

UJA-JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Volume XXXV, Number 2

February 2026 | Adar 5786

UJA-JCC Annual Meeting – 2026 Board of Directors Elected and New Co-President Lindsey Kupferman Will Serve with Walter Primoff

The annual meeting took place on January 15 on Zoom. The agenda included welcoming and opening remarks by Co-President **Walter Primoff**, followed by a recap of the year 2025 by outgoing Co-President **Christine Toback**. **Joan Mann** then thanked outgoing members for their service. **Margie Black** called for a vote for the 2026 Board of Directors, which passed unanimously. This was followed by brief remarks by Lindsey Kupferman, incoming Co-President, where she announced that UJA-JCC Greenwich raised almost \$5.6 million last year. The meeting concluded with a presentation from *Free Press* journalist Olivia Reingold.

Lindsey Kupferman has been an active member of Greenwich's UJA-JCC Women's Philanthropy Board since moving to Greenwich in 2021. She is currently a vice president of Women's Philanthropy, and co-leader of the Israel Advocacy Program. Growing up in North Carolina, the daughter of proud Zionists, Lindsey's family was active in many Jewish

and pro-Israel organizations, and Lindsey now proudly wears her mother's Lion of Judah pin. Lindsey is a clinical psychologist who was, until recently, a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry of Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons. From 2009-2019, Lindsey served on the Dean's Council of the Gallatin School at New York University, her undergraduate alma mater (before stepping down after the University awarded Students for Justice in Palestine the Presidential Service Award) and is a Trustee Emeritus of Adelphi University, where she earned her doctorate and endowed a scholarship for students in the mental health field. Lindsey lives in Greenwich with her two daughters.



Lindsey Kupferman, Ph.D.

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



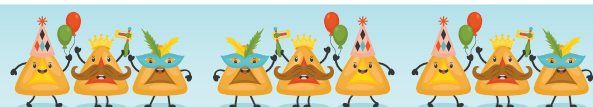
Scan the QR code for
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UJA-JCC
greenwich

United Jewish
Federation



Questions? Please contact
cori@ujajcc.org



Happy Purim



UJA-JCC Greenwich Receives Grant from the Fred and Donna Nives Foundation

UJA-JCC Greenwich was recently awarded a significant grant from the Fred and Donna Nives Foundation, signaling strong recognition and support for our organization's forward-thinking and transformative work. Allocated in early 2026, the grant will enable UJA-JCC Greenwich to expand its community-building efforts with an emphasis on UJA-JCC's capacity to identify and engage newly arrived and unaffiliated families raising Jewish children.

"Thanks to the Foundation's generosity, we have a new lifeline for top-notch young family programming that is joyful, welcoming and meaningfully rooted in Jewish values," said UJA-JCC Greenwich CEO Pam Ehrenkranz. "These funds will underwrite high-quality events and partnerships with synagogues."

The debut program underwritten by Nives Foundation funding is a sing-along, dance and playtime experience designed for families with young children. Called Family Jam, this music-filled offering will take place on Sunday, March 29, at 3:30 pm at the Cohen Eastern Greenwich Civic Center. The interactive concert will be led by *Tkiya*, which fosters connection to Jewish culture and community using music, puppets and movement. Tickets are \$45 per family and can be purchased at ujajcc.org. Participants are

encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for UJA-JCC Greenwich to donate to Neighbor to Neighbor and Schoke JFS food pantries.

Two fall events are currently in development for this series. These include Noah's Petting Zoo, teaching children the Jewish value of caring for

animals and preventing their suffering, as well as an art-themed project centered on caring for senior citizens in the community. Program details and registration will be available at ujajcc.org.

From Critters to Carob Trees: Learning and Celebrating Together

What an exciting time in Greenwich! Critter Caravan came to town, and we had the opportunity to learn about all different types of mammals and reptiles. Some of our favorites were the bunny and the chinchilla. We also celebrated Tu B'Shevat with creative crafts and a reading of *The Abba Tree*, a story inspired by the legend of Honi and the carob tree that teaches the importance of caring for future generations. We can't wait for our next Family Fun event on March 29!

See more photos
on page 15



tkiya | UJA-JCC greenwich

FAMILY JAM

Families with young children! Come to a joyful, interactive music experience where kids and grown-ups sing, dance, and play together.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 | 3:30 PM
COHEN EASTERN GREENWICH CIVIC CENTER

\$45 PER FAMILY
REGISTER TODAY!

PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM TO BENEFIT
NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR AND SCHOKE JFS FOOD PANTRIES.

Generously sponsored by the Fred and Donna Nives Foundation

Dignity Grows Packing Event!

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

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!

UJA-JCC greenwich | **dignitygrows** | PJ Library

Women's Philanthropy Book Lovers

Readers braved the frigid January air to attend the Women's Book Club hosted by Women's Philanthropy and chaired by **Bonnie Citron, Randi Levy, and Silvina Skverer**. A mix of new and returning participants enjoyed getting to know one another and catching up before they dove into a discussion of Eshkol Nevo's book, *World Cup Wishes*. Don't forget to follow us on socials to hear what book we will be discussing next!



2026 UJA-JCC Greenwich Newly Elected Board of Directors

Stuart Berni
Marjorie Black
Rebecca Cooper
Ellen Davis
Michael Delikat
Rabbi Yossi Deren*
Pamela Ehrenkranz*
Geoffrey Erickson
Andi Fern

Martin Flashner
Rabbi Jordie Gerson*
David Green*
Joui Hessel
Rabbi Mitchell Hurvitz*
Lindsey Kupferman
Sally Mann
Rabbi David Markus*
Amanda Miller

Jill Oberlander
Walter Primoff
Rachel Rimsky Rubin
Yael Rosen
Ellen Schapps Richman
Zion Shohet
Silvina Skverer
Maura Smotrich
Meryl Sole*

Rebecca Steinfeld*
Rebecca Tipermas
Christine Toback
Jane Weitzman
Ellen Wolfson
Jordan Yarett
Lauren Yeager

* = Ex. Officio

Friendship, Fun, and a Splash of Israeli Wine

Thanks to all of the ladies who came to the special night out in December hosted by UJA-JCC Greenwich! It was such fun to gather together with female friends new and old and to play classic card and board games. We very much enjoyed tasting Israeli wines and relaxing after a long day.

SAVE THE DATE

Ladies' Night

Tuesday, April 21 | 7:00 PM

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

Event Chairs:
Jenna Krumholz
Natasha Luboski

More details coming soon

UJA-JCC greenwich



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

Mosaic 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., Feb 20..... 5:19 pm

Fri., Feb 27..... 5:27 pm

Fri., Mar 6..... 5:35 pm

Fri., Mar 13..... 6:42 pm

Fri., Mar 20..... 6:50 pm

Fri., Mar 27..... 6:57 pm

First night Passover

Weds., Apr. 1..... 7:03 pm

Second night Passover

Thurs., Apr. 2..... 8:03 pm

Fri., Apr. 3..... 7:05 pm

Seventh night Passover

Tues., Apr. 7..... 7:15 pm

Eighth night Passover

Weds., Apr. 8..... 8:11 pm

Greenwich Jewish News

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ujajcc.org

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WALTER PRIMOFF
Co-President,

UJA-JCC GREENWICH

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President, Women's Philanthropy

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Editorial Chairman

PAMELA EHRENKRANZ
Chief Executive Officer

CORI SANOGUEIRA
Chief Operating Officer

JUDITH MARGOLIN
Editor

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Curtains Up on the Golden Age of Broadway

On January 11, UJA-JCC Greenwich held “The Golden Age of Broadway Musicals: The 1960s.” We were thrilled to offer a unique opportunity to hear songs from iconic Broadway musicals of that decade. It was wonderful to come together as a community and enjoy Broadway level performances and music. Thank you to **Rebecca Cooper** and all of the fantastic performers for making this day so special!



Patrons

Dale Atkins & Robert Rosen
Margie and Steven Black
Marshall Cooper
Michele & John Stuart

Sponsors

Carolyn Blumberg and Scott Walters
Debra and Michael Clain
Susan Frieden
Joui Hessel
Rhoda and Sherman Levine
Susan Rudolph
Rochelle and Charles Shotland

Partners

Cindy Valk Danish and Leslie Danish
Carin Gendell
Lindsey Kupferman
Debbie Simon



Matanot Lev - Gifts from the Heart

We appreciate the supporters of the Matanot Lev Gifts from the Heart Program at Schoke Jewish Family Service. Thanks to their generosity, Jewish families in our area were able to give their children Hanukkah gifts in a dignified manner, making their Hanukkah that much brighter! Pictured are Schoke JFS volunteers who wrapped the gifts.

This year's donors:	
Elise Abbruzzese	Lauren Rabinowitz
Patti and Stuart Bressman	Rachel Rimsky Rubin
Anna Buzik	Ann Rogers
Andi Fern	Pamela Sanders
Amanda Miller	Elizabeth Schacher
Ellen-Jane Moss	Maura Smotrich
Lauren Pasqua	Carolyn Surgent
Olivia Pomeroy	Christine Toback



Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School Expands “Summer at SMNS” Program

The Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School) is excited to announce the expansion of its “Summer at SMNS” program for rising 3’s, 4’s and Kindergarteners to now include sessions for rising 2-year-olds.

“We are thrilled to be able to welcome younger families for an unforgettable summer at SMNS,” said David Cohen, Director of Schools. “The summer months offer so many opportunities for water play, nature scavenger hunts, bubble shows, relay races and imaginative play on our multi-level playground – all of which create wonderful, joyful memories for our children.”

The summer program runs as 2-week sessions from June 9 through August 14, and is modeled on the school’s year-round emergent curriculum. Children benefit from the same unique learning spaces such as STEAM, music, art, gymnastics, interactive learning in the Animal Discovery Room, and Shabbat with Temple Sholom’s clergy. Each day’s activities are captured through photos and videos and shared with parents on the school’s Remini app.

While guided by Jewish values, the Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School welcomes families of all faiths, ethnicities and backgrounds.

To register your child for one or more of the summer sessions, contact David Cohen, Director of Schools, at 203-622-8121 or david.cohen@templesholom.com.



Tamim Academy–Reimagining Jewish Education and Transforming How Children Learn and Grow

With small class sizes, individualized instruction, and a dual curriculum of strong academics and rich Jewish values, Tamim creates a joyful environment where every child is truly seen, inspired, and empowered. Students learn with confidence, explore with curiosity, and develop deep Jewish pride—guided by teachers who nurture both character and achievement.

As part of a groundbreaking national network of innovative Jewish day schools, Tamim Academy of Greenwich is preparing children not just for the classroom, but for meaningful, joyful lives rooted in community, integrity, and a lifelong love of learning.

Tamim utilizes research-based, top-tier curricula and thoughtfully supplements to ensure no gaps in learning. Our literacy instruction is rooted in Read Write Inc., mathematics is taught using Singapore Math alongside Think!, Hebrew reading is developed through MaDYK, and our Social Studies and Science programs follow the National Standards. It’s a comprehensive approach that equips students with the strongest foundations across subjects.

For more information, visit tamimgreenwich.org



Celebrate Purim at GRS

Join us on Friday, February 27, for a family celebration of Shabbat and Purim, complete with a Purim *shpeil* and costumes for all!

The schedule is:

Tot service at 5:15 pm

Dinner at 5:45 pm

Family Shabbat Service and Purim *shpeil* at 6:30 pm

Our Purim celebration continues with a Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 1 at 10-11:30am!

For details and to RSVP, please contact Admin@GRS.org.



Chabad Hebrew School Had an Incredible First Semester

From meaningful Mitzvah projects with our Mitzvah Makers to hands-on experiences, the energy and excitement were felt every week.

We learned Torah with joy, creativity, and lots of fun—and the smiles say it all.

For more information, visit chabadgreenwich.org/hebrewschool or call Chani at 203-629-9059.



Matzah Fest at Greenwich Reform Synagogue

For the fourth time in the history of Greenwich, on Sunday, April 7, from 10 to 11:30am, you can participate in Matzah Fest, a community-wide multi-generational Passover celebration hosted by Greenwich Reform Synagogue.

All are welcome to come to GRS to make and bake their own matzah in a wood-fired oven that will be back for this special event. All ingredients and mixing tools will be supplied. After making and baking your own matzah, stick around to enjoy the Dough Girls' most delicious pizza!

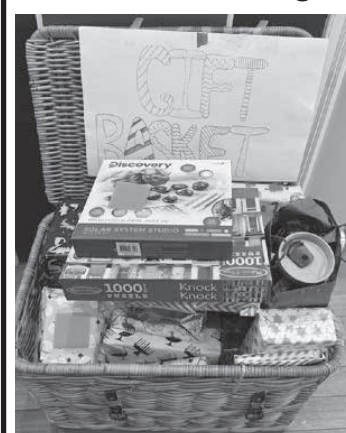
Space is limited and RSVPs are essential, please contact Admin@GRS.org or call 203-629-0018.



Hebrew Wizards Charity Carnival

Wizards Winter Carnival raises funds for our Charities. Our Wizards students brought gifts for Kids in Crisis. A wonderful way to show our gratitude & bring light.

hebrewwizards.com



Red Cross Blood Drive at GRS

Saving a life is one of Judaism's highest values. Come to Greenwich Reform Synagogue on Monday, April 6, 1:30 to 6:30 pm for our Red Cross Blood Drive and help fulfill *pikuach nefesh* – the sacred obligation to preserve life. Although walk-ins are always welcome, save time by reserving a slot and doing an online check-in by going to www.redcrossblood.org and entering the zip code 06807.



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Clergy's Corner

☆ **The Architecture of Love** ☆

How Crisis in a Foreign Land Reminded Me What Family Truly Means

by Rabbi Deborah Salomon, Hebrew Wizards

Just last month, my family was on what was supposed to be a joyful vacation, a carefully planned itinerary, long-anticipated experiences, the kind of trip you anticipate for months.

We had planned something that meant a great deal to us, a visit to an underprivileged school in Cartagena, Columbia. We were excited to meet the children and the director, to sit with them, and to deliver what we had brought: folders, colored pencils, rulers, and the simple, beautiful tools that make learning feel possible. We had also prepared a meaningful financial donation to support the school.

We were excited to finally arrive in Cartagena, a breathtaking city we never truly saw. Within hours of arriving, before we even had a chance to step outside our hotel, everything changed.

My husband suddenly lost all sense of stability. He was disoriented. He could not stand. His speech was off. His hands were shaking vigorously. He was showing definite signs of a stroke.

Panicked, we quickly called for an ambulance which arrived in an instant as we rushed him to an unknown hospital in the middle of this foreign city. No one spoke English, not a single doctor, not a single nurse. We were terrified. We could not communicate ourselves without the help of our trusted guide, who now was our lifeline to ensure my husband's safety. We were far from home, in the most vulnerable moment of our lives.

And yet...we survived. With the help of Javi, our guide and the use of Google translate, we found a way to communicate. A way to ask questions. A way to understand. A way to navigate. My husband had bilateral pneumonia, and was severely dehydrated, causing his kidneys to fail, and to top it off, he had the Hp3 virus. He was in critical condition, but thankfully it was not a stroke as we had predicted. My children and I stopped everything. No one asked what we were missing. No one cared about the vacation we had lost. Every conversation shifted to one truth. We are here for each other.

Our family gathered anxiously in the hospital to rescue my husband, and in the midst of assisting their Dad, all three of my kids were now stricken with the flu with high fevers that needed immediate medical attention. They remained in the care of the concierge doctor

who brought IV treatments to them as they remained isolated in our hotel. I went back and forth, trying to manage my husband's situation but still to get the proper care for our adult children. We stayed there for five difficult days, doing everything we could to stabilize my husband until he was strong enough to be flown back to the United States. The kids thankfully were showing positive signs of improvement, and I was simply exhausted. In the midst of the crisis, we were unable to conduct the long anticipated trip to the school. Instead, the director arranged to collect the gifts from our hotel. In their gratitude, they sent videos of all the children holding their personalized packages of school supplies saying words of gratitude in Spanish.

As soon as my husband's vital signs stabilized, we carefully navigated through the airport with a wheelchair and special assistance. And then, by surprise, as we were waiting in the airport for our flight, the head of the school showed up to personally thank us and wish us well, which wrapped that moment in such kindness and grace.

In the middle of chaos and fear, we were reminded that goodness continues to move through the world, quietly, insistently, beautifully, *mitzvah goreret mitzvah*, one good deed brings another good deed.

Finally, we arrived safely back home. However, by the next morning, my husband had taken another turn for the worse. An ambulance took us to Stamford Hospital, where the full weight of what we were facing became clear. His pneumonia was still present, and he still had the flu in his system. His kidneys were in distress, and now his heart had become compromised and was in failure. These were the moments when fear sits beside you and refuses to leave. And in those moments, something far more important than any travel plan revealed itself. I reminded my husband that he must survive to walk our daughter down the aisle at her upcoming wedding in a few months.

In Hebrew, *mishpachah* means family, but its root means to spread, to branch, to flow outward. Like a tree, a family is not static. It grows, bends, breaks, and blooms again. Its strength is not in standing perfectly straight, but in how it holds together when the wind comes.

That week, the wind came. And we held one another. We fed one another. We watched over one another. We whispered courage when fear tried to speak louder. We remembered what matters most.

The power of resilience was something my mother had always taught us. Just days before that trip, we had unveiled her gravestone, another moment when time paused and love stepped forward. We stood together remembering her laughter, her warmth, the way she once held us up, and the way we now carry her forward. Mom taught us to fight for our loved ones. Family is not only with whom we celebrate. It is who we survive with. It is who steadies us when the ground shakes beneath us. It is who reminds us, again and again, that the truest itinerary is the one written on the heart.

That week, our universe contracted into hospital rooms, airplane cabins, whispered prayers, trembling hands, and sleepless nights. And in that small universe lived fear, hope, tenderness, exhaustion, faith, patience, and an overwhelming amount of love. We did not lose a vacation. We remembered our purpose. We are here to hold one another up. To live together. To love without hesitation. To laugh when we can. And to walk each other home when the path becomes dark. That is what a *mishpachah* does. In a world that moves too fast, demands too much, and often forgets what truly sustains us, our tradition gently insists: return to your *mishpachah*. Not only the family you were born into, but the family you choose, the community you build, the people who show up when life unravels. This is truly - *Le Dor va Dor* - the inheritance that we pass forward, not possessions or passports or plans, but presence. May we continue to be that kind of family for one another: steady in storms, generous in love, and brave enough to believe that even in the most frightening moments, we are never walking alone. Gratitude filled our hearts, when my husband was finally sent home to rest and recuperate after more than 10 days in the hospital. The wind storm ended and the sun shone again.

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.

BH

CHABAD OF GREENWICH
& CAMP GAN ISRAEL

Annual Gala

LET'S OPEN
THESE DOORS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26 | 6:30 PM
TAMARACK COUNTRY CLUB
55 LOCUST ROAD, GREENWICH

Featuring Comedian
Elon Gold




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

UNraveling UNRWA

Movie Screening and
Director Talk Back

Sunday, March 1
Doors open at 4:30 pm
Movie screening begins at 5:00 pm,
followed by talk back with director, Duki Dror

\$12 per ticket



Scan here for more
information and to register

UJA★JCC
greenwich

AJC
Westchester/
Fairfield

Jewish ALUMNI
Strong



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

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greenwich

Scan to register
or at ujajcc.org



Women's Leadership Forum

UJA-JCC Greenwich Women's Philanthropy was well represented at The Weitzman Museum of American Jewish History's Inaugural Women's Leadership Forum's luncheon celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Jewish Book Month. The event was cosponsored by The Jewish Book Council. The attendees were given a tour of the museum and author Georgia Hunter of *One Good Thing*, was the speaker. Joining the 170 other attendees in Philadelphia were **Marjorie Black**, former president of Greenwich UJA-JCC, **Andi Fern**, former president of UJA-JCC Greenwich Women's Philanthropy, **Ellen Keats** and **Dr. Debra Pruzan-Clain**. The luncheon was chaired by **Jane Weitzman**, Weitzman Museum board member, past president of The Jewish Book Council, and Founder and Board member of UJA-JCC Greenwich's Women's Philanthropy.



Dr. Debbie Pruzan-Clain, Andi Fern, Margie Black, Ellen Keats, and Jane Weitzman.

Greenwich Well Represented at General Assembly in November

The Greenwich delegation was incredibly moved by their multi-day experience at the General Assembly held in November in Washington, DC. The annual gathering of lay persons and Jewish Federation employees from across North America brought notable speakers, Jewish educators and advocates. Breakout sessions focused on areas of interest enabled participants to do a deeper dive into specific topics that impact their home communities and particular interests. The stand-out highlight that brought the entire crowd to its feet accompanied by thunderous applause and very few dry eyes was when former hostages, Avinatan Or, Noa Argamani and Guy Gilboa-Dalal spoke, not just

about horrors they endured, but what kept them going. That they are an inspiration is an understatement.

We hope you will attend the General Assembly November 8-10, 2026. If you would like to connect with a prior participant to hear more about what happens at the General Assembly, please email Pam at pam@ujajcc.org, and she will make a connection for you!



Israel Emergency Fund Allocations

UJA-JCC Greenwich has raised almost \$3 million for its Israel Emergency Fund to date, a campaign begun after October 7. Here are the most recent allocations made in addition to those in the prior two years.

Beit Ruth: This organization takes in girls to their youth village who have been abused and provides shelter, therapy, and schooling. It sees them through high school, so that they have the skills and confidence to thrive in the future. The need for beds has grown significantly since the start of the war. There are far more in need than space available.



Brothers For Life: The most recent allocation was in support of an international medical conference, in partnership with Sheba Hospital, that brought together renowned medical personnel who specialize in assisting amputees. There are a record number of amputees since the 10/7 war began.



Keren Malki: This organization brings much needed services to children with disabilities and their families in areas where they otherwise would not have access, such as Gaza envelope areas where the towns are fairly remote. They also provide services above what the Israeli government funds to supplement for very needy children.



ReGrow Israel: This agency, the recipient of a tractor for southern Israeli farmers just last year, is now aiding northern farmers as well, especially those hard-hit by the war. Between lack of workers, loss of income, and fields destroyed by missiles and more, help is badly needed to rebuild and replant vineyards and orchards.



A Spiritual Jewish Retreat at Kripalu

In early January, sixteen women embarked on a spiritual Jewish retreat to Kripalu in Lenox, MA. Sponsored by UJA-JCC Greenwich, “A Retreat for Women at Kripalu” was the brainchild of **Rabbi Joui Hessel** and former Women’s Philanthropy President, **Carolyn Surgent**. It blossomed into two days of Jewish learning sessions and community bonding among an intergenerational group of women.

After our first dinner, Carolyn Surgent led an insightful session called “L’Dor Vador: Conversations about Jewish Greenwich,” which gave us all a chance to reflect upon our personal experiences of being Jewish in the Greenwich community. Our agenda for Jewish learning also incorporated Kripalu’s yoga offerings and exercise breaks between sessions. **Meredith Gold**, LCSW, led us through a number of self-calming and mindfulness techniques that the group can incorporate into their daily lives.

On the second day of the retreat, both Rabbi Hessel and, separately, **Rabbi Jordie Gerson** from Greenwich Reform Synagogue, led interactive learning about the parsha *Va-Yeira* and mindful Judaism, respectively. Blessings for the Road was the next morning’s session and consisted of a beautiful Havdalah service, giving spiritual closure to us all.



ISCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM

You can make a big difference in less than one hour a week.

Volunteer as an online tutor for Israeli children impacted by the war. Through one-on-one tutoring in core subjects, volunteers help reduce learning gaps while providing stability, encouragement, and personal support during a critical time. No teaching experience required. Training and ongoing support provided.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Students participate in a 10-session online program
- Weekly one-hour commitment (30-45 minute lesson)
- Online tutoring for core subjects like English, Math, and Hebrew
- Tutor students in grades 4–6

HELP REBUILD THE EDUCATIONAL FUTURE OF ISRAEL’S CHILDREN—one STUDENT AT A TIME.

REGISTER TODAY



UJA★JCC greenwich

ISchool School
ISchool – Rebuilding Israel’s Education



Lunch & Learn

WINTER | SPRING SERIES 2026

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

THE LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM IS
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY RITA EDELSTON



FEBRUARY 26

Unmasking Identity in the Book of Esther: Why the Bible's Most Secular Story Might Be Its Most Sacred Yakir Englander, PhD

The Book of Esther never features God, yet it may be the most theological story of the Bible. Perhaps God's absence isn't theological oversight but deliberate invitation—when divinity falls silent, human courage must speak on identity and authenticity.

MARCH 5

Rethinking the Ten Commandments Rabbi Jonathan Blake

We all know the Ten Commandments. Or do we? Let's reconsider how and why Torah was written, compiled and redacted, parsing three versions of the Ten Commandments found in the Torah.

MARCH 12

How to Judge Other Jews Rabbi Joshua Rosenfeld

How are we meant to regard Jews whose beliefs or practices diverge from our own? Through the writings of the Piaseczna Rebbe, Rav Kook, R. Zadok HaKohen and the Tanya, we'll examine a theological and moral shift.

MARCH 19

Backpay for Bondage Michael Feldstein

Why were the Israelites instructed to take gold and silver from the Egyptians before they left Egypt?

MARCH 26

Amalek: The Enemy Within Rabbi Irwin Huberman

During the lead up to Passover, one of the enemies our tradition focuses upon is the nation of Amalek. Who was Amalek and is there a personal and spiritual side to this story we must consider?

APRIL 2 - APRIL 9

Passover | No Class

APRIL 16

Wisdom, Wealth and Leadership Rabbi Menachem Creditor

What values guide a Jewish community in choosing its leaders, and how should leadership serve the people? As we parse a Talmudic story, let's tune into the role of communal trust, moral courage and the responsibility of those entrusted with communal authority to open doors rather than guard them.

APRIL 23

Why a State of Israel Now? Rabbi Lester Bronstein

Even before October 7, many thoughtful Jewish leaders were making the case for a "non-Zionist" or even "anti-Zionist" Judaism. Those voices grew stronger after Israel's response to October 7. In the wake of the 78th Yom Ha'Atzmaut, we'll explore why the State of Israel is still needed, even while considering the challenges it poses for Diaspora Jews today.

APRIL 30

A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance Rabbanit Atara Lindenbaum

Is it ever okay to stop grieving? A Lag BaOmer reflection on the thirty-third day of counting, when sorrow gives way to celebration.

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.

UJA-JCC Greenwich Annual Celebration Gathers Community to Honor Teens

Guest Speaker: Adela Cojab

Co-Chairs Juliana & Patrick Cooper, Jessica & David Cosloy, Laura & Keith Rosenbloom



In December, UJA-JCC Greenwich convened a successful Annual Celebration to gather together as a community, hear powerful words from Adela Cojab, antisemitism warrior and Miss Israel USA, and honor a select group of teen Changemakers as they received Weitzman Youth Awards. During an evening at the Bruce Museum, we had a lovely dinner while conversing with family and friends. Attendees were greatly inspired by the accomplishments of our Teen Changemakers and the words of Adela Cojab.



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Photos by Marilyn Roos Photography

More Than a Trip: A Mission Experience in Israel

From January 25-February 2, UJA-JCC Greenwich Mission members traveled to Israel for an exciting experience! We met with recipient agencies ReGrow Israel and Brothers For Life to learn more about how our allocations are helping Israel rebuild and heal. We also heard from high level speakers such as Haviv Rettig Gur, IDF officers, and an ex-Mossad agent turned Mossad psychologist. Our farewell dinner with Dr. Micah Goodman was enlightening and stimulated many questions and conversations. From the Nova site to ancient Israel, from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, we had a behind the scenes look at Israel's post 10/7 reality at every turn. Thank you to **Geoffrey Erickson**, the mission chair, for his leadership.



PJ Library Family Fun Day with Critters



TEMPLE SHOLOM'S Mitzvah Day 2026



Members of the community came together on January 11 for Mitzvah Day - a beloved tradition at Temple Sholom dedicated to tikkun olam (repairing the world).

More than 200 volunteers of all ages participated in a variety of hands-on service projects organized by the Norma Perlstein z'l Social Action Committee. From children to adults, everyone played a vital role in making a difference and spreading kindness.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH



CEO's Corner

Strength, Compassion, and the Work Ahead

The start of a new year offers a natural moment to pause, reflect, and look ahead. At JFS of Greenwich, this reflection always returns to the heart of our mission: standing with individuals and families in moments of vulnerability and helping them find stability, strength, and hope.

The past year was marked by moments of both deep challenge and meaningful progress. That contrast, between hardship and possibility, is the essence of our work. Every day JFS operates at that intersection, providing care that is grounded in dignity and guided by compassion.

Across Fairfield County the need for accessible mental health support continues to grow, particularly for children, teens, and families navigating anxiety and ongoing uncertainty. In response, JFS significantly expanded the reach of the Bennett Center for Behavioral Health. Our clinicians are now in 14 public schools, ensuring that students receive mental health care in a familiar, trusted environment. By meeting young people where they are, we help reduce barriers and make support part of everyday life.

Beyond schools, JFS clinicians serve clients at several community partner sites, including the YMCA of Greenwich, New Canaan YMCA, Boys & Girls Club of Stamford, Building One Community, and Archangels Greek Orthodox Church. With the addition of medication management and a supervising psychiatrist, our behavioral health services now offer comprehensive, person centered care that reflects both clinical excellence and human connection.

This work is part of a broader continuum that defines JFS today. From food security initiatives such as the Friendly Fridge, to Older Adult Services, Jewish Health & Healing programs, and family support services, our growing team touches lives across the community every single day. In the past year, JFS provided more than 50,000 points of service, each one a tangible reminder that help and care are available.

Perhaps most importantly, JFS today is an organization unafraid to respond to evolving needs. What was once a small agency has become a resilient and courageous community resource, prepared to adapt, collaborate, and lead when challenges arise.

As this year unfolds, our focus remains clear: to continue strengthening mental health access, deepening community partnerships, and showing up, consistently and compassionately, for those who rely on us. I am deeply grateful to our staff, board, partners, and supporters who make this work possible. Their commitment ensures that JFS remains a source of stability and humanity in uncertain times.

Together, we will continue to say "yes" when it matters most.

With immense gratitude,

—Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL

Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Family Services of Greenwich



Tribute Contributions to JFS of Greenwich

Anonymous in honor of Barbara Epstein

Anonymous in honor of JoAnn Messina

Linda Berliner in memory of Rhoda Pappenheimer

Brenda Block in honor of Lisa Levine

Carol Cram in memory of Phyllis McDonald

Susan Davis in honor of Sister Marianne Scarpelli

Susan Davis in memory of Phyllis McDonald

Lori Jennings Gambrell in honor of Robin Berlin

Ellen Keats and Irving Goldstein in honor of Barbara Epstein

Heidi Loeb in honor of Barbara Epstein

Helen Ravera in memory of Rhoda Pappenheimer

Diane and Edward Schatell in memory of Rhoda Pappenheimer

Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Dr. Shimon Shalit

Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Zahava Rosenberg

Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Barbara Jaffe Ellison

Anne Wichman in memory of Arthur Wichman

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 Conducts Support Group Addressing Antisemitism

As reports of antisemitism continue to appear in national headlines, on college campuses, and within local communities, JFS of Greenwich recently sponsored a multi-session support group designed to help individuals process and respond to these experiences in a thoughtful and empowering way.

The group, "*Coping with Antisemitism: Actions and Reactions*," provided a safe and supportive space for participants to reflect on personal experiences, share concerns, and build practical tools for navigating prejudice while remaining grounded in their values. Over the course of the program, participants engaged in open discussion, mutual support, and skill-building focused on responding with confidence rather than fear or silence.

One participant said, "The group taught me to respond with confidence instead of silence. Hearing others' experiences reminded me how powerful it is to speak up and support one another. Listening, learning, and practicing responses made me feel prepared and empowered."

The group was led by Rabbi MJ Newman and Mitchell Cole, LAMHC, whose thoughtful facilitation balanced emotional support with practical guidance. JFS extends its gratitude to both leaders for creating a space rooted in empathy and respect.

What's Next

Building on the momentum of this group, JFS is currently planning a community-wide Zoom discussion focused on antisemitism and the broader global context influencing today's conversations. Additional details will be shared in the coming weeks.





CELEBRATING TU B'SHEVAT - THE BIRTHDAY OF THE TREES. IT'S WHEN GROWTH HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T EVEN EXPECT IT. TRUSTING THE PROCESS IN OUR OWN LIVES AND IN NATURE IS WHAT THIS HOLIDAY IS ALL ABOUT. WHAT CAN WE NURTURE IN OUR OWN LIVES?



EACH MONTH WE SPEND WITH THE SENIORS AT THE MEWS IN GREENWICH. WE LOVE TO SHARE A CREATIVE ART PROJECT LIKE MAKING OUR OWN PLANT TERRARIUM, DECORATING IT AND SUSTAINING ITS LIFE WITH LOVE, LIGHT AND A FEW DROPS OF WATER. WE WOULD NOT MISS A CHANCE TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE TREES WITHOUT OUR FAVORITE GROUP OF SENIORS RANGING IN AGES 75-107 YEARS OLD.

WWW.HEBREWIZARDS.COM

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.

MORE DETAILS TO COME AT
WWW.TEMPLESHOLOM.COM

Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy Marks Holiday Season with Annual Interfaith Celebration

The Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy (GFC) gathered in December at Temple Sholom for the group's annual holiday luncheon. Twenty-one members of the clergy attended from the surrounding area. The celebration featured a symbolic lighting of Temple Sholom's Chanukiah and the singing of Peter Yarrow's "Light One Candle."

GFC has more than 40 members and meets throughout the year to collaborate on interfaith programming and community-focused initiatives.



Back Row (Pictured Left to Right): Rev. Dr. Edward Horstmann, Round Hill Community Church; Rev. Terry Elsberry, Christ Church Greenwich; Ezra Hurvitz, Second Year Rabbinical Student at Hebrew Union College; Rev. Tim Hamlin, Christ Church Greenwich; Pastor Cedric Johnson, Diamond Hill United Methodist Church; Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz, Temple Sholom; Rev. Marek Zabriskie, Christ Church Greenwich; Rabbi Mark Diamond, Loyola Marymount University; Vanessa Avery, Sharing Sacred Spaces; Rev. Deacon Susie McNiff, Christ Church Greenwich; Pastor Sun Ju Lee, First UMC Greenwich; Rabbi Jennifer Tobenstein, Nathaniel Witherell. Front Row (Pictured Left to Right): Rev. Lillian Steinmayer, Round Hill Community Church; Rev. Dr. Heather Wright, Stanwich Congregational Church; MSGR. Alan Detscher, St. Catherine of Siena; Rabbi Gisel Baler, Temple Sholom; Rabbi Pam Ehrenkranz, UJA-JCC Greenwich; Rev. Leo Curry, First Church, Round Hill; Pastor Jim O'Hanlon, St. Paul's Rye Brook; Rev. Stephanie Johnson, St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Rev. Karen Halac, North Greenwich Congregational Church.

Lunch 'n Learn with Cantor Rubin at Greenwich Reform Synagogue

Join us for a musical "lunch and learn" with Cantor Rubin, from 12 noon to 1:15 pm, as we explore the structure, meanings, and melodies of various prayers. Our classes meet at Greenwich Reform Synagogue twice a month, including February 19, March 5, March 19, and April 16.

Contact Admin@GRS.org if you have any questions. All are welcome, but RSVPs are required!



Nick Winton, Son of Kindertransport Founder, to Speak at Temple Sholom

Temple Sholom is honored to welcome international speaker Nick Winton on Thursday, March 19, at 7:00 pm for The Power of One: The Story of Sir Nicholas Winton and the Kindertransport.

Through personal reflections, rare photographs, and unique video footage, Winton will share the remarkable story of his father, Sir Nicholas Winton, founder of the Kindertransport. At just 29 years old, Winton witnessed the growing danger facing Jewish families and political refugees in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and took swift action. Between March and August 1939, he organized eight trains that rescued 669 children from near-certain death in the Holocaust.

His heroic efforts remained largely unknown for more than 50 years, until a scrapbook containing names, photos, and documents of the rescued children was discovered. The story gained international attention in 1988 during a BBC *That's Life!* broadcast, when Winton was unexpectedly reunited with dozens of people he had saved and was introduced to many of their children and grandchildren.

"We have been hoping to bring Nick Winton to our synagogue for some time to speak at length about his father's incredible legacy," said Lori Baden, Executive Director. "This evening will shine a light on an extraordinary act of courage that shaped generations."

The cost to attend is \$18 per person, with all proceeds benefiting WJCS's Holocaust Survivors Support Services.

To register or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit www.templesholom.com.



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What's Jewish About Pickleball? Everything.

It brings people together across generations, "Le Dor va Dor." It doesn't care where you're from, what you do, how old you are, or what shape you're in, "B'tzelem Elohim." It welcomes everyone, "Klal Yisrael." Studies have shown that racquet sports add 10 years to your life, "L'Chayim." That's Jewish. I'm a Rabbi, a lifelong tennis player, and a proud pickleball convert of two years. I was honored to medal at Nationals this past November in Dallas—and also invited with my partner to Nationals in San Diego. Now I want to share the joy at my club Pickle Ball America and offer a free lesson for anyone who would like to learn.

Free pickleball lesson. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Let's play. You book the court, and I can't wait to share my love of pickleball.

—Rabbi Deborah Salomon, Hebrew Wizards

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CHABAD OF GREENWICH

TORAH CLASSES

2026



KABBALAH OF MEANING

6 Wednesday evenings - 7:30 - 8:30pm
Beginning, November 5
or 6 Sunday mornings- 9:30 - 10:30 am
Beginning November 2

LUNCH & LEARN

with Rabbi Menachem Feldman
First Monday of every month
12:00 - 1:00 pm

SUNDAY MORNING TORAH

Studies in the Book of Exodus
with Rabbi Menachem Feldman
9:30 - 10:30 am

LIFE LESSONS FROM BIBLE STORIES

with Rabbi Menachem Feldman
Tuesdays, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

CHASSIDIC PHILOSOPHY

with Rabbi Menachem Feldman
Friday Mornings, 10:00 - 11:00 am

GET TO KNOW THE TANYA

with Rabbi Menachem Feldman
Shabbat 12:30 - 1:10 pm

KABBALAH & CHALLAH

with Maryashie Deren
Discover how to infuse Jewish values
and traditions into your daily life, and
take home challah dough to braid and
bake a delightful Shabbat treat for
your family.
Thursdays, 9:15 am

MOTHER DAUGHTER CLASS

with Maryashie Deren & Ruby Cohen
Shabbat, 10:00 - 10:30 am
Beginning September 6

CHABADGREENWICH.ORG

Friendship Circle Challah Bake



In response to requests from Friendship Circle members, in January, adult Friendship Circle participants and volunteers gathered together for an in-person Cooking Circle at Chabad of Greenwich, led by Friendship Circle staff Risha Nemes with assistance from Leah Greenberg and Shira Nerenberg. Participants and their friends came together to make challah from scratch, measuring and mixing ingredients together to form the dough. Then while waiting for the dough to rise, we chatted and played games.

When the dough was ready, we learned how to braid the challah. Participants were then able to select from various toppings to decorate their own challah. Next step: we were able to bring a challah home to bake and to eat for Shabbat!

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



Greenwich Reform Synagogue Shabbat Services with Guest Speaker, Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner

GRS is honored to host Rabbi Jonah Doc Pesner for Shabbat dinner and services on Friday night, March 27. For details and to RSVP, please contact Admin@GRS.org.

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner serves as the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and has led the Religious Action Center since 2015. Rabbi Pesner also serves as Senior Vice President of the Union for Reform Judaism, a position to which he was appointed in 2011. Named one of the most influential rabbis in America by *Newsweek* magazine, he is an inspirational leader and tireless advocate for social justice.



We are thrilled to be the winner of NAPPA Parenting Product Award for our latest release of "Break Down the Walls."

"At a moment when our world urgently needs love, inclusion, acceptance, and hope, we sing Break Down the Walls to stand as an anthem for an America that is more inclusive, more empathetic, and more human."

—Rabbi Deb

Congrats to Jon Cobert and our Hebrew Wizards Family Band. Music streaming on all platforms.



Break Down the Walls by Jon Cobert & Hebrew Wizards Family Band

BH

WHAT'S NEW AT CAMP GAN 2026?

New Trips - Legoland, Overnights for Boys and Girls! NYC Trip

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Chicago Boys

Mini Golf

Hula Hooping

Chicago Boys

Trampolining

CAMP GAN.COM

IT'S TIME TO LEVEL UP AT TEMPLE SHOLOM'S PURIM CARNIVAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

3:00-4:30 PM

SUPER fun awaits with games, prizes, face painting and more!

Purchase tickets at:

WWW.TEMPLESHOLOM.COM

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

Where Jewish Values and Military Service Meet: Teen Changemakers Honor Veterans Day



In honor of Veterans Day, the Teen Changemakers marked the occasion with a powerful blend of learning, service, and gratitude. The teens were honored to hear from former Army Major **Yale Levin**, a West Point graduate who served in the U.S. Army in Europe, on bases across the United States, and in Iraq, and who is also the proud father of Changemaker **Abigail Levin**.

Yale spoke to the teens, reflecting on his decision to serve his country. He spoke candidly about how his Jewish values shaped his leadership, sense of responsibility, and commitment to service. For him, patriotism and Judaism were not separate paths, but deeply intertwined.



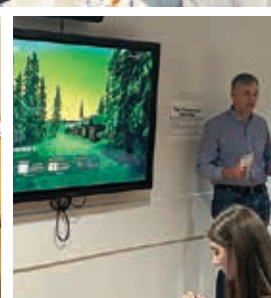
Inspired by these conversations, the Changemakers took action. The teens packed 120 Shabbat boxes for Jewish soldiers stationed at Fort Bragg. Each box included Shabbat essentials, snacks, playing cards, and colorful tie-dyed challah covers handmade by the teens themselves. The boxes will be distributed by Chaplain Shalom (Scott) Klein, ensuring that soldiers can feel a sense of Jewish connection and community wherever they are serving.

Cara Levine, UJA-JCC Greenwich Program Associate, shared information about the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB), the organization that helped connect the group with Chaplain Klein. Teen Educator, Mark Feller added a personal note, recounting how his own father received a siddur from the JWB during his military service.



Following challah cover creation and a speedy assembly line packing session, former Army Captain David SaNogueira spoke about what led him to serve, how his Jewish identity and a formative semester in Israel during high school influenced his path, and shared a few humorous stories, including tales of “Jew Church” during military training.

The Changemakers closed out the first half of their program year by reading and discussing some 20 grant proposals from agencies seeking Teen Changemaker support. With thoughtful discussion and growing excitement, the teens also began gearing up for their upcoming fundraising efforts, continuing their commitment to meaningful Jewish leadership and impact.



Dignity Grows Packing



A small but mighty group of women joined together to help our neighbors. The group, led by chair **Natasha Luboski**, packed 250 totes with products such as shampoo, soap, pads and toothpaste through the Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows program. These essential items are often gone without as budgets are stretched. Receiving these items can help someone feel better about themselves, and be more prepared for work and school. Thank you to all who helped by sponsoring bags!





Welcome to Greenwich!




There's a lot going on in **Greenwich**, and we want to connect you to our **vibrant Jewish community**.

Contact us at **203-552-1818** or email **cara@ujajcc.org** to learn about upcoming events that match your interests.

Tweens and Senior Citizens Connect and Interact at King Street Rehab

Our Generation Gives middle schoolers recently spent a joyful and meaningful afternoon at King Street Rehab, connecting with residents through play, conversation, and shared smiles. The visit began with staff from King Street Rehab welcoming the group and sharing a bit about what brings people to the facility and what their day to day activities look like. Thank you to **Barbara Salop** for volunteering her time, not only as a chaperone, but as a role model as well!



HAPPY PURIM

A Time for Families to Celebrate!



We focus on enhancing Jewish life and identity here in Greenwich and elsewhere by fostering engagement in Jewish life, from childhood through adulthood.

Note these key national statistics from
Jewish Federation North America:

300,000+
students attend Jewish day
schools in the U.S.

86%
increase in Jewish holiday
programming following 10/7

65%
increase in college
students engaged in Jewish
programming since 10/7

*Get involved with UJA-JCC Greenwich to enrich your Jewish identity,
knowledge, connectivity, and Jewish pride.*

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