

# UJA-JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

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## Israel Connect Links Greenwich Volunteers and Israeli Students

Hebrew may be the *lashon hakadosh* and Yiddish and Ladino, *mama losbens*, but English is the *lingua franca* of today's interconnected world. Fluency can make or break careers in Israel, where English comprehension comprises one-third of the university entry exam. Yet the reading and speaking immersion this generally takes is hardly within everyone's reach. Fortunately for Israeli students looking to improve their English skills, there's the online educational service called *Israel Connect*. And Israel Connect's weekly 30-minute video chat sessions are completely free for the students. Not only does this give disadvantaged students a shot at post-secondary education, it invites students from all walks of Israeli life to develop a personal bond with a mentor abroad.

Through the auspices of UJA-JCC Greenwich, this digital platform now claims tutors from Greenwich among its Diaspora volunteers. "We're excited to link our community with this innovative program," says UJA-JCC CEO



Margie Black

Pam Ehrenkranz. "*Israel Connect* gives young Israelis a leg up in life while also providing transformative engagement for its volunteers."

Just ask **Margie Black**, who tutors Moran and Yuval, two 14-year-old girls from Jerusalem. "The benefits are mutual, but in reality I'm getting so much more from the interaction. When the girls hear that I've been to a site or city mentioned in a lesson, they get very excited," she notes, explaining that *Israel Connect's* curriculum centers on Israeli culture, history and geography. To be sure, the conversation transcends "Tour of Israel" lesson plans. "The girls have a healthy curiosity about what



Maura Smotrich, Joan Mann and Michele Stuart

*Continued on page 5*

## UJA Federation and JCC Greenwich Have Merged

In 2010, UJA Federation of Greenwich launched the Jewish Community Center of Greenwich to expand its local efforts in building a vibrant Jewish community. Now the two organizations, which have shared the same space for nearly eight years, have opted to merge, becoming **UJA-JCC Greenwich**.

The boards of both UJA Greenwich and JCC Greenwich unanimously approved the union, following two years of discussions. Pam Ehrenkranz continues in her leadership role as CEO of the combined organization. Leah Schechter becomes the Assistant Director of

the consolidated endeavor, and Tracy Daniels continues as Women's Philanthropy and PJ Library Director. Scott Simon and the UJA Greenwich board of directors will maintain their leadership of this expanded endeavor, and Ellen Davis continues in her role as founder and president of the JCC.

The new UJA-JCC Greenwich combines the strengths of both organizations.

We will continue our focus on philanthropy, and Jewish communities in Greenwich, Israel and around the globe, advancing our ability to meet Jewish needs wherever they exist. And,

of course, the high level local programming around ideas and arts, film, community service and family experiences will continue with an exciting lineup for 2018.

**Now, one gift to UJA-JCC Greenwich will strengthen Jewish life everywhere we touch. In successfully completing our 2017 annual campaign, a total of \$2,243,012 was committed to meet these goals. Thanks to each and every one of you for your generosity in this extraordinary effort. May we continue to grow as a community and go from strength to strength.**



### Fleeing the Hijab With Author Sima Goel

7:30 pm | \$18 | Temple Sholom,  
300 E. Putnam Ave.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 15**

As a teenager, Sima Goel crossed the most dangerous desert in the world rather than accept the restrictions of life in Iran of the early 1980s. Sima arrived in Canada penniless, unable to speak either English or French and having no family members other than her sisters with whom she had travelled. Despite suffering severe culture shock, ultimately she became a successful professional, fulfilling the dream of freedom that had fueled her youthful political protests, her flight into danger, her years of insecurity and her determination to help others. Her quest for freedom is a thrilling, timely inspiration for people longing to create a life of meaning.

Co-Sponsored with United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien





### Meet the New Chair of Greenwich PJ Library

We are THANKFUL for the talented and dedicated PJ Library Parent Planners who help us create programs, story times and holiday events for families with young children in the Greenwich community.

- Alona Altman
- Erika Brunwasser
- Ashley Crohn
- Marissa Cohen
- Romy Cohen
- Rebecca Cooper
- Rebecca Davis
- Jill Derikrava
- Stephanie Esquenazi
- Kelly Freishtat
- Allison Jackson (Past Chair)
- Eva Kantor
- Jamie Kesmodel
- Jody Siegartel Lazlo
- Natalie Landres
- Stephanie Otten
- Jessica Rickert (Chair)
- Hillary Rosenthal
- Cori SaNogueira (Past Chair)
- Rebecca Tipermas
- Jennifer Smokler Zigler

We are pleased to announce the new Chair of Greenwich PJ Library, **Jessica Rickert**. Jessica steps up from more than four years of service on the PJ Library Planners board to take the baton from **Cori SaNogueira**, who served tirelessly as Chair for three years. Jessica is a graduate of George Washington University and Pace University School of Law. Prior to starting a family, Jessica worked for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission adjudicating claims of employment discrimination, and volunteered as an advocate working to combat child trafficking. Jessica, her husband Barry and their two daughters Avianna and Stella, reside in Cos Cob.



Jessica is also co-Chair of the Selma Maisel Nursery School PTA and a class parent for Avianna's first grade class. With a passion for writing, Jessica is working on several children's stories. We welcome Jessica to the helm and look forward to a dynamic year ahead.

### PJ Library Mini Seder

A fifth question to ask this Passover: Why is the PJ Library Annual Mini Seder different from all other Seders? PJ families are invited to find out on Tuesday, March 27. As prior attendees know, one feature that sets PJ's Mini Seder apart is the spectacle of UJA-JCC Greenwich staff and lay leaders reenacting the Exodus story. "From the plagues to the parting of the Red Sea, the playful dramatization we do is a wonderful way to bring the Passover story to life," says **Kelly Freishtat**, who joins with **Jennifer Smokler-Zigler** in co-chairing this year's Mini Seder. "They even get into costume!" laughs Smokler-Zigler. "This adds an air of excitement, which makes it a fun and memorable learning experience for the kids." Now in its third year, the spark for a Mini Seder in Greenwich was lit by former PJ Chair **Cori SaNogueira** and the UJA and JCC brain trust. The kid-centric production "introduces children to the elements on the Seder plate and the tastes associated with the flight from Egypt, all in an age-appropriate framework of ages 2-5 year olds," comments **Tracy Daniels**, Director of the PJ Library and Young Families at UJA-JCC Greenwich. "Kids experience the flow of the seder ritual and get familiar with this important Jewish experience at their own levels. Of course parents and grandparents are welcome, too!"

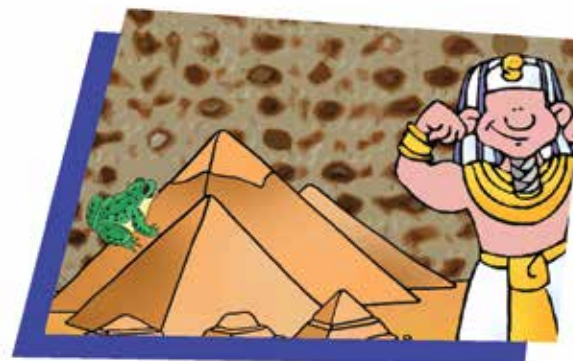
MAR 27

#### PJ Library Mini Seder

3:45 - 5 pm | One Holly Hill Lane  
\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

Our table is set and company's coming. We're saving a place for you! Join your friends for this annual mini-Seder complete with Pharaoh, Moses, Miriam, mini plagues, karpas, maror and a whole lot more! Grandparents welcome!

Chaired by PJ Library Parent Planners  
Kelly Wines Freishtat and  
Jennifer Smokler-Zigler



### PJ Library Story Time Returns to Greenwich Library! FEB 15 & MAR 15

3:45 - 4:45 pm | Greenwich Library, 101 W. Putnam Ave.  
Save these Thursday afternoons for playdates enriched by skilled guest readers, classic PJ Library stories and crafts! Best for ages 2-4.  
Grandparents, friends and siblings welcome.



See More Story Time Photos on Page 5

### Jbabies



In December, Jbabies welcomed Brooke Nalle, founder of Sleepy on Hudson, who talked about pediatric sleep challenges. Her expert and detailed advice was priceless! Huge thanks to Rebecca Cooper for helping to bring Brooke to Greenwich and to Brooke for sharing her wisdom, knowledge and experience.



## Women's Philanthropy Steps Up for the Holiday

Hanukkah 2017 came and went, but for some Greenwich families the spirit of holiday sharing is something they won't soon forget. This includes the beneficiaries of Jewish Family Services' gift-giving program and their benefactors in UJA-JCC Greenwich Women's Philanthropy. As participants in JFS's Sponsor-a-Family Holiday Gift Project, both parties were touched by the possibility of presents that would otherwise be out of reach.

Who knew Greenwich is home to Jewish families in need? Certainly not the members of Women's Philanthropy – not until JFS Executive Director **Lisa-Lorraine Smith** spoke at a recent WP Board meeting. Her stories of local community members falling on hard times hit hard. Whether devastated by divorce, illness, or the challenges of aging alone, most of those Smith described were experiencing “a new kind of reversal of fortune.” “And the desire to help was spontaneous and instantaneous,” recounts WP President, **Silvina Knoll**.

JFS knew of more than a dozen families in crisis, and individual WP members signed on to fulfill their wish lists. There were bed sheets for a senior with no family nearby and who had recently undergone major surgery. And in came the Legos, coats and yoga mats for the divorced mom raising ninth-grade twins and a youngster with special needs. Requests ranged from daily necessities to luxury fashion brands sought to keep up appearances, notes Smith.



Not only did donors learn that there are neighbors in need, they came to understand how to relate to people down on their luck in helping them celebrate the holiday season with their families. For example, volunteers were asked to bring wrapping paper along with the gifts so that recipient parents “could partake in offering their children presents,” something the rest of us tend to take for granted.

Some gifts, however, required no shiny paper. Here's a case in point: the 5-year-old who dreamed of attending an *Elf* performance in Stamford and whose sponsor paid both for the tickets and the parking. A single dad of two young children was moved to tears at being remembered during the season by WP Board members who were total strangers. The emotional response and sense of gratitude was moving as well for the JFS and UJA-JCC staff and for the generous donors who took the time to shop and deliver these treasures.

The Women's Philanthropy Board members certainly made a huge difference. **Yael Rosen**, Vice President of the WP Board notes, “I loved the Sponsor-a-Family Holiday Gift Project. It was such a great way to do hands-on giving. The mitzvah goes beyond the actual gift, since you are not only buying a present for a family in need, but you are also showing them that someone cares. As opposed to a toy drive, the fact that you buy off a wish list, makes it easy, and it is guaranteed that they'll like what they get.” And like it, they did!

### Focus on Jewish Life and Missions

UJA-JCC Women's Philanthropy enters 2018 with gusto as WP board members make plans to increase opportunities for women to unite around shared interests. The group will focus on community outreach, education, enrichment and service through two new action-oriented committees: Jewish Life and Engagement, Chaired by **Christine Toback** and Mission and Excursions, Chaired by **Andi Fern**.

**Bryanna Kallman**, also serving on Jewish Federations of North America's National Women's Philanthropy Board, informs the group of national trends and emerging issues for Jewish communities. “Here in Greenwich we are fortunate to have many ongoing programs and initiatives and a brain trust of dedicated, talented women who want to grow and expand. Connecting our members and community with the recipient agencies we support, and creating local opportunities for Jewish enrichment are



WP Board members: Silvina Knoll, Bonnie Citron, Andi Fern, Maura Smotrich, Sheila Neilinger

parts of our mission. Our doors are open, and we welcome anyone who is interested to join us and learn more about what's going on in this dynamic organization.”

### Stay Tuned for “Fauda 2”

Good things come to those who wait. On Monday, February 26 at 7 pm, UJA-JCC Greenwich will celebrate this cultural moment by showing the first two episodes of “Fauda 2.” The award-winning political thriller has riveted audiences world-wide with its action-packed dramatization of undercover IDF agents pursuing Palestinian terrorists in the West Bank. Co-created by Avi Issacharoff and Lior Raz, the new season pits Doron (Raz) and his team against a new enemy designed to jack up the fear factor. “Far more dangerous



and sophisticated” is how Issacharoff described that antagonist to *The Times of Israel*, where he serves as Arab affairs analyst. In “Fauda 2,” Doron is redeployed by his unit to combat not Hamas, but ISIS. Don't miss the chance to gnash knuckles, bite nails and see for yourself what dramatic chaos looms.

The screening will take place at Bow-Tie Criterion Cinemas, 2 Railroad Ave., Greenwich. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Reservations and further information are available at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org) or 203-552-1818.

## COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

- UJA-JCC Greenwich (203) 552-1818
- Anti-Defamation League (203) 288-6500
- Bi-Cultural Day School (203) 329-2186
- Carmel Academy (203) 863-9663
- Chavurat Deevray Torah (203) 637-9478 or (203) 637-5877
- Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich, Camp Gan Israel of Greenwich (203) 629-9059
- Gan of Greenwich Preschool (203) 869-1742
- Congregation Shir Ami (203) 504-2424
- Greenwich Reform (203) 629-0018
- Congregation Kehilat Shalom/ Hebrew Wizards (203) 249-4036
- Jewish Family Services of Greenwich (203) 622-1881
- Jewish High School of Connecticut (203) 357-0850
- Jewish Senior Services (203) 365-6400
- Temple Shalom (203) 869-7191
- Temple Shalom Selma Maisel Nursery School (203) 622-8121

## SHABBAT & HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

- Fri., Feb. 16..... 5:11 pm
- Fri., Feb. 23..... 5:19 pm
- Fri., Mar. 2 ..... 5:27 pm
- Fri., Mar. 9 ..... 5:35 pm
- Fri., Mar. 16 ..... 6:43 pm
- Fri., Mar. 23 ..... 6:51 pm
- Fri., Mar. 30 ..... 6:58 pm
- Eve of First Day of Passover
- Sat., Mar. 31 ..... 7:58 pm
- Thurs., Apr. 5 ..... 8:05 pm
- Eve of Last Day of Passover
- Fri., Apr. 6..... 7:05 pm
- Fri., Apr. 13..... 7:13 pm

### Greenwich Jewish News

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- ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Temple Sholom Learning Center Enriches Religious School Experience With Family-Focused Programming

On December 10, the Temple Sholom Learning Center (TSLC) hosted its first of three school-wide Family Education Days. Close to 75 families attended the three-hour program, which was centered on the theme of *Hiddur Mitzvah* (beautifying our mitzvot) and used the holiday of Chanukah as a starting point for discussion. “Family Education is an important component at TSLC, as it provides us with a double opportunity: to provide parents a chance



*Students from the Temple Sholom Learning Center stand in front of the 16-foot-tall paper menorah created during the school's first-ever Family Education Day.*

to engage with and learn alongside their children, and to demonstrate to parents the innovative approaches we use to make ancient traditions come alive,” said Barry Gruber, Director of Congregational Learning.

Throughout the morning, families rotated through hands-on learning activities. One station included an interactive candle-lighting workshop. Another rotation focused on the creation of a 16-foot-tall paper menorah to be displayed in the Temple's Davis Lounge during Chanukah. “We came up with the idea for a large canvas chanukiah made from more than 400 pieces of contact paper,” said Eileen Robin, Executive Director. “The Temple Sholom Learning Center decorated the bulk of the tiles during their Family Education Day, and our nursery school children and Lunch ‘n Learn attendees added their own pieces too. The project became something that our whole Temple community could enjoy throughout the holiday.”

Following Family Education Day, families were invited into Temple Sholom's Social Hall for a community-wide Chanukah Celebration. The festive party included a “Maccabi Challenge” obstacle course, face-painting, a make-your-own edible dreidel station, and plenty of latkes and sufganiyot. The school's next Family Education Day will be held on Sunday, March 4 and will coincide with the holiday of Purim.

## Mark Oppenheimer to Speak at Greenwich Reform on “Jews and the News”

Come meet Mark Oppenheimer, former religion editor for *The New York Times*, current editor-at-large for *Tablet Magazine*, and host of the popular weekly podcast, “Unorthodox,” as he discusses Jews, the media and Israel. Mark will be speaking at Shabbat evening services on Friday, February 23 at Greenwich Reform, led by Rabbi Jordie Gerson. The evening will begin with refreshments at 6:30, followed by services at 7 pm. His topic will be “Jews and the News.”



In addition to columns for *The New York Times* and *The Los Angeles Times*, Mark has been published in *The Times Magazine*, *Harper's*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, *The Believer*, and elsewhere. He holds a Ph.D. in religion from Yale and has taught at Yale, Stanford, Wesleyan, Boston College, and NYU. He has written two books about religion and popular culture and has won awards for his writing and scholarship. Several years ago, Rabbi Gerson and Mark co-hosted and moderated a Young Jewish Authors series at Yale. All are welcome. For details, please contact Greenwich Reform at 203-629-0018 or info@GRS.org.

## Bi-Cultural Stands at the Forefront of a Paradigm Shift in Jewish Education

The Bi-Cultural community – students, teachers, administrators, parents, friends and supporters – were surprised and delighted to visit *The Times of Israel* website in late December – only to find their school front and center in a story about infusing life into Jewish education. (“Faced with fusty texts, teachers learn to breathe new life into Jewish studies,” by Cathryn J. Prince, Dec. 26, 2017). The story focuses on Ayeka: The Center for Soulful Education, an Israeli-based organization founded in 2016 by educator Aryeh Ben David, whose mission it is to reframe Jewish education by concentrating on quality instead of quantity, connection over content. “We're offering a paradigm shift in the way we teach. Students won't remember what they are not personally connected to,” Ben David told *The Times of Israel*. “Learning can't be just about content and memorization. They [students] have to own it in their own lives.”

To illustrate the Ayeka program's success in the classroom, *The Times of Israel* focused on Bi-Cultural, one of the first day schools to implement the program. “It's building community in the classroom,” Michal Smart, Bi-Cultural Associate Principal for Judaic Studies, told *The Times of Israel*. “Judaism isn't just about more information. Torah is a teaching of life; and, if you don't ask those questions, then you just read a story. You have to put yourself in the story and put the story inside you.” It is in large part a result of Ayeka's continued success in making Jewish learning more meaningful for Bi-Cultural students, that the Center for Soulful Education recently received a four-year grant from the Jim Joseph Foundation to expand Ayeka's Soulful Professional Development program in Jewish day schools in North America.

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## Israel Connect Links Greenwich Volunteers and Israeli Students

*Continued from page 1*

life is like here, and they're surprised whenever they find out that I observe some of the Jewish traditions that they do," says Black. "It's always a big thrill for them – and it's very endearing to me."

"The students seem so excited each week to log in and connect," comments fellow volunteer **Joan Mann**. Her charges are Sarah and Roni, both 16 and living in the outskirts of Tel Aviv. Having traveled to Israel some 30 times, Mann has visited most of the locales the three of them discuss. Their weekly video chats quickly began yielding results. "The girls are already able to speak with greater fluency," says Mann. "Now their chances of being accepted to university appear far more likely, as do their prospects for good employment." And there are other dividends besides conversational ease. As Mann puts it, "I feel I'm giving them a boost in confidence."

Like Black and Mann, **Maura Smotrich** signed on with *Israel Connect* in mid-October. Since then she has video-conferenced with three Bat Yam soldiers-in-training, Daniel, Jonathan and Eden. "They read remarkably well, although sometimes their pronunciation is off," says Smotrich. For example, the word "ancient" proved especially tough, "so I had them repeat it five times until they got it right," she reports. Another teachable moment dovetailed

with American entertainment. "When the word "maestro" cropped up in a session, the boys allegedly inquired about its affinity with the "Order of Maesters," from the *Game of Thrones*. Smotrich looks forward to her weekly exchanges. "They're lovely young men and, they're very enthusiastic about learning." Asked what drew her to the program, she cites the chance to help "underserved kids who wouldn't have this kind of benefit."

For all of the volunteers, burnishing young Israelis' language abilities holds resonance, and this is certainly true for Black, who worked in learning services. Ease and flexibility are other incentives that *Israel Connect's* Greenwich contingent mentions, given that sessions can take place in the comfort of home and at a mutually convenient time. The informal setting allows exchanges to be intimate and relaxed. "They show me their bedroom, girl to girl," laughs Black. Such communion is clearly a factor in **Cara Kramer's** appreciation. As the program's newest Greenwich participant, she's "enjoying the program so far and looks forward to connecting with my students each week."

*Would YOU like to volunteer to tutor Israeli Teens? If so, please e-mail Pam Ehrenkranz, Pam@ujajcc.org.*



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of Greenwich

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## Carmel Academy Launches New PALS Learning Center

Carmel Academy is thrilled to introduce its PALS Learning Center, a dynamic resource for children, parents and educators, providing direct student support, expert speakers, workshops and parent training to the community. This year marks a decade since Carmel Academy created its PALS (Providing Alternative Learning Strategies) program for children with special learning needs as part of the school's deep commitment to provide a meaningful and inclusive Jewish Day School experience for all learners. The PALS Learning Center is the newest addition to the program and launched its inaugural

community event last month with a two-part series exploring how to understand and manage anxiety in children and adolescents.

The series began with a film screening of the acclaimed documentary "Angst: Breaking the Stigma of Anxiety." More than 40 parents and educators attended the screening, which was followed by a discussion led by Carmel's Director of Guidance, Dr. Jeff Kilstein. The film explores anxiety, its causes, effects, and what can be done to help children and teens who suffer from anxiety. The series continued with "When to Worry about Your Child's Worries," a presentation and

Q&A with Dr. Regine Galanti, an expert in anxiety in children and adolescents, who is the founder of Long Island Behavioral Psychology.

"The PALS Learning Center was established this fall with an anonymous gift," said Carmel Academy's PALS Program Director Jonathan Holub. "In addition to community programming, the Center provides additional levels of support for Carmel students within the school's PALS program for learning disabilities. It has been truly impactful for our students on a daily basis, and we are excited to share this wonderful resource with the wider community."

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## Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School Expands for 2018-2019 School Year

The Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School (SMNS) is excited to announce the expansion of its current offerings to include a full-day program for children as young as six weeks through Pre-K, beginning September 2018. "This expansion will result in a more vibrant school, brimming with activity throughout the whole day, as well as adding dozens of new families, increased flexibility, and greater resources for our entire Temple Sholom community," said David Cohen, Nursery School Director.



The Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School is expanding its programs for children six weeks old through Pre-K for the 2018-2019 school year.

Over the years the school has evolved to accommodate the needs of its community by adding classes for two-year-olds, diverse after-school enrichments, non-separating programs for young children and their parents, and, most recently, a STEAM curriculum to stay on the cutting edge of early childhood education. The expansion will provide families with varying needs – including those looking for a quality infant and toddler program – access to the same exceptional pre-school experience. "We are responding to a growing need in our community, especially for dual-working parents, for longer hours and a stimulating educational environment for infants and toddlers," said Eileen Robin, Temple Sholom's Executive Director.

The full-day program, which will operate from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, will contain mixed-age classes categorized by infant/toddler and pre-school, as compared to the part-day program, which is structured by grade. Regardless of the length of their day, all children at SMNS will enjoy the same individualized, emergent curriculum guided by Jewish values and traditions. Both part-day and full-day children will experience Shabbat and holiday celebrations together, and classes in the full-day program will also be able to utilize the school's unique educational spaces such as the STEAM Lab, Gymnastics Studio and Discovery Room.

Enrollment currently is open for both part-day and full-day programs for the 2018-2019 school year. While SMNS is driven by Jewish values, families of all faiths, ethnicities and backgrounds are welcome. Contact David Cohen at 203-622-8121 or david.cohen@templesholom.com for more information.

### "The Opposite of Spoiled" with Author Ron Lieber, November 2017

Co-presented by Carmel Academy and UJA-JCC Greenwich





From the Rabbi

✪ **Then They Came for Me..** ✪

by Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz, Temple Shalom

Auschwitz was liberated on January 27, 1945. By then more than a million men, women and children had been exterminated at this Nazi death camp; over 90% of the victims were Jews. Besides the Nazi murderous cruelty with gas chambers and slave labor, thousands of inmates were murdered by sick “medical” experiments. While the liberation of Auschwitz didn’t mark the conclusion of the Holocaust, it was the final turning point, and it is understandable why January 27 became a global day of commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

One of the great public leaders against Adolf Hitler was the Protestant minister, Martin Niemöller. Rev. Niemöller spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps. This minister of God believed that the leaders of the German Protestant churches were complicit in the murderous Nazi Crimes against the Jewish people – guilty because of their sin of silence.

He is best remembered for his famous words:

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me*

*And there was no one left to speak for me.*

An American Protestant theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr, was a contemporary of Rev. Niemöller. In 1932, he published *Moral Man and Immoral Society*. Niebuhr asserted that “Love” will not dictate the moral actions of human beings. Rather it is human’s constant pursuit of “Justice.” As Hitler rose to power, Niebuhr insisted that pacifism was not a sufficient stance against the Nazi tide. Justice dictated that there should be an American military intervention against Nazism before it was too late.

Niebuhr’s entire book can be summarized with one sentence that he wrote in this classic work:

*“Civilization depends upon the vigorous pursuit of the highest values by people who are intelligent enough to know that their values are qualified by their interests and corrupted by their prejudices.”*

A companion quotation is the familiar Serenity Prayer written also by Niebuhr:

*God, give us the serenity to accept what cannot be changed;*

*Give us the courage to change what should be changed;*

*Give us the wisdom to distinguish one from the other.*

We Jews still live in a very dangerous world filled with too much senseless hatred directed against us. Rev. Martin Niemöller and Rev. Reinhold Niebuhr were Righteous Gentiles. There are many Righteous Gentiles who “speak up,” focus their energies on what can change, and then pursue a just course of action. We can never forget the heroes who have been the Righteous Gentiles and those who are and will be the Righteous Gentiles.

There are Gentiles who hate Jews and there are Jews who hate Jews. Those deeply steeped in their hatred need to be forcefully held at bay. Then there are those who “don’t know” and/or don’t want to know. It’s this moral limbo to which we need to redirect our energies. And, what is still applicable today in confronting anti-semitism is also necessary so as to combat senseless hatred in all of its forms. Ignorance is never bliss; silence is only an act of the passive accomplice. Ultimately the silent can become the victim as well for: *“First they came for...and I did not speak out... Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me.”*

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

**Carmel Academy Students Explore Materials Engineering**

Carmel Academy’s 8th grade engineering students put their materials engineering knowledge to the test in an EGGcellent experiment. The students researched and designed packaging to protect a raw egg from withstanding a 20-foot, and then a 30-foot, drop from an electric lift. Collaborating in small teams, the students were given a materials list and \$25 budget to create the packaging to protect their egg. The students gathered in the school’s Lower School courtyard, excitedly cheering each other on and eagerly awaiting to see if their innovative designs withstood the force of the fall. All the students’ eggs survived the 20-foot drop!



*Carmel Academy 8th grade engineering students gather around an electric lift to test their packaging designed to protect raw eggs from 20-foot and 30-foot drops.*



Friday, March 30 8 PM

Led by: Rabbi Deren  
Chabad  
75 Mason Street

Saturday, March 31 8 PM

Led by: Rabbi Feldman  
Feldman Family  
124 Milbank Avenue

RSVP: CHABADGREENWICH.ORG



## Applications Available for the 2018 Weitzman Youth Award for Jewish Philanthropy

The Weitzman Youth Award for Jewish Philanthropy was founded by Jane and Stuart Weitzman, whose hope it is to ensure that the next generation is inspired to become involved with helping their fellow Jews in need. This award will be presented by the Weitzmans at the annual UJA-JCC Greenwich Celebration.

The award will be given to those who exhibit the most creativity and personal commitment to Jewish philanthropy. UJA-JCC Greenwich is available to advise potential applicants on suitable projects. Applicants must be in the fifth through twelfth grades and residents of Greenwich or children of families active with UJA-JCC Greenwich. All funds raised from the projects must be donated through UJA-JCC Greenwich. Projects may not be political in nature. The award committee will make all final decisions regarding recipients of the award.

For more information, contact Pam Ehrenkranz at 203-552-1818 or pam@ujajcc.org.

### Hebrew Wizards Teens Attend the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial

The teens presented the Hebrew Wizards Tool Kit at the conference. Sixteen new schools across the country and two in Canada have joined the Hebrew Wizards network. Our latest product was introduced at the URJ Biennial. For more information visit [hebrewwizards.com/wizards-tool-kit.html](http://hebrewwizards.com/wizards-tool-kit.html).



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## Welcome to Greenwich!

### WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

**Bonnie Citron, Chair, UJA-JCC Greenwich Newcomer Committee**



*Women's Philanthropy Jewish Life Committee Welcomes Newcomers: Jaime Eisenberg, Suzanne Katz, Kim Sands, Madeline Simon, Christine Toback.*



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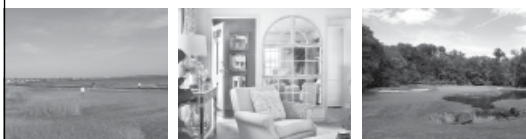
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## At Greenwich Reform, Learn Why Purim Is Not Just for Kids

Join Rabbi Jordie Gerson at Greenwich Reform on Sunday, February 25 and March 4, from 10-11:30 am, to consider the “absence” of God in the Book of Esther, and learn how the Rabbis wrote God back into the story of Esther, and in so doing, into the Jewish story as well. As Rabbi Gerson explains: “The implicit questions covered in The Book of Esther – how to survive in the diaspora; how to retain Jewishness outside the land of Israel; and what it means to live in a world where God is hidden – are our questions too. Esther might have been written as a satirical fairy tale, or a wish-fulfilling fantasy of revenge on those who would kill the Jews, but, as the fool in King Lear demonstrates, it is often our folly that holds the deepest wisdom.

Rabbi Gerson continues: “Esther, the only book in the Biblical canon where God is never mentioned and never makes an appearance, reflects contemporary Jewish anxieties. We (or at least our grandparents) looked into the abyss of the Holocaust and, some 70 years later, continue to struggle mightily with what we found there – a knowledge of the worst of human potential and a thundering silence from the heavens. And yet we persist as a people, and we insist on hoping that our ancestors were right: Redemption is possible, and God is with us, especially in exile. Many of us don’t believe it – but that doesn’t stop us from praying for it anyway.

“Esther is constructed entirely around this essential absence, salvation despite redemption, despite God’s absence, Judaism’s continuity despite powerlessness, and Jewish survival despite those who would have it otherwise. It tells us that even in God’s absence, we, alone, can save an entire people. That we, nearly powerless, can change the world – regardless of our gender, regardless of our age, regardless of our wealth. And in the doing, Esther becomes an unparalleled opportunity to reflect on God’s apparent absence in our own lives and times, and our own existence in diaspora.

“The unique challenges of Esther can be opportunities to think about ourselves differently. So this year, when we retell the story of Esther, let us use the story as an opportunity to reconsider how we, too, deal with a world where God is hidden, where Jews are a small minority, and where, in some parts of the world, still face very real existential threats. And as we do so, let us be grateful for how far we have come, how blessed we are to live in North America, and how wonderful it is, that Esther is, in the final analysis, still only a fairy tale.”

*All are welcome to join our discussions of the Book of Esther for either or both sessions. Admission is free but reservations are appreciated. Please contact GRS at 203-629-0018 or info@GRS.org for details.*

### Clowning Around on Purim at Bi-Cultural

The circus is coming to town! Or so it will seem at the the Bi-Cultural Day School spectacular circus-themed Purim celebration, to be held in the school’s gymnasium Sunday, February 11, from 3 pm to 5 pm. The pull-out-all-the-stops party will feature an exciting array of entertainment and activities, with lots of prizes to win. Kids are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite costumes.

The event is FREE of charge and open to all families with children from birth to six (older siblings welcome).



WIZARDS  
PURIM  
PARTY

OPEN  
HOUSE



Sunday  
March 4th

9:30am  
to 12pm

Wizards  
Building



## Celebrate Purim!



### Family Dinner & Service Friday, March 2 at 6:00 pm

Monthly family dinner followed by a Purim service and megillah reading.

Bring mac 'n cheese boxes to use as groggers. After the service they'll be donated to Neighbor to Neighbor food pantry.

### Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 4 at 10:00am

Come in costume or borrow one of ours. Food, games and prizes for all!

### All are welcome!

For more information, contact the GRS office at 203-629-0018 or info@grs.org



### CHABAD OF GREENWICH PURIM CELEBRATIONS

#### ADULT PURIM PARTY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 - 7:15 PM  
BY CHEF GEOFF LAZLO

#### CTEEN PURIM PARTY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 - 7:15 PM

#### FAMILY PURIM PARTY

THURSDAY, MARCH 1 - 4:00 PM  
THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREENWICH

RSVP: CHABADGREENWICH.ORG



# ADULT EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

Are you considering taking a class or attending a lecture this Winter? Look no further! Here is a list of what's going on right here in the Greater Greenwich Jewish Community.



## CARL AND DOROTHY BENNETT CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES

### Star Spangled Fascism

"The Past and Present of American Political Extremism"  
With Dr. Richard Steigmann-Gall, Associate Professor of History, Kent State  
**Monday, February 26, 7:30 pm**

### Diane Feigenson Lecture in Jewish Literature

"Traveling to the Holy Land in Jewish Literature and Music"  
With Dr. Ken Frieden, B.G. Rudolph Professor of Judaic Studies, Syracuse University  
**Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 pm**

### Bennett Lecture in Judaic Studies

"Politics and Jewish Identity in Today's America"  
With Chuck Todd, moderator of Meet the Press  
**Tuesday, March 27, 7:30 pm**

### Annual Holocaust Remembrance Service

Featured speaker: Esther Geizhals, survivor of Auschwitz & Bergen-Belsen  
**Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola - Thursday, April 12, 4:30 pm**

## CHABAD OF GREENWICH

### Sunday Morning Torah Study - 9:30-10:30 am

Email RabbiFeldman@ChabadGreenwich.org for information.

### Parsha with Classic Commentaries - Thursdays, 9:45-10:45 am

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

### Women's Torah Study Group:

### Gleanings from the Torah on Family and Marriage Relationships

Led by Mrs. Maryashie Deren  
**Wednesdays: 9:30-10:30 am**

### Bite Size Inspiration for Your Passover Seder

Led by Rabbi Feldman  
**Tuesdays, March 13, March 20, 10:00 am or 7:30 pm**

### Kabbalah on Feminism

Led by Mrs. Vivi Deren  
**Saturday, March 17, 12:00 pm**

## CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

### Shabbat Talks: Experience Worth Sharing

"Compassion Fatigue and Spiritual Resilience"  
With Marie Orsini Rosen - **Friday, February 23, 7:30 pm**

## GREENWICH REFORM

### Torah Study with Rabbi Jordie Gerson

**Sundays, 9:30 am**

### Ethical Issues in Judaism

With Rabbi Robert Rothman - **Sundays, 10:00 am**

### Jews and the News

With Mark Oppenheimer  
**Friday, February 23, 7:00 pm**

To register, call 203-629-0018 or email info@grs.org

## TEMPLE SHOLOM

### Shabbat Study with Temple Sholom Clergy - Saturdays, 9:00-10:00 am

### Lunch & Learn - Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 pm

Kosher lunch provided

### Jewish Meditation

Refresh, sing, chant, reflect and meditate during this spiritual experience.  
**Wednesdays, February 21, March 21, April 11 & May 9, 7:00-8:00 pm**

### Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

With Rabbinical Student and Disability Rights Activist Lauren Tuchman  
**April 13-15, 2018**

For more information, contact Rabbi Chaya at rabbichaya@templesholom.com.

## UJA-JCC GREENWICH

### Fleeing the Hijab

With Author Sima Goel  
**Temple Sholom - Thursday, March 15, 7:30 pm**

### 36th Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration

With Guest Speaker Holocaust Survivor Dr. Manfred Simon  
**Film Screening 6:30 pm. Observance 7:00 pm**  
**Greenwich Reform - Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 pm**

### Hot Topics in Breast Cancer

In partnership with Breast Cancer Alliance  
**Old Oaks Country Club, Purchase, NY - Wednesday, April 25, 9:30-11:30 am**

### Davis Film Festival - Bow Tie Cinema Greenwich, 7:00 pm, \$15 per film

"Moos," a comedy-romance from the Netherlands  
**Wednesday, February 21**

"The Quiet Heart," a drama from Israel

**Wednesday, March 14**

## TALMUD LUNCH AND LEARN

INTERACTIVE LEARNING  
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FREE LUNCH, OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY  
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### Yitro and the Ten Commandments

Rabbi Elisha Paul..... February 15

### Purim Powwow: How Green Is My Queen?

Chaim Lauer..... February 22

### Is Islamic Radicalism Grounded in Religious Texts?

Part I

Ze'ev Aviezer ..... March 1

### Is Islamic Radicalism Grounded in Religious Texts?

Part 2

Ze'ev Aviezer ..... March 8

### Purim and Passover: Paradigms for Your Redemption

Rabbi Yossi Deren ..... March 15

### When & Why God Talks to Himself in the Bible

Rabbi Menachem Leibtag ..... March 22

### Does the Haggadah Contradict the Torah?

Marty Flashner ..... March 29

### No class - Pesah.....

April 5

### Bar Kochba: Hero or Destroyer?

Rosh Kehila Michal Kohane ..... April 12

### Silver Platter: Birth of an Iconic Text

Rachel Korazim..... April 19

Check UJA-JCC Greenwich calendar for updated schedule



# Mission to Morocco, January 2018





# PJ Library Dreidel Ball, December 2017



Families had a ball at the PJ Library Dreidel Ball at Carmel Academy with cookie decorating, DJ rhythms, limbo dancing and all the holiday trimmings of the Hanukkah season. Big thanks to our guests for joining the fun and contributing generously to the dressy clothing drive for the MetCouncil on Jewish Poverty. Mega-kudos to Event Chairs **Rebecca Cooper**, **Stephanie Esquenazi** and **Hillary Rosenthal** for creating a rocking good time and space for families to enjoy this festive holiday together.



## What Lights You Up: A Mompreneur's Secrets of Success with Melissa Bernstein, February 2018





**THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT**

**Renewing Jewish Life in Ukraine**

Dnipro, a city in eastern Ukraine, is home to the largest Jewish community center in the world. But growing up, Katia Gribtsova had little connection to it.

In fact, Katia didn't have her first formative Jewish experience until 2009, when she attended The Jewish Agency for Israel's International Jewish Summer Camp.

"The camp changed my life," she says. "I finally understood that if I want to be a part of the Jewish people, I have to give back."

When she turned 18, Katia took the next step with The Jewish Agency's Educational Leadership Institute and starting working at camps like the one that changed her life. She began teaching at the Jewish Agency Sunday School in Dnipro in 2012, and since 2015 has served as education programming coordinator.

Now living in Odessa, Katia can't imagine her life without Jewish community. "I have decided that my mission for life is to transmit my Jewish knowledge and values to the next generation," she declares.



as a disability consultant and develops innovative content at Summit Series events for young entrepreneurs, artists, and activists.

And her connection to Jewish community is even stronger. She's now a member of the inaugural cohort of JDC Entwine's Community Representatives.

"This opportunity cemented my identity as a young Jew who is not only dedicated but drawn to global Jewish service," Ashton says. "I am forever empowered. And I seek to create unique platforms where vulnerable populations can empower themselves."

**Growing a Leader in Bulgaria**

Sofia Cohen can't remember a time when JDC wasn't a part of her life. A native of Sofia, Bulgaria, she attended countless local Jewish youth programs run with JDC's support. As a teen, it was only natural that she became a counselor at Jewish summer camps and youth seminars.

This promising young star was selected to participate in Leatid

Europe, one of JDC's longest-running leadership initiatives and a top training program for emerging young Jewish leaders.

Now, Sofia is president of the Religious Council of Sofia, Bulgaria's Jewish community. She's also a member of the executive board of Shalom, an umbrella organization of the 2,000 Jews in Bulgaria today.

"Leatid helped me see further and widened my horizons," says Sofia.

"It was as if I received additional

pairs of eyes and ears – those of the other attendees who became my close friends and partners."



**Engineering Community in Argentina**

Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Leandro Margulis was surrounded by Jewish community. He went to day school, celebrated holidays with youth groups, and played sports at Jewish youth clubs.

And there was World ORT's Almagro Technical High School. There, Leandro earned a high school diploma and an associate's degree equivalency in computer science. He also interviewed Holocaust survivors and joined global ORT students on a trip to Poland and Israel.

"That was my first exposure to ORT being something bigger than just my school," he recalls.

The ORT network also supported Leandro when he came alone to Miami for college. He began organizing local alumni events and forging strong relationships that helped him adjust to the U.S. and score a great job in tech.

"I realized that the more I give back to them, the more I get out of it," Leandro

says. "ORT is so close to my heart. I couldn't be who I am – and where I am – today without them."



**Immersing in Israel**

Lora Mednick has taken many trips to Israel. But none left as deep an imprint as her latest journey to Tel Aviv.

There, she volunteered in the headquarters of IsraAID, a humanitarian aid agency that responds to emergencies

around the world. As a communications officer, she helped connect global staff and develop new and effective media strategies. Lora remembers, "I was in a setting where I could get involved in sectors and in communities I wouldn't otherwise experience."

She connected with IsraAID through Masa Israel Journey. Since 2004, Masa has connected more than 120,000 young people from more than 60 countries with long-term immersive experience in Israel like Lora's.

Now back in Seattle, Lora continues to volunteer in her local Jewish community and remains connected to global friends. "Masa connected me to people and cultures not only in Israel but from all over the world," she says.



**Empowering Israelis with Disabilities**

California was Ashton Rosin's home for good, she was sure, until one day at UCLA, she met a representative from JDC Entwine's Jewish Service Corps, and got her passport ready.

As an Entwine Fellow, Ashton spent a year working with JDC-Israel, spearheading the creation of a nationwide project to empower college students with disabilities within higher education settings.

Now back in Los Angeles, Ashton works



**Thank you for your support of UJA-JCC Greenwich.  
Your donation contributes to these essential programs and more!**



## Community Cares, November 2017

Families with help from JTAC Teens prepare challah and apple pies for Schoke JFS Thanksgiving packages and care packages for Jewish-American men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces. Thank you to former officers David Morgenstern and Marc Wolff for sharing their experiences as Jewish servicemen.



**Pj Library SUNDAY FUN DAY**

**FEB 25, MARCH 18**



**3:30-4:45 PM**  
**\$15 PER SESSION IN ADVANCE,**  
**\$25 AT THE DOOR**  
**YWCA, 259 E PUTNAM AVE.**

### tots FOR PRESCHOOLERS

**FEB 25**

#### Purim Palooza with Bitty City Players

Make your own groggers (noisemakers) using special art materials. Then circle up for Purim music and movement with the incredible David Keesey, a Music Together certified musician and masterful early childhood educator.



**MARCH 18**

#### Something Froggy with the CT Children's Museum

Jump up! Meet some awesome amphibians and find out about the secretive lifestyles of frogs, toads and salamanders as we prepare for the legendary Passover story!



### kids FOR K-2 GRADERS

**FEB 25**

#### Hamentashen Bake-off

Put on your chef's hat and start mixing, rolling, filling and folding. Then devour your three-cornered treats and save a batch to give as mishloach manot. Hamentashen making just in time for Purim!

**MARCH 18**

#### Star Lab with CT Children's Museum

Ready to blast off? Join The Children's Museum for some galactic fun and discovery as we star-trek across their sky-high inflatable planetarium.



### OurWay™ FOR 3-5 GRADERS

**FEB 25**

#### Jewish Comic-Con with author and cartoonist Arie Kaplan

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a Jewish Comic-Con. Make your own superhero, tell your own story and celebrate the tradition of the great Jewish cartoonists. See you in the funny papers!

**MARCH 18**

#### Around the World Charoset!

Step aside apples and nuts, there's a wide world of charoset out there and today we're going to conquer it. Prep your taste buds for a global adventure as we try other traditions and spice up our Seder.

Sunday Fundays Made Possible by:

Lisa & Marc Abrams, Bran & Stuart Berni, Romy & Joe Cohen, Rita Edelston, Rissa & Richard Grossman, Robin & Adam Leader, Rita & Andrei Magasiner, Debbie & Alan Simon, Sandy & Stephen Soule, Rebecca & Jonathan Tipermas, Mugs Zales, Nancy & Bill Zisson, Anonymous

## Sunday Funday, January 2018



Sunday Funday Our Way



Sunday Funday Tots



Sunday Funday Kids



## Bi-Cultural Students Bring 'Ruach' to Yachad Shabbaton

Are the students at Bi-Cultural Day School "rock stars?" Stephanie Sugarman, thinks so.

Sugarman, assistant program director of Yachad Junior, a program of the National Jewish Council for Disabilities that provides youth with developmental disabilities and opportunities to be included in the Jewish community, lauded Bi-Cultural eighth-graders for the way they conducted themselves at a recent Shabbaton in New York with members of Junior Yachad. "There are no words to describe how proud you should be of your students. They were truly rock stars!" Sugarman wrote in a letter to Bi-Cultural's associate principal for Judaic Studies, Rabbi Yehudah Jaeger. "Your students went above and beyond the notion of inclusion and really made meaningful relationships with our members...It was truly amazing to watch."

The eighth-graders were equally moved by their experience. Yehudit Hochman recalled a girl named Yael who sat in a corner with her hat pulled over her face. "I didn't really want to go over to her because honestly I was scared," recalls Yehudit. "When I finally got the courage to talk to her, I realized how much we had in common and that she was just like me. We spent the rest of Shabbos together, and by Saturday night she was saying, 'I don't want to go home!' This was a Shabbaton I will never forget."

## JHSC Chess Team Brings Home National Competition Trophy

In December The Jewish High School of Connecticut (JHSC) Chess Team competed at the United States Chess Federation 2017 National Scholastic K-12 Championships in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The team, made up of freshmen Gavriel Genger, Leo Koganov, and Bryan Weisz, brought home the trophy for 4th place in the 9th Grade Team Championships. This was the first national competition for the team, which was formed in 2010 by JHSC



Leo Koganov, Bryan Weisz and Gavi Genger.

Academic Principal, Dr. Paul Castle. The team currently is mentored by JHSC History teacher, Zachary Smith and is coached by National Master, Mikhail Koganov. "Our team reflects the high caliber and analytic skills of our students. A goal of the JHSC is to provide an in-depth academic environment where our deep thinking students have the resources to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact in the world," said Rabbi Elisha Paul, JHSC Head of School.



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## COMEDY NIGHT

Saturday, March 3 at 8:00 pm

Temple Sholom, 300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT



Featuring Matt Koff, Emmy Award-Winning Writer on  
*The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*

**\$25 PER ADULT**

Includes drinks, dessert and cabaret-style show

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## Women's TORAH STUDY GROUP

A WORKOUT FOR THE SOUL

Wednesdays  
9:30 - 10:30 AM  
Jan. 10 - Apr. 25  
At Chabad,  
75 Mason St.

with Maryashie Deren

Connect to your Jewish essence, enable your spiritual wellbeing to flourish. Join us for inspiration on parenting, marriage and life as a Woman in 2018.

[ChabadGreenwich.org](http://ChabadGreenwich.org)






**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH**

### Upcoming Winter Programs

#### **NEW! WORKING MOMS NIGHT OUT**

Come relax over a glass of wine and sushi with other Greenwich women on *Thursday, February 22 from 7:30-9:00 pm* at Asiana Café, \$30 per person

#### **NEW!**

#### **JFS FORTIES AND FIFTIES: CONNECTING THROUGH SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Sock It For Love! *Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm at JFS. Bring a bag of men's socks for soldiers overseas.*

#### **JFS BOOKBEAT:**

#### **FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ**

Share thought-provoking books with Jewish themes

*Wednesdays, 3/7, 5/2, 6/27; 7:30 pm*

Next up: *Peony* by Pearl Buck, March 7

#### **INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS**

Explore the opportunities and challenges of interfaith living. *Monday, February 12, 7:00 pm* in a private home.

#### **GREENWICH HOSPITAL SHABBAT**

Welcome Shabbat in partnership with the Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, in the hospital's Chapel, broadcast LIVE on Channel 75 in all patient rooms. *Every Friday at 1:00 pm*

#### **RENEWAL OF BODY, RENEWAL OF SPIRIT HEALING SERVICE**

Heal together in a supportive community, led in partnership with the Greenwich Hospital Spiritual Care Department, in the hospital's Chapel. *Mondays, 2/12; 3/12; 4/9; 12:15-12:45 pm*

#### **BIKUR CHOLIM**

#### **JEWISH HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING:**

Held in Greenwich's five senior facilities, in partnership with all Greenwich synagogues. *Check JFS website for details.*

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

#### ***Friendly Visitors / Grocery Shopper***

Make a difference in the life of a Greenwich senior. Volunteers are needed to visit and/or grocery shop for homebound residents. Time commitment can be as little as one hour per week.

#### ***Bikur Cholim***

Visit Jewish patients in Greenwich Hospital and/or Greenwich Woods Rehabilitation and Care Center. Time commitment can be as little as two hours semi-monthly.

All program information is available at [www.jfsgreenwich.org](http://www.jfsgreenwich.org) or call 203-622-1881 for more information.

### Winter Discussion Groups

#### **PARENTS OF LGBTQ**

Unsure how to chart the new waters of your child's identity? Learn how to help them and yourself to build mutual understanding. Facilitated by Lisa Smith, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 12:00-1:00 pm*

#### **SUPPORT GROUP FOR SEPARATING AND DIVORCING INDIVIDUALS**

For adults whose lives are impacted by divorce. Facilitated by Lisa Smith, LCSW. *Tuesdays, 11:30 am-12:45 pm*

#### **NEW!**

#### **MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS, FRIENDS AND FOES**

By the time a woman realizes her Mother was right, she has a daughter of her own who thinks she's wrong. There are few relationships fraught with as much push and pull as the mother-daughter relationship. Often these feelings are complicated and unresolved issues are carried into adulthood. The goal of this six-week group is to explore the multifaceted relationships adult daughters have with their mothers and to find ways to improve communication and really enjoy your time together. Facilitated by Randye Zerman, LCSW. *Call JFS for more information.*

#### **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

For those who have lost a family member or friend within the past five years. Facilitated by Lisa Smith, LCSW, and a member of the Greenwich Jewish Clergy. *Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 am*

#### **NEW! AFTER-THE-DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP**

Now that the practical details of separating are complete, there is emotional work to do. It is time to develop a new identity and a new beginning. This group will provide a confidential space to reflect on the life you are living and the life you would like to live. It will be an opportunity to grow, develop, and learn from others. Facilitated by Jami Fener, LCSW. *Mondays, 10:00-11:15 am*

#### **FRACTURED FAMILIES, HEALING HEARTS**

This group will 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 have cut the ties, or someone in your family has cut you off – this group will help you explore your issues of grief, anger, regret, and forgiveness in a safe environment with other people who understand. Facilitated by Lisa Smith, LCSW, and Rabbi Vicki Axe of Congregation Shir Ami. *Tuesdays, 1:00-2:00 pm*

#### **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP (ONLINE)**

Caring for a loved one can be rewarding, challenging, and often, emotionally draining. This group addresses issues in a non-judgmental environment and discusses the opportunities and challenges of caring for a loved one. Facilitated by Lisa Smith, LCSW. *Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00 pm*

For more information or to join a group, please call Lisa Smith, LCSW, at 203-622-1881 or email [llsmith@jfsgreenwich.org](mailto:llsmith@jfsgreenwich.org).

*With JFS – You Are Never Alone*



**JFS JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH**

**SPECIAL DONATIONS to JFS**

*In Honor of:*

- Lisa-Lorraine Smith**, by Susan Coburn
- Jacob Wichman**, by Anne and Arthur Wichman
- Nancy Peters**, by Nancy and William Zisson

*In Memory of:*

- Bernie Gilbert**, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
- Shirley Garber**, by Rita Edelston
- Bernard Gilbert**, by Sally and Larry Schneider
- Theresa Howe**, by Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner
- Rita Hoffman**, 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 acknowledgment to the person or family involved, informing them of your generosity in their honor/memory.

**Single and in your forties or fifties?**

JFS of Greenwich and Schoke JFS are pleased to present

**Jewish Forties and Fifties (JFF)**

*Connecting through social, educational, and volunteer opportunities*



**SOCK IT FOR LOVE!**

**Thursday, February 15 • 7-9 pm**  
**JFS of Greenwich, One Holly Hill Lane**

**Entrance Fee:**

**Please bring a bag of men's socks for soldiers overseas**

Join us for a night of mixing, mingling, meeting, and greeting on Thursday, February 15th. Get to know each other, do good and have fun! Relax, kibitz and meet other like-minded people.

For location and more information, call Lisa-Lorraine Smith at 203-622-1881 or email lsmith@jfsgreenwich.org

**Do Good, Feel Good!**

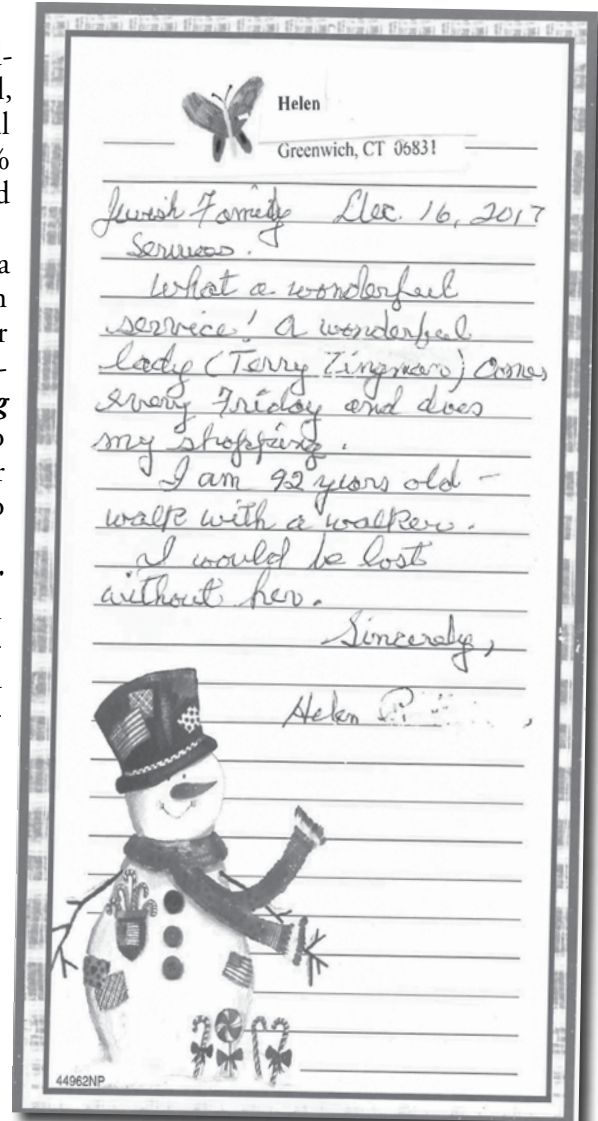
*Give the gift of your time to a homebound senior in Greenwich!*

People who regularly volunteer have better mental, emotional, and physical health – including a 40% decreased risk for high blood pressure.

If you are looking for a meaningful way to help in our community, consider becoming a volunteer shopper with **Supermarketing for Seniors**. With only two hours per week of your time, the good you will do is priceless.

**Supermarketing for Seniors** helps our clients in ways large and small, whether by grocery shopping and visiting afterwards, facilitating additional outside help, or by checking in if seniors are ill or hospitalized.

To volunteer, or if you know someone who might benefit from our services, please call the program director, Elyse Brown, at 203-622-1881, or email ebrown@jfsgreenwich.org



Come relax over a glass of wine and sushi with other Greenwich women at

**Working Moms Night Out**



Organized by JFS of Greenwich

**Thursday, February 22nd, 7:30-9 pm**

**\$30 per person**

**Asiana Cafe**

**130 E Putnam Ave, Greenwich**

To register and for details, email Lisa Smith at lsmith@jfsgreenwich.org

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

**Presents:**

**STAND UP for JFS**

*A Night of Comedy*

**With Special Guest Dave Siegel**

**Save the Date - April 26th!**

At Greenwich Reform Synagogue, 92 Orchard St, Cos Cob



## JHSC's Power of One Program Hosts M.C. Escher Scholar

The Jewish High School of Connecticut hosted M.C. Escher scholar, Jeffrey Price, as the first speaker in the "Power of One" speaker series. Price, an arts scholar and gallery owner, is one of the foremost M.C. Escher experts in the world. As he explained to the students, he has been passionate about everything Escher for the last twenty years. He regaled the students with philosophical and anecdotal commentary on the power, influence, and politics of arguably the first graphic designer of the 20th Century. Mr. Price eloquently described Escher's relationships and how they influenced his work.

Natalie Shlover, a senior at JHSC, commented, "I couldn't believe Mr. Price visited our school. I have been to his gallery and am a huge Escher fan, so it was really exciting to learn in depth the history that surrounded Escher's work and his influences." "It is not every day that you are able

to bring in a preeminent scholar on a subject to speak to a group of high school students. But, at JHSC, we strive to give our students perspectives that extend beyond the text. Mr. Price's presentation was a fabulous way to kick off our Power of One series," said Rabbi Elisha Paul, JHSC Head of School.

The Power of One series provides JHSC students with opportunities to meet individuals who have contributed to the world through their passion and action. In the past the series has brought poets, scientists, actors, artists, inventors, and authors. "This series exemplifies our commitment to celebrating and acknowledging that individuals can contribute to the world in unique ways. It reinforces for our students that they need to find their own passion, whether through inspiration, or personal discovery," said Rabbi Paul.

## Bi-Cultural Students Bring a Closet-full of Joy to Ailing Kids

"Chesed" means loving kindness in Hebrew – and loving kindness is just what the 8th-grade students in the Chesed Club of Bi-Cultural Day School engaged in when they collected 115 gifts, which they then delivered to Stamford Hospital's pediatric unit and to fill up David's Treasure Chest toy closet. "It's almost impossible to fathom the impact a gesture like this has on the lives of these boys and girls," noted Head of School Jackie Herman. Mitzvah-minded students also thought of others this Chanukah by purchasing gifts on the wish-lists of children living at Ohel, a Jewish foster home.



*Bi-Cultural 8th-graders Shira Haron (left) and Mira Rosovsky deliver boxes filled with gifts for kids to Stamford Hospital pediatric unit.*

# Rosh Chodesh

**March 15 , April 15 & May 16 at 7:00PM**  
**92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob**

Join Rabbi Jordie and the women of Greenwich Reform to welcome the new moon, check in with yourself and friends, and sing and study.

RSVP at  
203-629-0018  
info@grs.org



Shir Ami Szydlowiec Torah  
in  
Greenwich Historical Society  
Exhibit



An American Odyssey:

The Jewish Experience in Greenwich



Bush-Holley Historic Site  
39 Strickland Road in Cos Cob  
November 15, 2017 - April 15, 2018



## Join Hebrew Wizards Winter Session for Our 2nd Semester

Rolling Admission:  
[www.hebrewwizards.com](http://www.hebrewwizards.com)

Call Rabbi Deb:  
203-249-4036





## Carmel Academy Students Begin New Tradition of Thanks and Giving

As Carmel Academy's students prepared for the customary traditions surrounding Thanksgiving, they did so by adding a new practice to the mix – CarmelsGiving. "On the day before Thanksgiving, as our students readied themselves to gather and celebrate the many blessings in their lives, they also paused to think about what the needs are in our world and where they could make a difference," said Sharon Goldman Wallach, Carmel's Director of Experiential Education. The school's first annual CarmelsGiving Party For Good gave students the opportunity to work on a project to give back to the world, whether it was helping the elderly, feeding the hungry or caring for animals. The theme of the CarmelsGiving party, "Where Our Passions Meet the Needs of the World," enabled each student to contribute to a cause that was personally meaningful.

In the days leading up to CarmelsGiving, Goldman Wallach and Carmel's Rabbi-in-Resident Jordan Soffer visited each classroom, introducing the students to three different causes: Dorot, an organization that alleviates social isolation among the elderly; Mazon, an organization that is inspired by Jewish values and ideals to end hunger in the U.S. and Israel; and



*Carmel Academy second graders Amital Farstrup, Dani Felsman and Isabela Knijnik prepare animal biscuits for a local animal shelter.*

Jewish Initiatives for Animals, a group that supports programs that turns Jewish values of compassion for animals into action. Through videos and presentations, the students learned about the three organizations and the topics surrounding the causes. "I asked each of the kids to notice the thoughts going through their minds while they were watching the videos and to notice how their bodies felt – clues that would help them decide which they were most interested in helping." Goldman Wallach said. "I wanted them to take stock of what they were most passionate about."

On CarmelsGiving day, each grade worked in shifts to contribute to the



*Carmel Academy 6th grader Atara Loewenberg creates a placemat for a homebound senior.*

three organizations. Some students made sandwiches to feed the hungry, which were then donated to a Stamford homeless shelter; others made animal biscuits, which were given to the Yonkers Animal Shelter; and still other students chose to create placemats with drawings and beautiful messages as part of meal deliveries to homebound seniors. Not only did the children learn enduring lessons, but they also had a lot of fun in the process. As they entered the CarmelsGiving Party For Good, students were greeted with lively music and festive balloons. The children paused from their work to write words of thanks on a Thanksgiving wall, and each student left with Thanksgiving-themed cookies and a keepsake bracelet with two printed messages: "Mitzvah gararet Mitzvah" (one good deed leads to another) and "Where Our Passions Meet the Needs of the World."

"For both our students and faculty this school-wide act of *chesed* was such a meaningful way to welcome Thanksgiving, and it truly brought the values of giving and thanks to life for each of our students," said Carmel Academy's principal Rebecca Hammerman. "Just like turkey, sweet potatoes and apple pie, we hope that this new Carmel tradition is here to stay!" said Goldman Wallach.

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

Just select UJA-JCC Greenwich as your chosen charity, and start your first shopping session at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

**Happy shopping!**  
**amazon**

## Jewish Meditation at Temple Sholom

Wednesdays, February 21,  
March 21, April 11 & May 9  
7:00 pm–8:00 pm

Sing, chant, meditate,  
reflect and refresh, as  
you connect to yourself  
and the community.

If you would like to attend, contact Rabbi Chaya Bender,  
[rabbichaya@templesholom.com](mailto:rabbichaya@templesholom.com).

Temple Sholom  
Celebrating 100 Years

300 East Putnam Avenue • Greenwich, CT  
203-869-7191 • [www.templesholom.com](http://www.templesholom.com)

f i t  
/TempleSholomCT

# Happy Passover



**Friday, March 31**  
**9:30 am**

### Sharing Passover Secrets

Learn about Haggadah choices, Passover recipes, and making your Seder fun for the kids!

**Sunday, April 2**  
**10:30 am**

### Chocolate Seder

Enjoy chocolate deliciousness, and participate in a musical seder with instruments and story props!

### RSVP Required

Contact the GRS office at 203-629-0018 or [info@grs.org](mailto:info@grs.org)

**Greenwich Reform**  
A Synagogue For Generations



## Carmel Academy Collects Toys to Benefit Pediatric Patients

In the weeks leading up to Chanukah, Carmel Academy's students worked together to provide toys for sick children. The school's Student Council organized a school-wide toy drive to benefit David's Treasure Tree Toy Closet at Stamford Hospital. The students collected several overflowing bins of new, unwrapped toys and then proudly delivered the toys to the pediatric unit at Stamford Hospital. Students then helped stock the special toy closet with new

toys, which are given to every child admitted to the hospital. Carmel Academy's third graders spent a month raising money to purchase gifts for children with cancer.

It all began with a read-a-thon. The students committed to reading 20 minutes for 20 nights, asking their parents to sponsor them with a dollar for each night they read. Many students contributed money from their own allowances and asked other relatives for support. The

third graders counted the money – much of it in coins – and the next day traveled to shop at Smart Kids Toys in Greenwich, where they shopped in pairs, choosing toys for boys and girls of varying ages. After careful consideration, they purchased more than \$500 worth of toys, which were given to Sunrise Day Camp, a free summer camp for children with cancer and their siblings. Each child who attended the camp's December reunion also received a surprise gift.



Carmel Academy third graders with bags of toys for children with cancer.



Carmel Academy Student Council Members Dani Loren, Yadid Orlow, Aaron Eben, Matan Coll, Yishama Orlow, Isaac Malkin, Nili Sprecher, Sophie Citron, Francesca Margolius and Director of Experiential Education, Sharon Goldman Wallach.

### Bi-Cultural Goes on a Passover Scavenger Hunt

Everyone is invited to get in the spirit of Passover at the Bi-Cultural Day School "Ancient Egypt Scavenger Hunt" on Wednesday, March 7 in the school's library. Kids and parents, too, will enjoy learning all about the upcoming holiday while on the hunt for hidden Pesach treasure. The fun will continue afterwards with a holiday story, music, and singing. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

Bi-Cultural Day School is located at 2186 High Ridge Road. For information contact Denise Rafailov at 203-329-2186, drafailov@bcds.org.

### Temple Sholom Honors Three Shining Stars at Annual Gala

Temple Sholom held its Starry Night Gala on January 27. More than 175 guests attended. The event included a silent auction, dancing, and live music provided by New York City Swing.



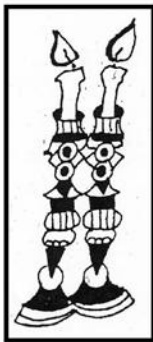
Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz (right) presented awards to honorees Travis Azous, Phyliss Rakowitz and Beth Cutler (pictured left to right) for their countless contributions to the Temple Sholom community.



Temple Sholom members Harris and Lara Damashek, and Michael and Hillary Rosenthal (Gala event chair). Photo credit: Marilyn Roos Photography

## SHABBAT TALKS EXPERIENCE WORTH SHARING

Come hear homegrown experts speak on a variety of topics  
During Shabbat Services | Friday nights at 7:30pm



**February 2, 2018 | SUSAN CROEN NISINZWEIG**  
**A Change of Heart**

In her work life, community life, and personal life, Susan values living with respect, esteem, acceptance and love for others and from others. During these turbulent times, she will explore ways to help ourselves and others move from hate and fear to a better place of love and peace.

**February 23, 2018 | MARIE ORSINI ROSEN**  
**Compassion Fatigue and Spiritual Resilience**

Marie will take us on her journey navigating sudden and profound loss, compassion fatigue and emotional exhaustion both within herself and in her relationships and then finding spiritual resilience through empathy, gratitude and faith.

**April 20, 2018 | DAHNI NISINZWEIG**  
**Son of Survivors, First Generation Israeli, American Citizen**

Drawing on his experience as a son of Holocaust Survivors, Dahni will share what life was like growing up in Israel and raising his family in America

★ Congregation Shir Ami ★

ALL ARE WELCOME young families ☆ interfaith ☆ singles ☆ boomers ☆ seniors ☆ lgbtq  
TO LEARN MORE [www.congregationshirami.org](http://www.congregationshirami.org) | 203.274.5376



## The Greying of Congregation Shir Ami

Celebrating fifteen years since its founding in 2003, Congregation Shir Ami provides a spiritual home for a diverse population, counting among its membership Jews by Birth from all denominations, Jews by Choice, and Jews by Practice, Jews who question the very existence of God, and Jews with a deep faith in a Divine presence. Some members of Shir Ami are active throughout the year, and some are drawn to our community just once a year for High Holy Day Services.

Shir Ami offers a welcoming home for the “Baby Boomer” population, with some from the earlier “Greatest Generation,” and a few from the later “Generations X and Y.” “As we embrace the ‘Greying of Shir Ami,’” notes Rabbi Vicki L. Axe, “we offer programs for this vibrant community, for example, ‘Boomers and Beyond, Sacred Aging.’”

This year, homegrown experts who are members of Shi Ami are speaking at Friday night services on a variety of topics at “SHABBAT Talks, Experience Worth Sharing.” Upcoming SHABBAT Talks include Susan Nisinzweig who will draw from her own experiences to explore ways to help move from hate and fear to a better place of love and peace. Having lost her home and everything in it to a falling tree, Marie Orsini Rosen will share her journey navigating sudden and profound loss. Dahni Nisinzweig will draw on his experience as the son of Holocaust Survivors to share what life was like growing up in Israel and raising his own family in America.

For those families with younger children, Shir Ami maintains a small intimate religious education experience with all lessons offered by Rabbi Axe, who holds degrees in education. And with a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling, Rabbi Axe cares for Shir Ami members, young and old, through life’s trials and triumphs.

“Shir Ami continues to be a great source of joy even as we age into a ‘Boomers’ Congregation,” reflects Rabbi Axe. “The next generation, the ‘Millennials,’ while perhaps no longer affiliated, are deeply connected to the spiritual center that we provide, with many of them reaching out to me when they need a recommendation, advice, or a member of the clergy to solemnize their marriage. I count my blessings!”

*For information on all Shir Ami services and events call 203-274-5376 or visit [congregationshirami.org](http://congregationshirami.org).*

## SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, March 3

Temple Sholom

**Comedy Night**

Headlined by Mark Koff, Emmy Award-Winning Writer on “The Daily Show with Trevor Noah,” 8:00 pm

Wednesday, March 21

UJA-JCC Greenwich

**An Evening of Bernstein and Sondheim**

With Stephen Whitfield, PhD and Live Music  
Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Avenue, 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 22

**Israel at 70**

Community-Wide Celebration

Thursday, April 26

JFS of Greenwich

**Stand Up For JFS**

Greenwich Reform Synagogue, 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 29-Tuesday, May 1

UJA-JCC Greenwich

**Jewish Philadelphia**

For more information, visit [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org).

Thursday, May 10

UJA-JCC Greenwich

**UJA-JCC Celebration**

7:00 pm

## Chanukah Concert with the Maccabeats

On Sunday, December 17, 2017, more than 500 people from the Greenwich community gathered at Greenwich High School’s Performing Art Center for a Chanukah concert and celebration—the largest Jewish community event in Greenwich to date.

Greenwich First Selectman Peter J. Tesei lit the week’s fifth Chanukah candle, together with Chabad Rabbi Yossi Deren. Behind them was another menorah standing nine-feet tall with electric lights, sharing the stage with the day’s performers.

The opening performance was by the Carmel Academy’s “Angels & Prophets,” the school’s Jewish rock band made up of twelve students who play, among other instruments, guitar, keyboard, bass, and drums. Angels & Prophets does a mix of cover and original Jewish rock songs and performs weekly at Carmel Academy, a Jewish independent school in Greenwich. Also performing before the main act was the entire Gan of Greenwich Preschool and the Chabad of Greenwich Hebrew School. The

students wore “Happy Chanukah” T-Shirts and performed songs such as “I Have a Little Dreidel” and “Blessings.”

The main act was the a cappella group the Maccabeats, returning to Greenwich for the fifth time. The group, which now travels the world, started out as students together at Yeshiva University and has since amassed twenty million views on YouTube, released four albums since 2010, and earned TV appearances. Following the Maccabeats’ performance, the group’s members signed autographs for families.

Concertgoers enjoyed a kosher lunch by Soosh (sushi, potato latkes and hotdogs), and By the Way Bakery (jelly donuts). Children also made lego dreidels, and families had fun in the photo booth while holding Chanukah props and speech bubbles with quotes such as, “You had me at Shalom” and “I love you a latke.” It was an entertaining and uplifting celebration for all.





## Help JTAC Help the Homeless

UJA-JCC Greenwich Teen Action Committee

**We're accepting donations for the Midnight Run!**

Please donate gently used:

- Hats
- Gloves
- Jackets
- Blankets
- Sweatshirts
- Men's Jeans

Donations accepted until **Sunday, March 18**

At UJA-JCC Greenwich  
One Holly Hill Lane

Need more info?  
E-mail Leah at  
Leah@ujajcc.org

## JTAC in Action



*Volunteering at PJ Library Dreidel Ball and preparations for Community Cares.*

## J.T.A.C.

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

### Jewish Teen Action Committee

Sundays

Feb 25, Mar 18, Apr 22, May 6

5:30-7pm | \$12 per session includes dinner at meetings  
\$150 for the year includes all meetings & projects  
One Holly Hill Lane, unless otherwise noted



Teen-led activities and community service projects for middle and high school students. Sunday evening meetings include dinner, discussions and projects.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 24 Midnight Run

8 pm | \$25 | Meet at One Holly Hill Lane, return at apx 1 am

Make a difference face to face, by serving homeless men and women in NYC.

Must RSVP in advance to have a seat in the vans.

Register online at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org)  
or call 203-552-1818

## GHS Israel Club

Supported by UJA-JCC Greenwich, the GHS Israel Club attracts students concerned with promoting accurate and factual information about Israel and the Middle East. The group brings in speakers and holds discussion groups, fundraisers and community service. Club members also participate in craft and cooking projects and field trips.



*StandWithUS guest speaker, Arab Israeli, Yahya Mahamid, speaks to classes at GHS and to the GHS Israel Club about his story of becoming a Zionist.*



*GHS Israel Club made Dreidels for Hanukkah.*



*GHS Israel Club students made t-shirt tote bags that will be used by the Sayeret Tapuz program of Leket Israel, the National Food Bank of Israel. Volunteers for Sayeret Tapuz will use these tote bags to collect fruits and vegetables donated by Israelis from their own backyards and gardens.*



## An Evening of Bernstein and Sondheim

Fans of the musical art form have some celebrating to do. It's the 100th birthday of the late cultural icon Leonard Bernstein, and just over 60 years since the Broadway premiere of *West Side Story* electrified audiences with Bernstein's music and Stephen Sondheim's lyrics. To mark both the Centenary and the Diamond Jubilee, UJA-JCC Greenwich is throwing a soiree on Wednesday, March 21 to be held at the Greenwich Arts Council (299 Greenwich Ave.).

The event opens with an expert assessment of the two Jewish musicians' work and influence, starting with their sole collaboration: *West Side Story*. Stephen Whitfield, PhD, who holds the Max Richter Chair in American Civilization at Brandeis University, will parse the lingering resonance of the Romeo-and-Juliet-inspired tale of two communities torn apart by hate. Beyond this timeless classic, Dr. Whitfield will reflect on other standouts in the Bernstein and Sondheim repertoires, respectively, and consider their place in the American cultural firmament.

"In their differing ways, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim are among the titanic figures in the distinctly American treasury of the Broadway musical and have bequeathed a legacy of artistic excellence that deserves to be pondered and cherished," the prizewinning historian told *Greenwich Jewish News*.

"You don't usually get to hear the backstory about Bernstein and Sondheim in the context of a show," said Marissa Cortese, director of this special tribute musically directed by Michael Mastroianni. "You'll get a sense of what the artist was feeling when they wrote a song, and it's still up for interpretation, so you can decide what it means to you."

This is where the concert portion of the evening comes in: Greenwich resident Rebecca Cooper will join with fellow performers Christopher Oldi and Robert Weintraub to present beloved numbers from *West Side Story*. Yet, as befits "An Evening of Bernstein and Sondheim," the trio will also feature selections drawn from Sondheim shows, including *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into the Woods*, *Company*, *Merrily We Roll Along* and *A Little Night Music*. Bernstein's works from *On the Town* and *Wonderful Town* will round out the program.

The presentation of "An Evening of Bernstein and Sondheim" is co-sponsored with the Greenwich Arts Council. It begins with a 7 pm reception followed by the main program at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$36 in advance or \$50 at the door. Sponsorship is also available, for \$118, which includes two tickets.

For reservations and further details, visit [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org). A word of advice to interested ticket buyers: "An Evening with Bernstein and Sondheim" is poised to sell out fast! In the immortal words of Sondheim, "it won't be just any night."

## An Evening of Bernstein and Sondheim

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

7 pm Reception, 7:30 pm Presentation  
\$36 in advance, \$50 at the door  
\$118 to sponsor, includes two tickets  
Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Ave.

This year marks the centenary of the birth of Leonard Bernstein, whose stature remains secure as one of the titanic figures in the history of American music. By collaborating with Stephen Sondheim on *West Side Story*, Bernstein helped these two master musicians launch the career of a composer-lyricist who has enjoyed an unrivaled position in the evolution of the Broadway musical for over 50 years. "An Evening of Bernstein and Sondheim" offers an exceptional opportunity to appreciate and discover anew what makes these two songwriters such inescapable presences in the national imagination. Join us as **Stephen Whitfield, PhD** takes us through this fascinating history and revel in the live music from the best of Bernstein and Sondheim performed by **Rebecca Cooper, Christopher Oldi** and **Robert Weintraub**. Directed by **Marissa Cortese** and musically directed by **Michael Mastroianni**.



Register at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org) or call 203-552-1818



### DAVIS FILM FESTIVAL

7 pm | \$15 per film | Bow Tie Cinema, 2 Railroad Ave., Greenwich

FEBRUARY 21

#### Moos

Job Gosschalk / Comedy-Romance / Netherlands / 91 min.

Moos has always dreamed of going to acting school, but was held back by her grieving father after her mother's death. With Moos' best friend back in town, she wants to achieve her dreams. There's the handsome singing teacher, her father's new girlfriend, the fact that she didn't actually get accepted to acting school and her growing affection for her childhood friend.



MARCH 14

#### The Quiet Heart

Eitan Anner / Drama / Israel / 92 min.

Naomi is a secular young woman who seeks refuge from her life as a concert pianist. She makes two unexpected connections- one with a musically gifted Ultra-Orthodox young boy and the other, a charismatic Italian monk and organist; both of which make Naomi a target in her new community.



### FUTURE FESTIVAL DATES

Apr 11\* | May 16 | June 13

\*Special time and place for the April 11th film in commemoration of Yom HaShoah. Film will be screened at GRS, 92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob, preceding the community wide Yom HaShoah observance.

## Fauda 2

Episodes 1 & 2

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7 pm | \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door  
Bow-Tie Criterion Cinemas, 2 Railroad Ave.

"Much more personal" is the word on Season 2 of Israel's megahit TV series about undercover operatives. Come see for yourself what everyone is raving about.



## 36th Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration

With Guest Speaker Holocaust Survivor Dr. Manfred Simon

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

Greenwich Reform Synagogue, 92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob  
Film screening at 6:30 pm | Observance at 7 pm  
A Gift to the Community

Art has the power to sustain hope and resiliency, as we'll see in two moving Holocaust Day films. *Rosenzweig Born to Dance*, from the Ma'aleh film school, reveals how dancing saved the life of its titular hero; and Francine Zuckerman's *Mr. Bernstein* follows a daughter who, after learning of her father's life-changing musical experience in a refugee camp, tracks down the famous conductor with surprising consequences.

Manfred Simon was born in Cologne, Germany in 1928. As a young boy, he witnessed the development of the Nazi anti-Semitic surge of the 1930's. His father worked on plans to escape Germany as early as 1936.

Please join our Jewish community in this moving Holocaust commemoration preceded by film screenings.



## Jewish Philadelphia

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 - TUESDAY, MAY 1

Explore Jewish Philadelphia with us this Spring. During our visit, we'll take in: one of the oldest synagogues in the country; the National Museum of American Jewish History; Barnes Foundation; Philadelphia's Magic Gardens; Philadelphia Museum of Art; an Israeli performance and talkback and much more. Enjoy great art and heritage, great food and great friends while uncovering more than 300 years of Jewish life in the City of Brotherly Love.

More info will be available at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org) after Feb 1st.





**Some people refer to us as  
JCC Greenwich.**

**Some think of us as  
UJA Greenwich.**

**Some will always say  
Federation.**

**We are all that & more.**

Announcing the merger of UJA & JCC.  
Coming together with one heart & one  
purpose – to connect our community  
through inspiring & shared experiences.  
Welcoming old friends & new neighbors,  
throughout 2018.

One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830  
203.552.1818 | [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org)

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