. In times like these, we are reminded that the global Jewish family stands as one. With your help, we are not just responding to crisis – we are building the foundation for tomorrow's recovery and hope.

Now more than ever, our brothers and sisters in Israel need us. And we are showing them that they are not alone.

Donate now: ujajcc.org

The information here is accurate as of the publication date of this newspaper.

Volunteer Trip to Israel

Travel with us to Israel!
June 30 – July 9, 2026

Experience Israel like never before on an unforgettable 8-day journey of travel, volunteering, and connection. This exceptional opportunity—once limited to college students—is now open to adults of all ages who want to build meaningful relationships, support Israel through volunteering and stand together with Israel during this period of rebuilding.

Birthright is partnering with UJA-JCC Greenwich to offer a highly subsidized trip with limited availability. Don't miss your chance to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Apply now to secure your spot.



- Adult Volunteer Trip
- Tel Aviv based
- Day trip to Gaza Envelope
- Geopolitical Update
- Includes flights, hotel, breakfasts and all daytime activities

\$2,820 double occupancy including flights
\$3,675 single occupancy including flights



Scan the QR code for more information.



Questions? Please contact cori@ujajcc.org

Enhancing Sacred Music: Temple Sholom Welcomes New Musical Leadership

Temple Sholom is proud and exhilarated to announce that artist-in-residence Sheldon Low has been appointed Senior Cantorial Director of Sacred Music in a new full-time role beginning this July. For nearly two decades, Low has been an integral part of Temple Sholom's story – shaping the congregation's spiritual soundtrack and inspiring the community with his creative spirit and extraordinary voice. "Today, we take a bold and joyful step forward by formalizing and deepening that relationship in a transformative way," said Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz.

As Senior Cantorial Director of Sacred Music, Low will help guide the temple's musical vision. He will mentor the musical team, expand sacred music programming,

and introduce innovative musical offerings designed to enrich and energize congregational life. Current Cantorial Soloists Mikhal Weiner, Ella Joy Meir and Dan Frankel will continue to enrich sacred music throughout the year and during the High Holy Days, ensuring a vibrant and collaborative musical experience for the synagogue.

Low will continue to lead the beloved High Holiday Family Services while broadening his presence throughout the year. He will play an enhanced role in *B'nai Mitzvah* services, deepen his involvement in religious school, and bring dynamic musical Shabbat experiences to the *bimah* on a more regular basis. Joining him in this exciting new chapter is his wife, Hadar Orshalimy,

who will serve as Artist-in-Residence in a part-time capacity. A gifted and soulful musician, Orshalimy will lead and co-lead select Shabbat services alongside Low, adding her artistry and warmth to the growing list of musical offerings. Beyond their exceptional

musical talent, the couple brings a deep commitment to community-building and Jewish life. Their presence will strengthen connections across the congregation – on the *bimah*, in the classroom, and throughout the rhythms of Temple life.

"This is a defining moment for Temple Sholom," said Meryl Sole, Temple President. "We are entering a new era of expanded musical leadership, spiritual depth, and creative possibility."



Sheldon Low



Hadar Orshalimy

Ron Brien
Greenwich Attorney
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The Vogel Family
CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING



The JCC Preschool
at Greenwich Reform Synagogue
a program of the JCC

MAKE A SPLASH AT
SUMMER FUN! at The JCC
Preschool

18 months – 4 years
June 22 - August 14



SOCIALIZATION
BEGINS AT
**THE JCC
PRESCHOOL**

15 months – 5 years



Enroll today!
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Clergy's Corner

☆ **When the Liberation Began** ☆

by Rabbi David Evan Markus, Esq., Shir Ami

At Passover tables around the world, a seemingly simple question shapes Jewish identity, coheres us amidst diversity and tumult, and propels us forward in shared meaning and resilience:

“Why is this night different?”

The question demands answers, and receives them from young and old. “We were slaves to a Pharaoh in Egypt, and then...” Usually we rivet on what happened next – the bush that burned but was not consumed, the power that is liberation itself, the otherworldly call to “let my people go,” the signs and wonders, the sea that split, the manna that fell, the cloud that led, the love that lured, the mountain that trembled, the voice that called. What happened “then” launched our ancestral journey from bondage to liberation, degradation to joy, darkness to light, and fear to faith. All that we are as a people today traces back to “then.”

Especially in troubled times, when tyrants abound and bondage ensnares so many in so many ways, we do well to ask a further question that animates the core of our peoplehood, and our power and duty to live our creed:

“When did the liberation from Egyptian bondage begin?”

Shalom Noah Berezovsky of Slonim in Belarus (a.k.a. “the Slonimer,” who died in 2000) asked this pivotal question in his masterpiece work, *Netivot Shalom* (“Paths of Peace”). To

the Slonimer, liberation began not at the other side of the split sea, and not at the physical exodus from Egypt after the tenth plague slew the first-born of Egypt. Liberation began long before “Let My people go,” and even before the Burning Bush.

According to the Slonimer, liberation began with Exodus 2:23-25:

“The king of Egypt died; the *Children of Israel groaned from their bondage and cried out*, and their cry from their bondage rose up to God. God heard their moaning, and God remembered the covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God saw the Children of Israel, and God knew.”

The Slonimer asked, “What is it that God *saw* and *knew*?” The Slonimer’s answer: God *saw* and *knew* that our ancestors were becoming ready for freedom. Our readiness for liberation was precisely that we cried out – that we stopped accepting bondage in suffered silence.

In the words of modern psychology, in that moment our ancestors began to individuate from bondage. Someone totally immersed in their situation fuses with it and doesn’t cry out from it: they accept it and, in essence, become it. When our ancestors cried out, they stopped being fused to their situation. By a seemingly trivial but radical act, they took a first step away

from *being* slaves: they became people suffering the depravity of being forced to work against their will.

Surely this first step hurt. It hurts to feel the pain of suffering. It hurts to feel the pain of bondage. It hurts to feel the pain of the world. Numbness can help get us through the day. But they were numb no more. And by that first step, they reclaimed the moral standing to declare for the whole world to hear – at first just with wordless groans – that their situation was utterly wrong. They reclaimed a will to exert at all, even just within themselves. And by this first step, they reclaimed the will to be free in equal dignity, which is the birthright of all humanity.

In that moment, by their own defiant inner turn, our enslaved ancestors’ inner liberation began by their own agency. Our ancestors took one step, and immediately God *saw* and *knew*. Immediately all the rest followed. Immediately came the Burning Bush, Moses’ reluctant deployment, “Let My people go,” the plagues and all the rest.

Fast forward some 3,500 years. “We were slaves to a Pharaoh in Egypt, and then” – then what? Now what?

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.

Learning Is Fun at GRS

Under the leadership of Cantor/Education Director Michelle Rubin, the GRS Religious School has more than doubled in enrollment. During religious school, kids have fun while learning about and experiencing Judaism. The students particularly enjoy Shabbat Table, *Tefillah* (prayers) and *Shira* (music) as well as special holiday programming. At Friday night family Shabbat services, students rush to the *Bimah* to lead the congregation in prayer. In short, our children love being Jewish!

Upcoming GRS Religious School events include Tot and Family services and dinner on Fridays April 17 and May 8, with tot services at 5:15 pm, dinner at 5:45 pm, and Family Services at 6:30 pm. On May 8, our special Shabbat service feature our *Siddur* and Consecration ceremonies, when third graders will receive their own *Siddurim* (prayer books) and our Kindergarteners receive their own mini-Torahs.

Sunday, May 17 at 10 am is the graduation and awards ceremony and celebration for the GRS Religious School. Students earn awards for Shabbat and religious school attendance, and *Tefillah* awards for learning to chant various prayers.

Students who performed *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness) will also receive Mitzvah Maker Awards, given to kids who completed a grade-appropriate number of community service hours. Students can earn *Mitzvah* hours by helping siblings with reading or homework, visiting and singing for the elderly, helping neighbors, providing free babysitting, collecting food for Neighbor to Neighbor, tutoring, donating hair to make wigs for people with cancer or alopecia, and so much more!

For more information about the GRS Religious School, contact Cantor Michelle Rubin at CantorRubin@GRS.org or call 203-629-0018, ext. 3.



**Unraveling UNRWA
Examining the Controversial
Story Behind the Agency**

In March, the UJA-JCC Greenwich community came together for a powerful screening of *Unraveling UNRWA* followed by an insightful talkback with film director Duki Dror. In the aftermath of the October 7 massacre and allegations that UNRWA staff were involved in kidnappings, the agency drew intense international scrutiny. As Gaza’s humanitarian crisis worsened, Israel moved to suspend cooperation with UNRWA. The film takes a closer look at the agency’s origins—created as a temporary solution to the refugee crisis following the 1948 war—and explores how it has continued to operate for decades. We are grateful for Jewish Alumni Strong’s sponsorship of this program at the Bruce Museum.



Lunch & Learn

SPRING SERIES 2026

Thursdays, 12:30–1:30 pm
In person & on Zoom

THE LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM IS
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY RITA EDELSTON




MAY 7

The Impact of the Hebrew Bible on the American Founding Fathers

Rabbi Joseph H. Prouser

From George Washington to Andrew Jackson to Norman Rockwell, leading Americans have always turned to the Tanakh as the basis of their idiom and worldview. We'll examine surprising examples of how this pattern has persisted across 250 years.

MAY 14

Laws of the Spirit: Ritual, Mysticism, and the Commandments in Early Hasidism

Rabbi Ariel Evan Mayse, PhD

How could a tradition characterized by its revolutionary teachings on God's immediacy, spiritual revelation, and joyful worship also cultivate intense devotion to Jewish legal tradition? Tracking the development of Hasidism from the 1750s to 1815, we'll discover that what made this movement unique wasn't its stance on preserving or abandoning rabbinic authority, but its dynamic reinterpretation of the meaning behind Jewish ceremonial life.

MAY 21

Lessons from a Turquoise Butterfly **Dr. Dale Atkins**

Join a celebration of resilience, family bonds and the eternal power of love, as enshrined in Dr. Atkins' intergenerational tale *The Turquoise Butterfly* (an homage to her late mother). We'll explore ways that knowledge, values, traditions and love are passed down through lived experience, stories and genuine connection by grandparents and grand-elders.

MAY 28

The Legacy of Romanian Jewry **Rabbi Daniel Gropper**

Over the centuries, Romanian Jews navigated both integration and persecution while maintaining their covenantal identity. From vibrant pre-war communities that produced Hasidic leaders and scholars to their obliteration during the Holocaust and Communist era, we'll trace how sacred texts and traditions sustained Jewish life even in the darkest times.

JUNE 4

Tackling Tefillah: What Are We Praying for Anyway? **Rabbi Yossi Pollak**

Are we "changing G-d's mind" when we pray? Consider tefillah through the thinking of Rav Kook and some present-day sages.

JUNE 11

The First Time We Didn't Get into Israel **Rabbi Jerrrey Segelman**

The Torah tells a story about the Jewish people not getting into the land but returning to the wilderness for 40 years. We'll glean insights that may well apply to today.

JUNE 18

What Happened to the Jewish Priesthood After 70 CE? **Rabbi Yonatan Miller**

You might assume the kohanim — Judaism's hereditary priests — vanished after the Second Temple's destruction, replaced by the rabbis. Quite the opposite! Explore the surprising afterlife of this prestigious group and their enduring role in Jewish life today.

Register at ujajcc.org for Zoom access.

To attend in person with lunch, register online or call **203.552.1818** no later than the day before the program.



Yom Ha'atzmaut Flag Raising

You're invited to our annual Yom Ha'atzmaut flag raising ceremony. Celebrate Israel's 78th Independence Day with us.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
4:30 PM


GREENWICH TOWN HALL
101 FIELD POINT ROAD
GREENWICH, CT

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required.

REGISTER TODAY!




UJA*JCC
greenwich



YOM HASHOAH
44th ANNUAL COMMUNITY-WIDE
HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

A meaningful evening of Survivor testimony with Dr. Alex Levy





Born in Berlin in 1936, Dr. Levy survived the war while hiding in a Catholic girls' orphanage in occupied Brussels. He later rebuilt his life in the United States. His testimony serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of memory, education, and bearing witness.

Tuesday, April 14 | 7 pm
at Temple Shalom

UJA*JCC
greenwich

Scan to register
or at ujajcc.org

Ayaan Hirsi Ali

**The Black Family
Community Forum**

In memory of
Susan and Eliot Black z'l

Save the Date
September 24 | 7:30pm

UJA*JCC
greenwich

Lion of Judah Powering Jewish Giving and Identity



What Makes a Lion?

Over the last few years, I have had the distinct pleasure of learning more about dinosaurs than I thought I would ever need to know. Each period – Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous – is between 50 million to 100 million years. My kids ask if Papa, their great grandfather, was alive when the dinosaurs were here, and I understand where that comes from. But then after I tuck them in, I think about each life we have, and the opportunity we have in each life to “make a difference” over the weeks, years, decades, thousands, and millions of years – what does that mean, “to make a difference”? What makes a meaningful life?

I am often asked what makes a ‘Lion.’ Is it the financial commitment? Is it the pin? The essence of a Lion of Judah is action. We are women who refuse to be bystanders in Jewish history. When we talk about the Lion of Judah, we are talking about a global force of more than 18,000 women. We are part of a legacy that has raised billions of dollars to:

- Rescue Jews in peril across the globe.
- Fortify the social and economic fabric of Israel.
- Ensure that no Jewish senior or child in Greenwich goes without the care and connection they deserve.

There is something uniquely powerful about Jewish Women’s Philanthropy. For generations, women were the quiet keepers of the home. But today, as Lions, we are the *vocal* keepers of our people.

To be a Lion is to lead with empathy, truth, sisterhood, and fierce protection. My philanthropy is an expression of my identity. When we wear this pin, we tell our children and grandchildren that being a Jewish woman means a life defined by giving Jewishly, by the power of Jewish sisterhood, and by collective strength. This is how I define a meaningful life.

–These remarks were delivered by Rachel Rubin at the event.

Contact Hila@ujajcc.org to learn how you too can become a Lion.



Event featuring Rawan Osman at Richards



In February, we held an inspiring and successful Lion of Judah women's event at Richards and had the opportunity to hear Rawan Osman share her journey of converting to Judaism and overcoming antisemitism. It was extra special to see UJA-JCC Greenwich's COO Cori SaNogueira get pinned! We are so grateful to all of our Lions for coming together for this women's event, our event sponsor Jewish Alumni Strong, and our co-chairs **Rebecca Tipermas** and **Marissa Cohen**!



A Morning with Zibby Owens

She took Greenwich by storm in 2021 – virtually. Now, five years later, Zibby Owens is back, and this time she's appearing in person.

The bestselling author, publisher, podcaster and CEO crowned "NYC's Most Powerful Book-fluencer" returns by popular demand for an impactful morning. Zibby is the founder of Zibby Media, home to Zibby Books, Zibby's Bookshop in Santa Monica and the award-winning *Totally Booked with Zibby* podcast. Also a prolific columnist and mother of four, she has built an empire on the idea that even the busiest people deserve a great story.

Join us on Thursday, May 7 at 10 a.m. at Greenwich Reform Synagogue (92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob) as she presents *On Being Jewish Now: Deepening Identity and Cultivating Resilience*. Her collection of 75 essays, edited by Owens, explores the complexity of contemporary Jewish identity and how life has changed irrevocably in the wake of the October 7 attacks. It highlights the common threads, from resilience, trauma and loss to love, laughter and family that bind the Jewish people. Contributors include Mark Feuerstein, Amy Ephron, Lisa Barr and Nicola Kraus. Additionally, Zibby will discuss her advocacy work on behalf of Jewish authors currently facing boycotts.

General admission is \$54, and sponsorships are available at \$90; either way, you'll leave with Zibby's latest book in hand.

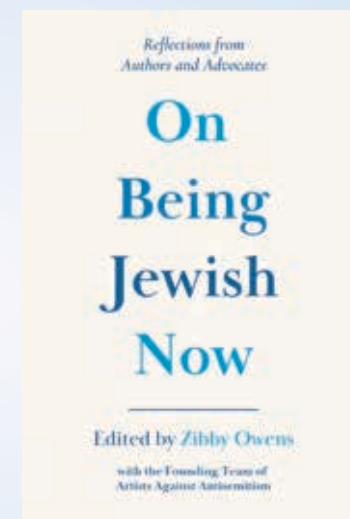
To register, please visit ujajcc.org or call 203-552-1818.

UJA-JCC Greenwich Women's Philanthropy

SAVE THE DATE

A Morning with Zibby Owens

Zibby Owens is the founder of Zibby Media which includes the award-winning podcast Totally Booked with Zibby. She is the author of six books, and a mother of four.



Thursday, May 7, 2026 | 10:00 am

At Greenwich Reform Synagogue

\$54 per person | Sponsor tickets: \$90

Event Co-Chairs:

Melissa Bohrer | Whitney Chernoff
Elizabeth Schacher | Emily Wirgin





TEEN



DINNER






Friday, April 17, 7:15 pm

Come enjoy a special Shabbat dinner at Temple Shalom with other Jewish teens in 8th-12th grades!

Connect over good food, build friendships, and experience the joy, traditions, and meaning of Shabbat.

RSVP by April 9 to Jessica Baden, Teen & Youth Advisor, at jessica.baden@templesholom.com.

300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT • 203-869-7191

Choral Shabbats at Greenwich Reform Synagogue

Join us at Greenwich Reform on April 24 at 6:30 pm as the GRS Choir accompanies Rabbi Gerson and Cantor Rubin, bringing beautiful harmonies and spirit to our Friday night Shabbat service.

On Friday, June 5 at 6:30 pm, join us for our fourth annual Broadway Shabbat. The service will feature guest musical theater artist, Kara Freedman, and the talented members of the GRS adult and children's choirs. This service blends traditional Shabbat prayers with beloved Broadway melodies and will also feature a brief concert highlighting songs of hope and love.

If you are interested in joining the GRS choir, please contact Cantor Michelle Rubin (CantorRubin@GRS.org).

For more information on GRS events and programs, please contact Admin@grs.org, call 203-629-0018 or visit GRS.org for calendar updates.



BH

Shabbat

WITH RABBI SHAIS TAUB

How to live the MOST Jewish meaningful Life?

Friday, April 24

Services 6:00 pm
Shabbat Dinner 6:45 pm
Lecture 7:45 pm

Simultaneous children & teen program
At Chabad, 38 Field Point Rd



The Best Parenting advice from Judaism

Shabbat, April 25

Services followed by lunch 11:45 am
At Chabad, 38 Field Point Rd

RSVP: chabadgreenwich.org

Committee: Becky Foreman, Lindsey Levine, Laura Rosenbloom, Rachel Rubin, Elizabeth Schacher, Cathy Sherzer, Molly Tullipan, Emily Wirgin, Dassie Yechlely





We Pray for Peace Am Yisrael Chai



JEWISH PRIDE JEWISH

LOVE ONE ANOTHER 🤝

ALWAYS BE INCLUSIVE

STAND UP TO INJUSTICE 🕊️

Save the Date

International Lion of Judah Conference

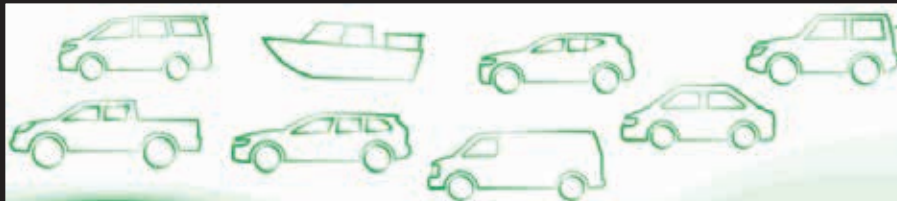
February 28 - March 2, 2027

Austin, TX

Registration opens in June; limited space available
Contact hila@ujajcc.org for more info



UJA★JCC greenwich



DONATE A VEHICLE

Did you know that you can donate a used vehicle (car, truck, van, SUV, or boat) in ANY condition to UJA-JCC Greenwich?

We are accepting vehicles in CT at this time. All you have to do is head to ujajcc.org and fill out our donation form! Proceeds from the sale of your vehicle help care for those in need here in Greenwich, in Israel and around the world.

UJA★JCC greenwich
THE CENTER FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY, CULTURE & CARING



Wizards Purim Celebration 3/1/26



PURIM REMINDS US ALL TO NOT JUST DRESS UP AND HAVE A PARTY... BUT TO REMEMBER THAT WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER. K'LAL YISRAEL- WE CAN ALL BE LIKE QUEEN ESTHER.

WWW.HEBREWIZARDS.COM

Friendship Circle Annual Friendship Day Celebration Continues in 2026

Sunday, May 17th, is the date for this year's Friendship Circle of Fairfield County Friendship Day. The Friendship Circle community, including participants and supporters, will come once again to Westhill High School to support the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year. Friendship Day 2025 surpassed previous dollars raised and participation numbers, and 2026 should be another record-breaking year.

Friends will gather to create team signs and prepare for the ceremonial red ribbon cutting under the Friendship Circle arch. This will officially kick off the walk portion of the event. Both before and after the walk everyone will enjoy a wide variety of activities and a free barbecue lunch. Catering favorite Kivi Attar will return this year, and other food options will include snacks of popcorn, pretzels, snow cones and cotton candy.



Volunteers and their special friends, families along with the greater community will enjoy face painting, bumper cars, critter caravan and more. Inventor Mentor will be back with his variety of live science experiments. There are some surprising new additions planned for this year as well. Please join us for a fun day and to show support for our mission of inclusion and friendship!

To learn more about the Friendship Circle and how you can become involved, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH

CEO's Corner



Two Stories, One Truth



Where a person is born should not determine whether they live in fear. Yet, in today's immigration landscape, that is often the reality. As Jewish Family Services of Greenwich enters our 44th year serving the community, I am often reminded how the work of the agency evolves with the needs of the times.

One program with particularly deep roots is our immigration legal services. For decades, JFS was a Department of Justice-accredited agency providing basic citizenship services, primarily assisting Jewish families arriving from the former Soviet Union. When we revived our refugee resettlement program in 2021, it quickly became clear that the need for immigration legal support had grown far beyond what many people realize. Today, our program provides high-quality, low-cost – or no-cost – legal services to more than 1,700 immigrants across Connecticut.

Two cases from the past month illustrate both the breadth of this work and the profound human stakes involved. The first is Massi.

Massi arrived in the United States after Operation Allies Welcome when his father, a physician in Afghanistan, risked his life to protect women and children during the Taliban takeover. Their family fled under cover of night and rebuilt their lives here in Connecticut, his father as the director of our Immigration Support Services. Massi was working, complying with every legal requirement, and awaiting the outcome of his asylum case when he received a notice requiring him to appear in immigration court. The strange nature of the letter and order to appear within 72 hours caused alarm. Our JFS attorney went to court with him in New York.

After passing his interview, Massi stepped outside the courtroom where our attorney quickly realized what was happening. She placed her body in front of our beloved director's son, before being directed by ICE officers to move, as Massi was shackled and detained in front of her eyes. Within hours he had disappeared into the immigration detention system – first Louisiana, then Texas. For two days we had no idea where he was.

For the next 99 days our legal team worked tirelessly to secure his release, with support from Senators Murphy and Blumenthal and Representatives Meskers and Arzeno. Without experienced legal representation, Massi would still be sitting in detention today – one of thousands whose only "offense" is being born somewhere else.

Then there is Mira – Mira is an 86-year-old Holocaust survivor who came to the United States as a child. She spent her entire adult life believing she was secure in her legal status. But as headlines about immigration enforcement intensified, she became frightened. She could not locate her documentation and became terrified that she could be deported from the only country she has called home for more than 80 years.

Our colleagues at JFS Hartford reached out to our legal team for help after other attorneys declined to take the case. Reconstructing her documentation was complicated, but our team persisted. Just last week, Mira received her replacement Green Card. Our attorney looks forward to accompanying her to her naturalization appointment, when she will finally become a U.S. citizen.

Two people. Two continents. Two entirely different life stories. And yet the same thread connects them: fear, uncertainty, and trauma tied not to wrongdoing, but simply to birthplace. Immigration is often discussed in sweeping political terms. But the reality is deeply human – every case impacts a human life. It affects people of every age and background – from a young Afghan rebuilding his life after war, to an elderly Holocaust survivor seeking peace of mind in her later years.

At JFS Greenwich, our role is simple: to ensure that people facing these moments have access to expert legal guidance, compassionate support, and the dignity of being treated as individuals rather than headlines.

With immense gratitude,

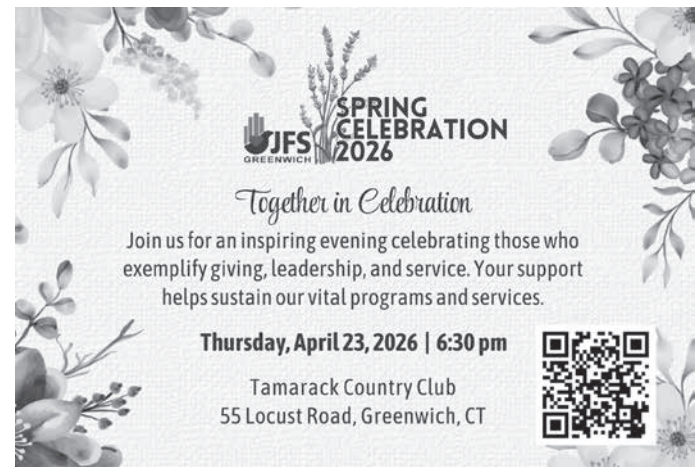
–Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL
Chief Executive Officer,

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

Tribute Contributions to JFS of Greenwich

Anonymous in memory of Steve Soule
Elyse Brown in memory of Steve Soule
Erica and Matt Buchsbaum in honor of Massi Siddiqi
William Donahue in memory of Steve Soule
Evan and Danielle Eason in memory of Irene Berman
Zeena Hine in memory of Steve Soule
Sheila Kantor in memory of Steve Soule
Pamela and Robert Liflander in memory of Steve Soule
Barbara and Evan Salop in memory of Steve Soule
Kishori and Keith Scott in memory of Steve Soule
Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Margarita Clara Barton
Michele Weisman and Steve Gruntfest in memory of Steve Soule
Anne Wichman in memory of Steve Soule
Michael Wichman in memory of Steve Soule

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



JFS Volunteers Bring Hope, Humanity, and Heart to Our Community

Every April, Volunteer Appreciation Month invites us to pause and honor individuals whose kindness strengthens our community. At JFS of Greenwich our volunteers are the heart of our mission, the caring presence that turns support into connection.

Across Greenwich, people face moments of vulnerability: a health crisis, an empty refrigerator, the isolation of aging, or the uncertainty of beginning again in a new country. And in those moments, it is often a volunteer who offers the first reassurance: "You don't have to go through this alone."

JFS volunteers sit beside older adults during appointments, deliver groceries that nourish both body and spirit, welcome newcomers with patience, and bring comfort into hospital rooms simply by being present. Last year, they contributed more than 65,068 hours of small acts of generosity that often become turning points for those in need.

We also appreciate our dedicated Board members and Spring Celebration Committee, whose leadership, creativity, and endless support strengthen every part of our mission.

A Snapshot of Impact in 2025 – Powered by Volunteers
42,400 meals provided at weekly school and community food distributions

2,600 hospital patients visited easing fear and loneliness
9,674 immigration services ensuring no one faces hardship alone

1,520 Supermarketing for Seniors shopping trips supporting older adults' independence

Join Us! Help Us Make Someone's Day Brighter

As we celebrate our volunteers this April, we welcome new community members to experience the joy of giving back. Just a few hours a month can bring comfort or offer encouragement when it's needed most.

Learn more at www.jfsgreenwich.org or contact Beth Jabick at bjabick@jfsgreenwich.org. To our volunteers: thank you. You are the warmth, kindness, and hope at the center of JFS.





TEMPLE SHOLOM'S

CASINO Royale

JANUARY 31, 2026



Purim in Israel Celebration Brings the Spirit of the Holy Land to Chabad of Greenwich

Chabad of Greenwich hosted an unforgettable “Purim in Israel” celebration, bringing the sights, flavors, and vibrant spirit of the Holy Land to the local community. The event drew a packed crowd of close to 300 people and was filled with incredible energy as families, friends, and neighbors gathered together to celebrate the joyous holiday of Purim. Guests were transported to Israel through immersive

experiences that captured the atmosphere of the country. Families posed for photos at a replica of the Kotel, while others strolled through a lively shuk-style marketplace, featuring fresh juices and traditional Israeli sweets.

Throughout the evening, the room was filled with excitement, laughter, and dancing, reflecting the deep sense of Jewish pride and unity that Purim inspires.

The celebration highlighted Chabad of Greenwich’s ongoing commitment to creating meaningful, joyful Jewish experiences that bring people together.

For those who attended, the message was clear: moments like these – filled with connection, tradition, and shared pride – are what community is all about.



Chabad of Greenwich

LAG B'OMER BBQ

AT TOD'S POINT BEACH | TUESDAY MAY 5 4:30 PM



Community BBQ for the whole family!

WOMEN'S WINE & DESIGN CHEESE BOARD

Workshop at Temple Sholom

Temple Sholom welcomed 30 women for a hands-on cheese board workshop in February led by Tracey Milbauer, owner of Share It Charcuterie.

Participants enjoyed wine and light bites as they learned how to style a beautiful, eye-catching display to take home, featuring artisanal cheeses, fresh fruit, savory dips, and sweet treats.

The evening offered a perfect blend of creativity, connection, and community.



Temple Sholom | 300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT

Purim at Temple Sholom: Celebrating Strength and Resilience

At Greenwich's Temple Sholom, Purim came alive with tradition, hope, and joy – reminding us that celebration and joy can still shine even in challenging times. The holiday festivities began March 1 with the synagogue's Super Mario-themed Purim Carnival, which included an inflatable obstacle course, interactive games, face painting, spin art, snow cones, and prizes. Families also prepared *Misloach Manot* – gifts of food and drink – to share with friends and loved

ones, fulfilling this cherished mitzvah.

On March 2, members of the community gathered for a children's Purim *shpiel* performed by religious school students, followed by family-friendly and traditional Megillah readings to recount the story of how the Jewish people survived a ruler in ancient Persia who sought their destruction. "The Megillah reading on Purim reminds us that faith, righteousness, and courage can alter the course of history, and that God's hidden hand guides those who act

with moral conscience," said Rabbi Mitch in a message to the congregation ahead of Purim. "I pray that God's light will help us push back the darkness confronting our world, steady our hearts, and renew our hope for peace."

Temple Sholom thanks the families, volunteers, and clergy who brought the spirit of Purim to life, reinforcing a collective commitment to resilience, solidarity, and the enduring power of tradition.

To learn more about Temple Sholom, visit www.templesholom.com.



Celebrate Pride Sunday with Rabbi Mike Moskowitz at GRS

Sunday morning at 10 am on June 7, Greenwich Reform Synagogue will host Rabbi Mike Moskowitz for a text study on LGBTQ Pride and Spiritual Allyship. Rabbi Moskowitz is a Rabbi with three ordinations from the ultra-Orthodox world. He currently serves as Union Theological Seminary's Director of Scholarship and Multi-Faith Engagement. Rabbi Moskowitz previously served as the scholar-in-residence for Trans and Queer Jewish Studies at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah in New York City, the world's largest LGBTQ Synagogue.

Rabbi Moskowitz teaches and speaks widely across the U.S. and internationally. His voice has become a trusted resource for communities seeking pathways to repair, healing, and justice. His books include *Textual Activism*, *Graceful Masculinity*, *Seasonal Resistance*, and *Ancestral Allyship*.

Join us afterwards for Pride Sunday at Greenwich Town Hall at 1 pm.

For more information and to RSVP, email Admin@GRS.org.



MAZEL TOV



APRIL
11TH

WE WISH GABI SALOMON &
DR. NATHAN MILLER
A MAZEL TOV ON
THEIR MARRIAGE.
NISAN 24, 5786



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PART OF THE NATIONAL TAMIM ACADEMY NETWORK

TAMIM OF GREENWICH

K Bridge , Kindergarten & First Grade

A Jewish Education has never been more important!

The K Bridge, Kindergarten & First Grade at Tamim Academy of Greenwich is the most nurturing environment for your child. An individualized program, meeting each child where they are and taking them to the next level.



Reach out to schedule a private tour

Contact Us

Maryashie Deren or Simone Zwany
maryashie@chabadgreenwich.org
simone@chabadgreenwich.org

tamimgreenwich.org



STRONG ACADEMICS

Tamim Academy Headquarters has Implemented best practices for every aspect of the curriculum. We use Read Write Inc for literacy and Developing Roots and Singapore Math for Mathematics. We assess children using national standardized MAP testing and provide teaching coaches for each subject. Each child is supported in every subject. Learning is done primarily in small groups and 1:1 settings.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

We look at the whole child to work on individual social-emotional and physical goals. We prioritize being a good person!



Where every day sparks new adventures!

- Baseball – Softball
- Basketball
- Capture The Flag
- Flag Football
- Floor Hockey
- Frisbee
- Gaga

- Intensive Tennis
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Yoga
- Gymnastics
- Special Sports Events

- Door to Door Transportation Provided
- Hot Lunches



BH

campgan.com

Undeterred by Weather, Teen Changemakers Met Twice by Zoom to Conduct Business

High school students in the Teen Changemakers program, recently gathered virtually after snowstorms forced them to cancel their in-person meeting. Instead, the teens held two Zoom sessions where they heard brief presentations from 17 non-profit organizations that submitted proposals seeking funding. The organizations represent both local initiatives and international efforts supporting communities in Argentina, Israel and Ukraine. Their work addresses issues the teens identified as priorities, including combating antisemitism, disaster relief, sexual assault and domestic violence, education, food insecurity and supporting women in crisis.

Now the Teen Changemakers are turning their attention to fundraising so they can distribute grants later this year. The group hopes to surpass the \$61,000 they raised last year, and UJA-JCC Greenwich and generous donors have already secured \$20,000 in matching grant funds to help boost their efforts. Community members can support the teens' work and help expand the impact of these programs by making a donation at ujajcc.org.



Teen Changemakers packing shabbat boxes for Jewish soldiers this past Veterans Day.

TEEN CHANGEMAKERS IMPACT CELEBRATION

YOUNG LEADERS. REAL IMPACT.

Explore student-created display boards, meet the teens behind the philanthropy, discover the organizations supported by their allocations, and learn how their leadership is shaping our community's future.

Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich | 4 Horseneck Lane

Sunday, April 26, 2026

2:30 PM

Light refreshments will be served



REGISTER TODAY
RSVP REQUIRED

UJA JCC
greenwich

For more information, email cori@ujajcc.org

LESSONS FROM A
TURQUOISE BUTTERFLY

Discover Dale Atkins' new book, **The Turquoise Butterfly**, through a live reading, audience Q&A, and a discussion about the special connection between grandparents and grandchildren.

Date: Thursday, May 21
Time: 12:30 pm
Location: UJA-JCC Greenwich

Free with registration required by Tuesday, May 19
Lunch will be served

SCAN TO REGISTER
The first 20 registrants will receive a complimentary book

Lunch & Learn is generously sponsored by Rita Edelston

UJA JCC
greenwich



Life Cycle Event Wizards Bar Mitzvah



Each year Hebrew Wizards teaches our students about the Jewish Lifecycle Ceremonies. This year we congratulate Oliver Lissauer who became a Bar Mitzvah on February 22, 2026 .

Mazel Tov to the Lizak and Lissauer Families on their special simcha.



Create a Year of Connection

Sunday, March 29

Family Jam*

Experience the magic of music and storytelling in a joyful family program that connects families, shares Jewish values, and inspires generosity.

Sunday, October 18

Two By Two Zoo*

Bring the whole family for a hands-on experience with a traveling petting zoo where kids can learn the Jewish value of caring for living beings.

Tuesday, April 21

Ladies' Night Out

Join us for an evening of flower arranging and friends.

Sunday, October 25

Packing Project

Help pack over 10,000 meals for people in need across Connecticut.

Sunday, May 3

Dignity Grows Pack

Make a small difference in a big way. Be a part of providing essential hygiene items for neighbors in need.

Sunday, November 22

Little Hands, Big Hearts*

Children will create art that celebrates their creativity and spreads joy by making one piece to keep and one to share with local nursing home residents, learning kindness and honoring elders.

*These programs are generously sponsored by the Fred and Donna Nives Foundation.



PJ Library of Greenwich is a free gift to the community from UJA-JCC Greenwich. Award-winning books that celebrate Jewish values and culture are sent to families with children, ages 0 through 8 years old. Beyond books, PJ Library connects communities through events and programming.

