

# UJA★JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Volume XXXV, Number 5

September 2026 | Tishrei 5787

## *The Road Between Us*

### October 7 Commemoration and Film on Tuesday, October 6, 2026

How far would you go to save the ones you love? That's the pulse-throbbing question at the heart of the documentary *The Road Between Us: The Ultimate Rescue*, as addressed by retired IDF General Noam Tibon and his wife, Gali. They made a mad dash for Kibbutz Nahal Oz to rescue their son and his family during the October 7 attacks. The titular "road between" them was an obstacle course from hell.

Steep challenges would befall the film itself. Soon after the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) booked it in August 2025, festival programmers pulled the selection from their official slate, citing security

issues and uncleared rights for Hamas-filmed footage. Amid allegations of censorship and fierce industry backlash, TIFF swiftly course-corrected and restored the film to its lineup. *The Road Between Us* premiered to a standing ovation and widespread critical acclaim. It also took home a People's Choice Documentary Award and went on to open in more than 80 theaters across North America, securing its eligibility for the Academy Awards.

*Don't miss the film screening on Tuesday, October 6 at Greenwich Country Day School at 7 pm. For more information and to register see p. 11.*

## HOPE AFTER CAPTIVITY

Hear from **former Mossad Officer and Chief Psychologist, Glenn Cohen**, one of the first to meet each of the 168 hostages upon their release.

**Wednesday, November 4 | 7:30 PM**  
at Temple Shalom

Wine and dessert reception to follow



### Glenn Cohen,

former Mossad officer and Chief Psychologist served Israel for over 30 years including as an IDF pilot and hostage negotiator.

Since October 7th, Glenn not only served for 5 months of reserve duty, **he was the first mental health professional to meet each released hostage.**

Glenn reveals rare and inspiring untold stories of resilience from freed hostages and NOVA survivors.

UJA★JCC  
greenwich

### SPONSORS

Alexandra and David Hochman  
Ellen-Jane and Ben Moss  
Debra and Marc Shore

Jewish Alumni Strong  
United Jewish Federation of  
Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien

**GENERAL TICKETS: \$45**  
**REGISTER TODAY!**



Wishing You and Your Family  
A Sweet and Good New Year!

Ghana Tova



## A Winning Hand for Community

*A new UJA-JCC Greenwich tradition is taking shape, one tile at a time*

This summer, UJA-JCC Greenwich Women's Philanthropy launched its Mah Jongg Club, bringing women together around the table for games, laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of conversation. What started as a few afternoons of play has quickly become a wonderful new way to connect with friends, meet new people, and build community.

Whether you're a seasoned player, new to the game, or simply looking to get back into the game, there's a place for you at the table. The club is designed to be social and fun with plenty of opportunity to play and get to know other women in the Greenwich Jewish community.

**And the fun continues this fall!** Join us for upcoming Mah Jongg gatherings: **Wednesdays at 1 pm from September through November** at UJA-JCC Greenwich. Bring your Mah Jongg card, your strategy, and come ready to meet some new friends!

*Interested in joining? Register at [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org). We hope you'll join us for the next round!*



# TIMELESS WISDOM:

## ECCLESIASTES, LAMENTATIONS AND SONG OF SONGS



Join Rabbi Pam Ehrenkranz for a ten-session class that delves into the meaning of life, depicts the power of love and illustrates the complexity of national suffering—through the lens of Jewish text and your own experiences.

Starting Tuesday, October 6 at 10:00AM




SCAN TO SIGN UP





SAVE THE DATE

# FAMILY FUN DAY

## Sunday, November 22

### 3:30PM

Questions? Email [cara@ujajcc.org](mailto:cara@ujajcc.org)



## More Than a Book Club – It's a Community

At the end of May, women from across our community came together for an evening of connection, conversation, and thoughtful discussion at our Women's Philanthropy Book Club. We gathered to discuss *The Anatomy of Exile* by Zeeva Bukai, a powerful novel that explores identity, belonging, family, and the experience of living between cultures and places. The novel provided a meaningful springboard for a rich and engaging conversation, as women shared their own perspectives, experiences, and reflections. More than just a discussion about a book, the evening was a wonderful opportunity to build relationships, connect with one another, and create the kind of community that makes Women's Philanthropy so special.



UJA-JCC greenwich

### Great Books. Great Company.

*Meaningful Conversations.*

Join the Women's Philanthropy Book Club!  
Open to all women who love to read.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026**  
**Always Carry Salt**  
A Memoir of Preserving Language and Culture  
by Samantha Ellis

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026**  
**The Silver Candlesticks**  
A Novel of the Spanish Inquisition  
by Linda Chavez

SCHMOOZE 7:00 PM  
DISCUSSION BEGINS 7:30 PM

Location provided upon registration

Turn the page.  
Be part of the story.

Co-Chairs  
Bonnie Citron  
Randi Levy  
Silvina Skverer

REGISTER NOW | to register please visit [ujajcc.org](http://ujajcc.org)  
For more info, email [hila@ujajcc.org](mailto:hila@ujajcc.org)

## The Skills You Never Want to Use But Need to Know

Four Advanced Active Threat training courses held over two days in July taught almost 100 community members what to do in the event of an attack. Since 2020, UJA-JCC Greenwich has been funding a Community Security Initiative (CSI) for Jewish Greenwich. Working with the CSI of New York, our regional security Director provides services to all the Jewish institutions in town, and training that is valuable and offered free of charge to all houses of worship.

The training was led by Brad Orsini, who was a first responder at the horrific Tree of Life shooting in Pittsburgh and works for CSI. He provided specific examples of what to do in a variety of scenarios. Hearing from a Tree of Life survivor, who came to share what happened on that tragic day, was a

rather painful but meaningful experience. He credits his life to the exact training we were participating in, which he took just weeks before the horrific attack.

For questions about the Community Security Program sponsored by UJA-JCC Greenwich, please contact Pam at [pam@ujajcc.org](mailto:pam@ujajcc.org).



## 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 Shalom  
(203) 869-7191

Temple Shalom  
Selma Maisel Nursery School  
(203) 622-8121

## SHABBAT & HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Erev Rosh Hashanah  
Fri., Sept. 11..... 6:52 pm

2nd night Rosh Hashanah  
Sat., Sept. 12 ..... 7:49 pm

Fri., Sept. 18..... 6:40 pm

Erev Yom Kippur  
Sun., Sept. 20 ..... 6:36 pm

Erev Sukkot  
Fri., Sept. 25..... 6:28 pm

2nd night Sukkot  
Sat., Sept. 26 ..... 7:34 pm

Shemini Atzeret  
Fri., Oct. 2 ..... 6:36 pm

Simchat Torah  
Sat., Oct. 3 ..... 7:15 pm

Fri., Oct. 9 ..... 6:07 pm

Fri., Oct. 16 ..... 5:56 pm

Fri., Oct. 23 ..... 5:46 pm

Fri., Oct. 30 ..... 5:36 pm

Fri., Nov. 6 ..... 4:28 pm

Fri., Nov. 13 ..... 4:21 pm

## Greenwich Jewish News

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Chief Operating Officer

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Editor

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



# The General Assembly

November 8-10, 2026 | Washington, D.C.

## Where the Future Takes Shape.

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) General Assembly brings together Jewish leaders to address key challenges such as rebuilding Israel, combating antisemitism, and strengthening Jewish engagement through thoughtful sessions, plenaries, and networking.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!





QUESTIONS? EMAIL [CARA@UJAJCC.ORG](mailto:CARA@UJAJCC.ORG)



## New look.

# SAME INSPIRING MISSION



Visit our new website at [ujajcc.org](https://ujajcc.org)

# MEALS THAT MATTER

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER:  
HELP PACK 10,000 MEALS IN JUST 2 HOURS!



Sunday, October 25  
2:00pm - 3:00pm  
3:00pm - 4:00pm



Cohen Eastern Greenwich Civic Center  
90 Harding Rd, Old Greenwich

**Join us to pack nutritious meals for families in need!**  
No experience needed - we'll guide you through every step as you measure, fill, seal, and box nutritious meals.  
This is hands-on community service at its best — and in only a couple of hours, you'll see the power of what we can accomplish together.

**Committee:**

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| ▶ Chloe Angotta   | ▶ Abby Levin       |
| ▶ Betsy Bernstein | ▶ Mateo Marcus     |
| ▶ Patti Bressman  | ▶ Seth Niedermayer |
| ▶ Lexie Chernoff  | ▶ Keith Satter     |
| ▶ Aviva Erickson  | ▶ Asher Shapiro    |
| ▶ Lucas Lazlo     |                    |



**Registration required**  
\$18/person for each one hour shift. Scan the QR code to secure your spot!



## Clergy's Corner

☆ **The Blessing of True Rest on Shabbat** ☆

by Rabbi Jordie Gerson, Greenwich Reform

In the book of *Deuteronomy*, Moses famously retells the story of the Israelites' 40-year journey to the Promised Land. And as part of that recapitulation, he reiterates the Ten Commandments, but with one small difference. When the Ten Commandments were initially given at Mt. Sinai, Shabbat commemorated God's rest after six days of creation. But in the retelling, Shabbat is given a different meaning.

We read in *Deuteronomy* 5:12–15: "The seventh day is a sabbath of your God Adonai; you shall not do any work – you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, your ox or your donkey, or any of your cattle, or the stranger in your settlements, so that your male and female slave may rest as you do. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt and Adonai your God freed you from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore Adonai your God has commanded you to observe the sabbath day."

In other words, Pharaoh says: produce. Shabbat says: stop working and rest. Pharaoh says: your only worth is what you create. Shabbat replies: your value is intrinsic and not contingent upon your ability to create, produce, or perform. Therefore, the opposite of slavery, the Torah suggests, is not merely the absence of a master. It is the ability to stop and rest.

When the laws of Shabbat were first laid out, they were profoundly countercultural. In an agricultural society, taking one full day off could mean real, risky losses. But today, though we've moved from fields to desks, observing shabbat may be even more countercultural. As professionals, we are constantly expected to be "on." Emails come into our phones 24 hours a day, bosses text before we wake up, and constant availability is expected in every sector. Which means that the sacred obligation to rest is more important than ever. Rabbi Alan Lew z'l once wrote that as a result, we have become "a nation of workaholics," believing that we can conquer death through a ceaseless swirl of activity: "To rest is to die," he taught, "so we never permit ourselves a moment's rest, a moment's refresh, a moment's nothingness." Our problem, Lew argues, is not that we do not try hard enough. It is that we try too hard.

Several years ago, Tricia Hersey, an African-American poet, artist, community organizer, and theologian, wrote a book called *Rest Is Resistance*, in which she argued that rest is not merely a reward for productivity or a way to recover so we can work again. It is a way of recovering our bodily autonomy and human dignity. For Hersey, the "grind culture" we live in is connected to a system that valued Black bodies primarily for their forced labor. This attitude – that human worth is meaningful only for what it produces – was rejected by both Hersey and by *Deuteronomy*. Because, as both the Torah and Hersey teach, Shabbat helps build a society in which people, and the descendants of enslaved people, get to stop working. And not just the Israelites, but all people living in their land. Regardless of class, religion, or caste.

The Torah's response to slavery was thus to build a society in which rest is not reserved for the powerful, the wealthy, or the free. Everyone rests. Because everyone possesses a dignity and humanity that cannot be measured by labor. Shabbat is therefore not simply a religious ritual, or even a day off. It is our weekly refusal to live by Pharaoh's dehumanizing measure of human worth. And the gift, and solution to that dehumanization is shabbat. A full 25 hours each week to breathe, reconnect with our bodies and minds, our families and friends, and stop treating relaxation as an indulgence.

But what if 25 hours feels impossible? Start with 25 minutes. A short nap. An hour to listen to music or read a book. Or simply be present to

your kids, your grandkids, your spouse, or yourself. Because, as Hersey explains, exhaustion will not lead us to liberation. Nothing can come from exhaustion but more exhaustion.

I am as guilty of resisting rest as any of you. There's an old truism that clergy preach what we most need to learn. And so, in the interest of full disclosure, let me tell you that I wrote this after I woke up early, ran 5.5 miles, walked my dog, returned a mess of emails, had lunch with a congregant, made phone calls in the car, and then sat down to write before dinner plans with a friend. So when I tell you that rest is essential, I am not just pontificating. And I suspect I am not the only one. Most of us have absorbed the message that stopping is laziness, that exhaustion proves our importance, and that there is always one more thing we ought to be doing.

Shabbat comes every week and insists otherwise. That we can and should stop. That we are enough just as we are. That, for a day, we can set aside the "oughts" and "shoulds" and just BE, if we are to be fully human, and holy.

So my blessing for us is this. This week, on Shabbat, may you create space for deep and restorative rest. True rest. A nap in a hammock, a walk with friends at the beach, or the absence of guilt when you're not being productive.

May you know the blessing of true rest.

*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.*

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- Warm and Inviting Atmosphere
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**GRADES K - 6**  
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For more information contact  
Chani@chabadgreenwich.org  
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greenwichhebrewschool.com

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HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5787

CONGREGATION  
Shir Ami



We welcome you to join Shir Ami and Rabbi David Evan Markus  
for our inspiring High Holy Days Services

☆ With our uplifting musicians and choir, and a community gathering in an intimate setting ☆

ALL ARE WELCOME - reservations required

Live-stream will be available for those unable to attend in-person

2026 ~ HIGH HOLIDAYS ~ 5787 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

☆ ROSH HASHANAH ☆

|                       |                     |          |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Erev Rosh Hashanah    | Friday, Sept 11th   | 6:30 pm  |
| Rosh Hashanah Morning | Saturday, Sept 12th | 10:00 am |
| Rosh Hashanah Day 2   | Sunday, Sept 13th   | 10:00 am |

☆ YOM KIPPUR ☆

|                      |                   |          |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Kol Nidre            | Sunday, Sept 20th | 6:30 pm  |
| Yom Kippur Morning   | Monday, Sept 21st | 10:00 am |
| Midday Program       | Monday, Sept 21st | 2:00 pm  |
| Yom Kippur Afternoon | Monday, Sept 21st | 3:00 pm  |
| Yizkor-Neilah        |                   | 4:15 pm  |
| Havdalah             |                   | 6:55 pm  |

Doors will open 30 minutes prior to all services for RH and YK

MEMBERS – no charge ☆ GUESTS per person – \$250 in-person (\$750 cap per family) / \$72 virtual  
You may register at [www.congregationshirami.org](http://www.congregationshirami.org) | 203.900.7976  
Address will be provided to registrants.

☆ ☆ ☆

May the sound of the shofar stir us to create a more just world with health and peace for all

Come for the  
HIGH HOLY  
DAYS

Stay for the  
COMMUNITY

L'Shana Tova! To inquire about High Holiday tickets, call 203-869-7191. Those who are new to the area or new to Temple Sholom may be eligible for complimentary tickets.



Temple Sholom

[WWW.TEMPLESHOLOM.COM](http://WWW.TEMPLESHOLOM.COM)

ROSH HASHANAH

Friday, September 11

Main Service & Tribute to the 25th Anniversary of 9/11

Saturday, September 12

Main Service, Family Service & Tot Service

Sunday, September 13

Main Service & Family Service

YOM KIPPUR

Sunday, September 20

Main Service

Monday, September 21

Main Service, Family Service, Teen Social Action, Tot Service & Adult Learning Opportunities

300 EAST PUTNAM AVENUE  
GREENWICH, CT



Greenwich Reform Synagogue  
High Holiday Day Services 2026/5787

|                                               |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Pre-Selichot/Shabbat Service                  | Friday, August 28      |
| Dinner                                        | 5:30 pm                |
| Congregational Service                        | 6:30 pm                |
| Erev Rosh Hashanah                            | Friday, September 11   |
| Congregational Service                        | 7:30 pm                |
| Rosh Hashanah Day I                           | Saturday, September 12 |
| Tot Service                                   | 8:30 am                |
| Family Morning Service                        | 9:15 am                |
| Traditional Morning Service                   | 11:00 am               |
| Rosh Hashanah Day II                          | Sunday, September 13   |
| Contemplative Tashlich Hike in Pomerance Park | 10:30 am               |
| Shabbat Shuvah Service                        | Friday, September 18   |
| Oneg Service                                  | 6:00 pm                |
|                                               | 6:30 pm                |
| Yom Kippur Kol Nidre                          | Sunday, September 20   |
| Congregational Service                        | 7:30 pm                |
| Yom Kippur                                    | Monday, September 21   |
| Service                                       | 8:30 am                |
| Family Morning Service                        | 9:15 am                |
| Traditional Morning Service                   | 11:00 am               |
| Yom Kippur Symposium                          | 1:15 pm                |
| Yizkor/N'ilah Services                        | 5:30 pm                |

To join GRS and ensure High Holiday Day access, contact [admin@grs.org](mailto:admin@grs.org)

92 Orchard Street, Cos Cob (203) 629-0018 [www.grs.org](http://www.grs.org)



KEHILAT SHALOM/HEBREW WIZARDS  
Family High Holiday Services

Rosh Hashanah

Day 1 RH-1-Saturday- Sept 12th- 10:30am-12:30pm

Day 2 RH-Sunday- Sept 13th- 10:30am-12:30pm

Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre -Sunday, September 20th 7:30pm-8:45pm

YK Day-Monday- Sept 21st 10:30am-12:30pm

Neillah & Break Fast- Monday- Sept 21st -6pm

Join our wonderful Congregation for a musical High Holiday experience created for the whole family. Nestled in a beautiful tent overlooking the Long Island Sound, our Teen Wizards, musical ensemble, and Rabbi Deb will guide you through the meaning of each prayer, through music and poetry helping to deepen the spirituality, sacredness, and beauty of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Tickets can be purchased online for \$600 for the whole family.

[www.Hebrewwizards.com](http://www.Hebrewwizards.com)

## HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 5787

You're invited to

# HIGH HOLIDAYS

5787 • 2026

with your Chabad of Greenwich Family

### ROSH HASHANAH

Friday Evening, September 11  
Rosh Hashanah Eve

Traditional Synagogue Service..... 7:00 pm

Saturday, September 12  
& Sunday, September 13  
Rosh Hashanah Days

Traditional Synagogue Service..... 9:00 am

Torah Reading..... 10:30 am

Family Program - Elementary..... 10:30 am

Family Program - Preschool..... 11:00 am

Sermon..... 11:15 am

Shofar Blowing..... 11:40 am

Teen Program..... 12:15 pm

Tashlich Service 9/13..... 5:00 pm  
at Roger Sherman Baldwin Park

### YOM KIPPUR

Sunday Evening, September 20  
Yom Kippur Eve

Candle Lighting & Parents' Blessing... 6:37 pm

Kol Nidrei..... 6:50 pm

Monday, September 21,  
Yom Kippur Day

Traditional Synagogue Service..... 9:00 am

Torah Reading..... 10:45 am

Family Program - Elementary..... 10:30 am

Family Program - Preschool..... 11:00 am

Sermon, followed by Yizkor Service..... 11:30 am

Teen Program..... 12:15 pm

Mincha - Afternoon Service..... 4:30 pm

Neila - Closing Service..... 6:00 pm

Shofar Blast & Break-Fast..... 7:34 pm

Location: THE BIG TENT  
75 Mason St, Greenwich, CT

Membership opportunities are available but not required.  
Reservations and donations are appreciated.

**CHABADGREENWICH.ORG/  
HIGHHOLIDAYS**



CHABAD OF GREENWICH • TAMIM ACADEMY  
JEWISH RIVERSIDE OLD GREENWICH  
CHABAD HARBOR POINT  
UJA★JCC GREENWICH  
PRESENT

A MORNING WITH

## RACHEL GOLDBERG-POLIN

SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 22

9:15 AM Sponsors Reception

10:00 AM Talk

The Kerrick Theatre  
Greenwich Country Day School  
401 Old Church Road  
Greenwich

### Rachel Goldberg-Polin

is the Mother of Hersh Goldberg-Polin z"l;  
American-Israeli activist and author;  
Author of New York Times Bestseller -  
When We See You Again;  
Named on Time 100 Most Influential  
People.

Chairs:  
Morgan Caspi  
Bonnie & Manny Citron  
Marissa & Jarret Cohen  
Romy & Joe Cohen  
Heather & Jared Dermont  
Andi & Steve Fern  
Yael & Josh Rosen  
Laura & Keith Rosenbloom  
Elizabeth & Mitchell Schacher  
Sophie & James Zimmerman

Hersh Goldberg-Polin, of blessed memory,  
was only 23 years old when he was kidnapped  
from the Nova Festival on October 7, 2023, while  
bravely sheltering others during the attack.

Proceeds from this event will go to  
The Hersh Goldberg-Polin Memorial Fund  
and local Jewish education initiatives.

\$100 Person

\$1,000 Sponsorship  
Includes 2 front section seats and  
tickets to the Sponsors Reception

Register Online: **CHABADGREENWICH.ORG**

## Braiding Tradition Together at Temple Sholom's Challah Bake

Temple Sholom's Challah Bake – held on August 7 – was just one of many programming opportunities this summer designed to foster connection, meaningful conversation, and a sense of belonging as the congregation embraces its New Year theme of building *kehillah* (community).

More than 50 participants from varying generations stood side by side in the Social Hall to mix, knead, and braid challah together. The group shared stories, laughs, and tips for shaping the perfect loaf – making first-time bakers and newcomers to Temple Sholom feel included and welcomed.

This joyous morning organized by Associate Rabbi Gisel Baler celebrated not only the beautiful tradition of baking challah, but also the power of gathering in a sacred space and growing long-lasting relationships; both of which helped set the tone for an inspiring year ahead.

To learn more about Temple Sholom's exciting programming line-up for the fall, contact Gina Cristino at 203-542-7169 or [gina.cristino@templesholom.com](mailto:gina.cristino@templesholom.com).



## Join Us at GRS for Fall Holiday Worship and Celebrations

New to Greenwich? Or perhaps you've lived here for a few years, and may have decided it's time to join a synagogue and enroll the kids in religious school? If so, we invite you to experience the joy of being Jewish at Greenwich Reform Synagogue, starting with our observance of Selichot and extending through Simchat Torah.

**Pre-Selichot/Shabbat Service: Friday, August 28:** Join us for dinner at 5:30 pm followed by a pre-Selichot/Shabbat service 6:30 pm. *Selichot* marks the beginning of the Days of Awe.

**Rosh Hashanah, Friday, September 11:** Congregational Service: 7:30 pm\*

**Saturday, September 12:** Tot Service: 8:30 am, Family Morning Service: 9:15 am, Traditional Morning Service: 11:00 am\*

**Shabbat Shuva, Friday, September 18:** 6:00-7:30pm: Shabbat Shuva Oneg Shabbat and service.

**Yom Kippur, Sunday, September 20:** Congregational Service 7:30 pm\*

**Monday, September 21:** Tot Service: 8:30 am, Family Morning Service: 9:15 am, Traditional Morning Service: 11:00 am, Yom Kippur Symposium: 1:15 pm

**Yizkor/N'ilah Services:** 5:30 pm\*

**Sushi in the Sukkah: Friday, September 25, 5:30-7:30 pm:** Join us for a Sushi Dinner in the Sukkah followed by a spiritually and musically uplifting Shabbat/Sukkot Service.

**Sukkot/Simchat Torah Family Services, Friday, October 2, 5:15-7:30 pm:** Join us for a Torah service, followed by *Pizza in the Hut* and then a celebration of Simchat Torah with singing, dancing and unscrolling of the Torah.



\*If you have not joined us for our Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur Tot, Family, or Traditional services in the past, please reach out to GRS to inquire about attending!

For details, inquiries, and to RSVP, please contact [Admin@GRS.org](mailto:Admin@GRS.org) or call 203-629-0018. *Shanah Tovah!*

BH

# How to Bring Shabbat Into Your Home

**A Monthly Couples Series**  
4 Sessions: Oct • Nov • Dec • Jan  
7 pm • 255 Field Point Rd.

**Register:**  
[chabadgreenwich.org/cook](http://chabadgreenwich.org/cook)

Learn to cook  
and bake classic  
Shabbat favorites!

A PROGRAM OF  
The Vogel Family  
**CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING**

**The JCC Preschool**  
 at Greenwich Reform Synagogue  
 a program of The J

## Socialization, exploration, and learning begins here!

- Baby & Parent/Caregiver Classes for Birth – 2 years
- Preschool programs for 15 Months – 5 years
  - Music & Sports
  - Handwriting Without Tears
- Shabbat and Jewish Holiday Celebrations
- Exciting Enrichment / After School Programs

**Scan our QR code for more information!**

The JCC Preschool is located at Greenwich Reform Synagogue • 92 Orchard Street • Cos Cob, CT 06807  
For more information contact Sarah Collins at 203.489.3084 or [jccpreschool@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:jccpreschool@stamfordjcc.org)



## Greenwich Reform Synagogue



THE BLACK FAMILY  
COMMUNITY FORUM  
PRESENTS

**AYAAN  
HIRSI ALI**

**HUMAN RIGHTS  
ACTIVIST & AUTHOR**

September 24 | 7:30 PM

**JOIN US FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENING**

Ayaan Hirsi Ali is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution and founder of the Ayaan Hirsi Ali Foundation. She was born in Somalia and fled to the Netherlands to escape a forced marriage. She earned her M.A. in Political Science at the University of Leiden. Ayaan served as an elected member of the Dutch Parliament, where she focused on furthering the integration of non-Western immigrants into Dutch society, and on defending the rights of Muslim women. Today, the AHA Foundation is the leading organization working to end honor violence that shames, hurts, or kills thousands of women and girls in the United States.



**The Black Family Community Forum** was established by Margie and Steven Black, in memory of Susan and Eliot Black, z"l.



**Reserve Your Seat Today**

UJA JCC greenwich | Generation Gives

# GENERATION GIVES

**GIVE YOUR 6, 7, 8 GRADERS PURPOSE, COMMUNITY, & FUN!**

- Make a difference in the community
- Connect with Jewish peers
- Hands-on Jewish service learning
- Engage with local organizations

6 Sundays  
2026-2027 School Year

Open to new & returning participants

**\$500 Program Fee**  
Financial assistance available



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Questions? Cori@ujajcc.org

Space is limited and fills quickly

Sponsored by Hilary and Zion Shohet

# Lunch & Learn

AUTUMN SERIES 2026

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

THE LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM IS  
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY RITA EDELSTON



SEPTEMBER 10

## **Scenes of Sacrifice and More in the Art of Menashe Kadishman**

**Carol Salus, PhD**

Known for his recurring theme of sacrifice, sculptor and painter Menashe Kadishman represented Israel at the Venice Biennale and received the Israel Prize. This portrait explores the influences that shaped his vision and legacy.

SEPTEMBER 17

## **The Most Misunderstood Prayer**

**Robert Lichtman**

Kaddish is so closely associated with the mourning process that it begs the question: Why do mourners say it; why does anyone say it at all? We will untangle the mystery and gain a deeper appreciation of this widely known and misunderstood prayer.

SEPTEMBER 24

## **Feast of Boundless Booths**

**Alex Troy**

Sukkot has been called the season of our joy, a time for humility, a reminder of the miracles that have sustained us and a “universal” holiday. How did our sages cram so much into a small and fragile hut?

OCTOBER 1

## **Responses and Realities**

**Shay Pilnik, PhD**

October 7 marked the deadliest attack against Jews since the Shoah. How has it reshaped Shoah education, and what can the years 1933–1945 teach us about the present?

OCTOBER 8

## **Korach’s Rebellion: Did He Have a Point?**

**Rabbi Joshua Strom**

In one of the Torah’s more dramatic episodes, Korah, a Levite, and 250 men rise up to rebel against Moses and Aaron. They meet a sudden, violent ending, making clear whom God had chosen. What was the purpose of including this story? Was there merit to the rebels’ objections? And how, if at all, is it relevant to today’s world?

OCTOBER 15

## **Neurei Karta in Talmud and Midrash**

**Rabbi Eric Hoffman**

We’ll explore the Talmudic roots of the ongoing controversy over ultra-Orthodox exemptions from conscription in Israel, and what this could mean for all of us from a spiritual perspective, whether Israeli or not.

OCTOBER 22

## **Jewish Creatures: Real and Imagined**

**Rabbi Elana Nemitoff-Bresler**

Dybbuk, the golem and more in Jewish tradition. What are they? What do we think about them? And do/did they exist?

OCTOBER 29

## **Joy & Gratitude**

**Rabbi Gisel Baler**

Jewish tradition teaches that gratitude awakens joy, and joy deepens gratitude, opening our hearts to God’s presence, to one another and to the blessings woven into everyday life. Discover how cultivating both can bring greater meaning, resilience and connection to our lives throughout the year.

NOVEMBER 5

## **The Legacy of Romanian Jewry**

**Rabbi Daniel Gropper**

Explore the history of Romanian Jews, from vibrant prewar communities to the devastation of the Holocaust and Communist era, and how Jewish texts and traditions sustained them through it all.

NOVEMBER 12

## **Cultivating Gratitude: A Jewish Path to Thanksgiving**

**Rabbi Annie Tucker**

Gratitude is woven into the fabric of Jewish life, from our first words upon waking to blessings throughout the day. As Thanksgiving approaches, we’ll explore classical and contemporary Jewish sources that challenge us to move beyond simply feeling thankful toward living lives shaped by appreciation.

Register at [ujajcc.org](https://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.



## Film and October 7 Commemoration

# The Road Between Us: The Ultimate Rescue

Barry Avrich / Documentary / 95 min.

**Tuesday, October 6 | 7:00 PM**  
**Greenwich Country Day School**  
 401 Old Church Road, Greenwich

This real-life thriller follows Israeli General (ret.) Noam Tibon, who received a desperate text from his son on October 7, 2023: terrorists had stormed his kibbutz. Armed with only his instincts and military training, Noam and his wife entered a critical race against time to rescue their family. How far would you go to save the ones you love?



Free, registration required.  
Scan here to register.

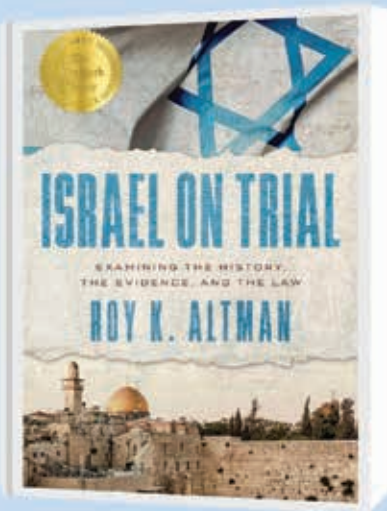
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Save the Date

## Judge Roy Altman

in conversation with  
**Deborah Erickson**




**Judge Roy Altman**  
 Author, *Israel on Trial*

**December 1, 2026 | 7pm**

**UJA★JCC**  
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 Jewish Book Council

BH

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A Jewish Education has never been more important!

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 Wednesday, October 14




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**tamimgreenwich.org**

## WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

### Recent Israel Allocations by UJA-JCC Greenwich

Israel's mental health and other challenges have grown increasingly complex and widespread since the attacks of October 7. To support care for civilians and soldiers bearing deep grief and trauma, UJA-JCC Greenwich has allocated funds to a number of outstanding providers to target the country's peripheral communities. These organizations include the **Jordan River Village**, **Aharai!**, **HaGal Sheli** and **Orot Healing** are highlighted below.

**Jordan River Village** is Israel's largest therapeutic camp. Established in 2011 as part of Paul Newman's SeriousFun Children's Network, JRV provides a free, year-round haven for children with serious illnesses and disabilities. Its focus is to heal the emotional trauma associated with these challenges and to rebuild resilience, community and belonging for children and families in Northern Israel who have been displaced, separated or shaken by turbulent events. At camp, children of every background, Jewish and Arab, religious and secular, rich and poor, participate as equals. JRV is also running programs to help the children of northern Israel, traumatized by sirens, bombardment, displacement and loss, with its new Return to Childhood Program.



**HaGal Sheli** means "My Wave" in Hebrew, and in keeping with its name, the organization uses surfing as a therapeutic tool for at-risk youth, trauma survivors and individuals with special needs and disabilities across Israel. Since its founding in 2013, HaGal Sheli has treated more than 18,000 people with its "Tools from the Waves" trauma recovery program for anyone in need, regardless of their eligibility for government support. It expanded its capacity to address the mental health crisis in the wake of October 7, serving more than 5,000 displaced individuals including those from the Gaza Envelope, released hostages, Nova Festival survivors and reservists.



Another recovery initiative is **Aharai! – Youth Leading Change**. While Northern Israel has dominated its three decades of educational activity, spanning ultra-Orthodox, Arab, Druze and Bedouin sectors, in recent years it has enlarged its reach to marginalized communities around the country. Today Aharai! operates in 132 local authorities, 47 youth villages and at-risk frameworks, 72 ultra-Orthodox *yeshivot* and 345 youth groups. Some 10,000 youth ages 16-19 participate in its learning and leadership programs, with an additional alumni network of more than 74,000 pursuing higher education, military and civic stewardship and long-term community engagement. Thousands of its graduates have become combat soldiers, officers and commanders, disrupting cycles of exclusion to realize the unattainable.



**Orot Healing** shares the same mission as other UJA-JCC Greenwich beneficiaries: filling critical gaps in mental health support that, left unattended, threaten Israeli society's resilience. But it's structured differently, as a volunteer-run U.S. nonprofit partnering with mental health professionals in Israel to treat Israelis living with trauma. Four months after October 7, Orot Healing launched its first intensive intervention for 120 Nova Festival survivors, and has since developed a scalable, evidence-based model of sustained trauma recovery, psychoeducation and peer-healing communities across Israel and the diaspora. A signature program, the Duvdevan Couples Initiative, treats reserve combat soldiers and their families whose marriages are severely strained due to protracted absences, acute PTSD and ongoing uncertainty.



## WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

### From Leket Israel

Leket Israel, Israel's National Food Bank, rescues surplus nutritious food and delivers it to 470,000 Israelis in need each week, serving people of all backgrounds across the country.

We are deeply grateful to UJA-JCC Greenwich (including Teen Changemakers) for your ongoing partnership and commitment to helping feed those facing food insecurity throughout Israel. Last year alone, more than 120,000 volunteers from Greenwich and around the world joined Leket in its mission. To learn more and discover ways to get involved, visit [LeketUSA.org](http://LeketUSA.org) or scan the QR code.



We hope you enjoy this special Rosh Hashanah recipe from our collection.

*Shana Tova u'Metukah!* May the New Year bring sweetness and health to you and your loved ones

### Honey Cake Biscotti Recipe

**Paula Shoyer**, "The Kosher Baker," is the author of *The Healthy Jewish Kitchen*, *The Holiday Kosher Baker*, *The Kosher Baker*, *The New Passover Menu* and *The Instant Pot Kosher Cookbook*. French-trained, Paula has given cooking classes and lectures all around the world. She is a freelance writer, cookbook editor, Israeli culinary tour leader, and influencer. She has appeared on TV over 60 times, including the Food Network. Paula is launching the Simmer and Schmooze podcast, full of Shabbat and holiday cooking and baking tips.

Website: [www.thekosherbaker.com](http://www.thekosherbaker.com) Instagram: [@kosherbaker](https://www.instagram.com/kosherbaker) TikTok: [@chefpaulashoyer](https://www.tiktok.com/@chefpaulashoyer)

#### Ingredients:

- 3 cups plus 2 tablespoons (390g) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (110g) dark brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- A dash of salt
- 1/2 cup (120ml) canola oil
- 1/2 cup (170g) honey
- 1/4 cup (60ml) brewed coffee or espresso
- 2 large eggs



Photo Credit: Michael Bennett Kress

#### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Cover a jelly roll pan or cookie sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
- In a large bowl mix the flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, nutmeg, baking powder, and salt.
- Add the oil, honey, coffee, and eggs and mix gently to combine.
- Divide the dough in half and shape each half into a log, 10 to 12 inches (25 to 30cm) long by 4 inches (10cm) wide, leaving 2 to 3 inches (5 to 8cm) between each loaf.
- Bake for 35 minutes, or until the loaves are set and a little browned on the bottom.
- Slide the parchment paper off the pan. Let the loaves sit for 5 minutes.
- Slice each loaf into 1-inch (2cm) slices. Place a new piece of parchment paper on the pan and place the cookies on it, cut side down.
- Bake for 5 more minutes. Let the cookies cool on the pan.
- Store in an airtight container for up to 5 days or freeze for up to 3 months.



### From Brothers for Life

Recently, Brothers for Life sent a group of wounded IDF soldier amputees to San Diego for a special rehabilitation program focused on advanced prosthetics.

They started with the basics - each soldier went through a fully personalized process that began with assessing and making adjustments to his everyday walking prosthesis, building stability, and helping him learn to trust his body again.

Then came the work - the soldiers trained together for weeks, under the care of leading prosthetists and specialists, strengthening control, balance, and confidence.

Step by step. They moved from walking to running.

During 5 weeks in San Diego, the soldiers:

- trained one-on-one with a running coaching specializing in amputee athletics
- participated in advanced physiotherapy
- did tailored strength training and conditioning routines
- walking, running, and sports prosthetics
- recovery treatments, including sauna and cold therapy

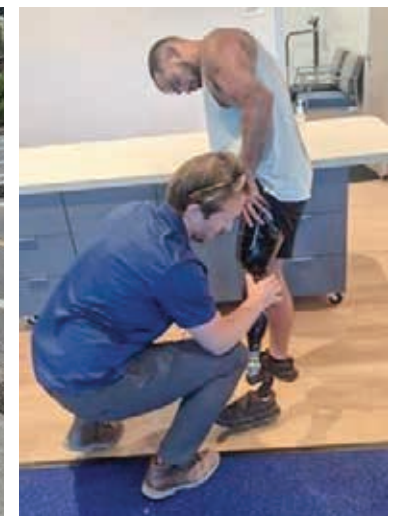
We were seeing their strength come back in real time – a group of soldiers pushing each other, encouraging each other, and refusing to give up.

This is what Brothers for Life is about: injured soldiers helping injured soldiers at every stage of recovery. We want you to know that your partnership with BFL is not taken for granted at all. Not for a moment.

Thanks to people and Federations like yours, we support thousands of soldiers each year.

From survival to truly living again.

As a wounded soldier myself, thank you from the bottom of my heart for being part of the Brothers for Life family.





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PIZZA & POOL PARTY



WIZARDS END OF THE YEAR SHARE  
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GYPSY

January 10, 2027 | Millbrook Club  
3 pm

Experience a live performance of unforgettable songs from  
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producer Jack Viertel exploring how the 1950s--Broadway's  
most exciting decade--reflected a progressive tradition, and  
the evolving American Jewish experience.

Narrator: Jack Viertel  
Artistic Director: Rebecca Cooper

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BETH CUTLER  
Founder, President

Beth F. Cutler is the Founder and President of Merritt Point Wealth Advisors and has over forty years of experience working with executives and affluent families. Beth's practice has over \$3.479 billion under management as of March 31, 2026. Beth was recognized by Forbes for the "2026 Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State" award. Merritt Point Wealth Advisors was also named for the "2026 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams" award. Beth helps clients and their families plan their financial goals while taking into consideration their income needs, tax-efficient investing strategies, and generational wealth transfer objectives. Beth specializes in multigenerational wealth planning and often advises multiple generations within the same family. Beth strives to maintain her reputation for helping clients achieve their long-term financial goals while building meaningful, lifelong relationships.

beth.cutler@merrittpointwa.com | 203-344-2400 | 1700 East Putnam Avenue, Suite 200, Old Greenwich, CT 06870

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2026 Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State: Awarded February 2026; Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on the time period from 6/30/24-6/30/25 (Source: Forbes.com). The Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State rating algorithm is based on the previous year's industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management, revenue and other criteria by SHOOK Research, LLC. Investment performance is not a criterion. Self-completed survey was used for rating. This rating is not related to the quality of the investment advice and based solely on the disclosed criteria.

2026 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams: Awarded January 2026; Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on the time period from 3/31/24 - 3/31/25 (Source: Forbes.com). The Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams rating algorithm is based on the previous year's industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management (minimum variable by state), revenue and other criteria by SHOOK Research, LLC. Investment performance is not a criterion. Self-completed survey was used for rating. This rating is not related to the quality of the investment advice and based solely on the disclosed criteria. 12,787 wealth management teams were considered for the rating; 6,149 (48% of candidates) were named 2026 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams.

## Birthright Volunteer Trip to Israel

Age is just a number when it comes to making a difference. An incredible group of adult volunteers from UJA-JCC Greenwich and UJF of Stamford, Darien, and New Canaan, spent eight days in Israel on a Birthright Volunteer trip. The days were filled with hands-on volunteer work at Leket Israel, Pantry Packers, JLM Food Rescue, Shuva Junction, and an absorption center in Be'er Sheva. Volunteering allowed participants to support Israelis through acts of service and solidarity. Along the way, there were opportunities to do some sightseeing and enjoy delicious food. We returned home inspired, informed, and proud to have stood in solidarity with Israel. We hope you'll consider joining us on our next mission or take a trip with your family or friends on your own. Almost every Israeli we met thanked us for being there and asked us to tell everyone to come visit. *Next year in Jerusalem?*



*JLM Food Rescue*



*Collet Pantry Packers*



*Kabbalat Shabbat*



*Leket Israel*



*Comedian Yohay Sponder*



*Shuva Junction*



*Yad Lakashish*



*Motzei Shabbat with Noam Tsurieley*



*Agam Museum*



*Closing Dinner*



*Nova Festival Site*



*Absorption Center*



*Pitchon Lev*



*Jaffa*

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Contact Director Mason Voit at 203-869-7191 or [mason.voit@templesholom.com](mailto:mason.voit@templesholom.com) to enroll.

Temple Sholom Learning Center



## Greenwich Reform Synagogue Religious School

*Our Kids LOVE Being Jewish!*

Under the leadership of Cantor Michelle Rubin, the GRS Religious School provides:

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- Fun and interactive programs
- Warm and caring teachers
- Participatory monthly tot and student-led family Shabbat services
- Enriching family and Pre-B'nei Mitzvah workshops and programming
- Students earn "Mitzvah hours" through acts of loving-kindness and community service
- Special music and art workshops and hands-on programs
- Post-B'nei Mitzvah education and activities

Join us! For details, call 203-629-0018, email Religious School Director, Cantor Michelle Rubin: [cantorrubin@GRS.org](mailto:cantorrubin@GRS.org), or visit [www.GRS.org](http://www.GRS.org). Please don't delay; several classes are almost fully enrolled.



## Friendship Circle Teens Kick off the Year

On Thursday evening September 17, Friendship Circle will hold its annual Teen Kickoff at Sky Zone in Norwalk from 7-9 PM. A motivational speaker will begin the evening, after which teens will enjoy games and snacks. Volunteers will have Sky Zone to themselves, and be able to take full advantage of the trampolines. All teens in grades 9-12 are invited to join the evening, as well as 8th graders who have completed the Friendship Circle MVP program.



Friendship Circle is a recipient agency of UJA-JCC Greenwich. For more information and to become involved with the Friendship Circle, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at [malya@friendshipct.com](mailto:malya@friendshipct.com)



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## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH



CEO's Corner

## A New Year of Compassion and Connection

As we approach the High Holidays, we are reminded of the power of community and the responsibility we share to care for one another. This year has tested many families in new ways. Economic uncertainty, rising costs of living, growing mental health needs, and concerns about antisemitism have left many feeling vulnerable and searching for support.

In response, JFS has continued to expand its reach and deepen its impact, ensuring that individuals and families throughout Fairfield County and beyond have access to compassionate, professional care.

Over the past year, we installed behavioral health services at the New Canaan YMCA, grew our partnerships with local schools, and increased access to counseling, case management, and community-based programs. These efforts have allowed us to reach more children, families, and older adults. We help older adults remain connected and independent, support children and teens navigating anxiety and trauma, assist families facing food insecurity and financial hardship, and provide guidance to immigrants seeking safety and stability.

We also remain deeply committed to supporting the Jewish community. As antisemitism continues to affect Jewish individuals and families across the country, JFS provides spaces for connection, healing, and resilience through support groups, educational programs, clinical services, and partnerships with local synagogues and community organizations.

Rooted in the Jewish values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming the stranger), we believe every act of compassion creates meaningful change. Whether helping a neighbor through a difficult moment or strengthening entire communities, our work is guided by the understanding that we are responsible for one another.

As we welcome the new year, we are grateful for the trust our community places in us and inspired by the generosity and partnership that make our work possible. As our programs continue to grow and evolve, we remain committed to meeting emerging needs and ensuring that compassionate care is accessible.

From all of us at JFS of Greenwich, *L'Shana Tova*. May the New Year bring health, peace, healing, and hope to you and your loved ones.



—Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

## Supporting Families for a Strong and Successful School Year

At the JFS Bennett Center for Behavioral Health, our team provides compassionate counseling for children, teens, adults, couples, and families facing challenges such as anxiety, depression, family conflict, grief, trauma, and life transitions. Whether a child is struggling to adjust to school or a parent is feeling overwhelmed, professional support can help families develop healthy coping skills and build resilience.

As we begin a new school year and prepare for the High Holy Days, it's a meaningful time to prioritize emotional wellness. When families have the support they need, everyone is better equipped to learn, grow, and thrive. The start of a new school year brings excitement, opportunity, and often stress. As children and teens adjust to new teachers, academic expectations, social dynamics, and busy schedules, families may notice increased anxiety, frustration, or emotional challenges.

One of the best ways to support children is by maintaining healthy routines and creating space for regular conversations about how they are feeling. A few simple strategies can make a big difference:

- Establish consistent sleep and homework routines.
- Allow extra time in the morning to reduce stress and rushed transitions.
- Encourage open conversations about school, friendships, and challenges.
- Limit overscheduling and build in time for rest and family connection.
- Monitor changes in mood, sleep, behavior, or appetite, which can sometimes signal the need for additional support.

Learn more about Bennett Center for Behavioral Health at [www.jfsgreenwich.org/counseling](http://www.jfsgreenwich.org/counseling).



Visit Our Tribute Page  
Honor a Loved One. Celebrate a Life.



Visit [jfsgreenwich.org/tributes](http://jfsgreenwich.org/tributes) or scan the QR code to view our Tribute Page.



## Bennett Center for Judaic Studies Lectures and Events *Fall 2026*

**Tuesday, September 22**

5:30 p.m. | BCC Dogwood Room

### ***Jewish Prisoner-Physicians in Auschwitz-Birkenau***

SARI SIEGEL, PHD, is an expert on Nazi medicine and on the history of Jewish physicians in the Holocaust. She is a visiting scholar at the Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

**Tuesday, October 6**

7 p.m. | BCC Dogwood Room

### ***The Evolution of Jewish Supremacy: An interview with Dr. Yaron Ayalon about his new project on Jewish Supremacy and recent work on Ottoman Jews conducted by Dr. Gavriel Rosenfeld***

GAVRIEL ROSENFELD, PHD, president of the Center for Jewish History in New York City and professor of history at Fairfield University and YARON AYALON, PHD, professor of religious studies, Carl and Dorothy Bennett Chair in Judaic Studies, and director of the Bennett Center for Judaic Studies, will discuss Dr. Ayalon's recent and ongoing research.

**Thursday, October 22**

Kelley Center Presentation Room

### ***ADOLPH AND RUTH SCHNURMACHER SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE LECTURE***

#### ***An Evening with the Rock-Singers***

5:30 – 6:15 p.m.

### ***Religion and Politics in Mandatory Palestine: The Roots of the Israeli and Palestinian Religious Right Today***

AARON ROCK-SINGER, PHD, is a transnational historian of the modern Middle East with a particular focus on Islamic and Jewish movements that fuse religion and politics. Dr. Rock-Singer is currently a Research Fellow at the University of Michigan's Raoul Wallenberg Institute and teaches courses in both Judaic and Middle East studies.

6:15 – 7:00 p.m.

#### ***Reception***

7:00 – 7:45 p.m.

### ***Reproducing Judaism: How Jewish Tradition is Remade through the Everyday Lives of American Jews***

CARA ROCK-SINGER, PHD, is an assistant professor at the University of Michigan (Frankel Center for Judaic Studies) specializing in the intersection of gender, Judaism, and science.

#### ***For reservations:***

To secure your attendance,  
visit [fairfield.edu/bennett](http://fairfield.edu/bennett), email  
[bennettcenter@fairfield.edu](mailto:bennettcenter@fairfield.edu),  
call (203) 254-4000 ext. 2066, or follow  
us at [facebook.com/bennettcenter](https://facebook.com/bennettcenter).

**Thursday, November 12**

7:30 p.m. | Kelley Center Presentation Room

### ***THE JOAN AND HENRY KATZ LECTURE IN JUDAIC STUDIES***

#### ***A Conversation with Marc Dollinger***

MARC DOLLINGER, PHD, is among the leading scholars of Jewish-Black relations in America and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Chair and professor of Jewish studies at San Francisco State University.

**Thursday, November 19**

7:30 p.m. | Dolan School of Business Event Hall

### ***THE 29TH ANNUAL JACOBY-LUNIN HUMANITARIAN LECTURE***

#### ***A Moral Emergency: What Judaism Demands of Us Today***

RABBI SHMULY YANKLOWITZ, PHD, is president and dean of Valley Beit Midrash, founder and president of Uri L'Tzedek, founder and CEO of Shamayim: Jewish Animal Advocacy, and founder and president of YATOM: The Jewish Foster and Adoption Network. Rabbi Dr. Yanklowitz's writings have appeared in outlets as diverse as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, and *The Atlantic*.



Fairfield University

Bennett Center for  
Judaic Studies

## The Heart of Camp at Camp Gan Israel of Greenwich

Maryashie Deren is excited to share some recent findings from Foundation for Jewish Camp that highlight the impact on youth development on those who attend Jewish camps. The findings revealed that campers who feel accepted, connected, and cared for experience significant growth in essential life skills. These include confidence, independence, resilience, responsibility, kindness, good judgment, motivation, and personal growth.

Camp Gan Israel of Greenwich is designed to be a welcoming space where friendships thrive, and counselors play a crucial role in shaping each camper's experience, helping to instill values like kindness, leadership, and teamwork, ensuring that every child feels they belong.



Camp Gan Israel of Greenwich is fully licensed by the State of Connecticut and accredited by the American Camp Association. This accreditation demonstrates the camp's commitment to maintaining the highest standards for health, safety, and program quality.

Camp Gan has entered its 29th year with programming of the highest quality, including a wide range of activities led by professional coaches and staff who believe in the camp's mission. Campers participate in sports sessions at least once a day, along with arts and nature program, where they explore the world around them and express their creativity. One activity each day is devoted to Jewish values, such as friendship, respect, taking responsibility, being grateful, *tzedaka*, caring for the environment and each other, and caring for the elderly. These values are instilled through art projects, challah baking, Hebrew songs and storytelling, and a weekly shabbat party. Camp Gan follows a progressive swim program offered at Hudson Valley Swim that caters to all campers, with groups divided by comfort level and skill. In addition campers are offered an extensive list of field trips, including amusement parks, water parks, Boundless Adventure, scavenger hunts, and carnivals.

Camp Gan hand picks its counselors to ensure that campers truly feel looked after every single



day. The counselors foster meaningful and long-term relationships with campers. With many staff members returning year after year, families have the assurance that their children are in safe and loving hands. The belief at Camp Gan is that strong morals and values enrich children's lives. Our counselors model these values, and the campers live them.

*Summer camp can be the foundation for a child to flourish as a friend, as a sibling, and in all aspects of creativity and self-expression. Camp Gan is the perfect catalyst for this positive journey. Find out more by visiting the Camp Gan Israel of Greenwich website.*

## HEBREW WIZARDS ENTERING ITS 22ND YEAR OPEN REGISTRATION— BRINGING CAMP INTO THE CLASSROOM HEBREWWIZARDS.COM



CHECK OUT TEMPLE SHOLOM'S

## TEEN SCENE

Connect. Create. Belong.

### Teen Leadership Council

Join our cohort of teen leaders! Help create meaningful engagement opportunities for high schoolers at Temple Shalom.

### Annual Teen Thanksgiving Cooking

Teen volunteers continue this Temple Shalom tradition by preparing more than 100 Thanksgiving meals for those less fortunate in our area.

### Judah Chapter of BBYO

BBYO is a global Jewish youth organization for high schoolers that offers teens a chance to connect, make new friends, and develop leadership skills.

### Teen Shabbat Dinner

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



Contact [Jessica.Baden@templesholom.com](mailto:Jessica.Baden@templesholom.com)  
to get your teen involved!

# Goal! Temple Sholom Hosts World Cup Tailgate

Ahead of Argentina's first World Cup match, Temple Sholom's Jewish Latin American cohort welcomed fans of all ages to the synagogue's meadow for a festive summer tailgate on June 16.

Guests enjoyed a delicious kosher BBQ, watched pre-game coverage on the big screen, and competed in interactive lawn games, while children were treated to face painting and other kid-friendly activities.

"Temple Sholom captured the spirit of the World Cup by creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere filled with *ruach* and excitement," said Lori Baden, Executive Director. "It was wonderful to see families and friends come together to celebrate their shared love of the sport within our Jewish community."

The Jewish Latin American cohort is one of many affinity groups that help foster connection at Temple Sholom. The congregation of more than 700 households also offers a young couples and professionals social group, a vibrant Sisterhood for women of all ages, a new Men's Club, and a dedicated Social Action volunteer committee.

To learn more about getting involved with Temple Sholom in the New Year, visit [www.templesholom.com](http://www.templesholom.com).





## Dignity Grows Family Packing Party

Come for a meaningful afternoon of service as we pack hygiene totes for neighbors in need.

Families and community members of all ages are invited to assemble bags filled with essential personal care items that help restore dignity and provide a month's supply of hygiene products.

**Sunday, November 15  
3:00 PM**  
UJA-JCC Greenwich, 1 Holly Hill Lane  
**\$54 per family**



**REGISTER TODAY**

**Co Chairs:** Jillian Fox, Natasha Luboski and Candice Moss  
**Questions?** Contact Hila at [hila@ujajcc.org](mailto:hila@ujajcc.org)

UJA★JCC greenwich | dignitygrows

## Ladies' Night

Create. Connect. Take Home Something Beautiful.

Join us for a fun, hands-on evening at **Make-Modern Greenwich**, where you'll design and create your own one-of-a-kind **needle felted tote bag**—no experience necessary.

Light food and soft drinks will be served.

**Event Details**  
**Tuesday, October 13**  
7:30–9:30 PM  
**Make-Modern Greenwich**  
220 East Putnam Ave., Cos Cob

**Tickets: \$100**  
Limited spots available  
**Co-Chairs:** Rachel Fryd and Marcel Schwarzberg  
**Questions?** [cara@ujajcc.org](mailto:cara@ujajcc.org)



**Register Today**

UJA★JCC greenwich





# The Great Family Kickoff

## TWO BY TWO ZOO

Bring the whole family for a fun filled afternoon featuring the Two by Two Zoo, face painting, crafts, and a family concert!

**Chairs:**  
**Julia Lifton**  
**Elyssa Scharaga**  
**Becca Walters**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18**  
3:00pm - 5:00pm  
**UJA-JCC Greenwich**  
1 Holly Hill Lane  
**\$30 per family**  
Pizza will be served



**Register Today!**

**Questions?** Email [cara@ujajcc.org](mailto:cara@ujajcc.org)

The program is generously sponsored by **the Fred and Donna Nives Foundation.**

## Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) Announces Appointment of Tara Cook-Littman as Executive Director

The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) recently appointed Tara Cook-Littman as its new Executive Director. A lifelong leader within Jewish institutions and a respected advocate for community-driven change, Cook-Littman brings decades of leadership, coalition building and grassroots organizing experience to the role.

JFACT unites Connecticut's Jewish Federations to amplify our collective voice through statewide advocacy, strategic partnerships, coalition-building, and grassroots engagement. JFACT also works to strengthen Jewish communities, combat antisemitism, advance shared public policy priorities, and deepen the enduring relationship between the United States and Israel.

Tara began her professional career in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, where she developed strong investigative and advocacy skills that would later shape her public policy work.

Cook-Littman's work has consistently demonstrated her understanding of the importance of grassroots engagement and coalition building. Following the horrific attacks on

October 7th and the subsequent surge in antisemitism across the United States, she made the decision to focus her skills, energy and passion on supporting and protecting the Jewish community. She has been a key advisor and the Government Relations Director for the grassroots organization Fairfield Jewish Advocacy Coalition. Most recently, she played an instrumental role in galvanizing support for the passage of legislation creating a K-12 anti-semitism working group, which will provide much-needed guidance to schools and help protect Jewish students from hate and discrimination.

Cook-Littman has demonstrated a deep commitment to Jewish communal life throughout her lifetime. She is a graduate of Brandeis University and Cardozo School of Law, and has served in numerous leadership roles from a young age to serving as President of her synagogue. Her dedication to strengthening Jewish identity and community engagement has been a hallmark of her personal and professional journey.

"I am honored to serve as Executive Director of JFACT at such a critical time," said Cook-Littman. "Our

community faces unprecedented challenges, but also extraordinary opportunities to unite, advocate, and build stronger, safer Jewish institutions both in the United States and in Israel. I look forward to working collaboratively with partners across the state to strengthen Jewish life, confront antisemitism and ensure our voices are heard."

Chief Executive Officer of UJA-JCC Greenwich Pam Ehrenkranz shared that "Tara is a talented and high-energy leader who brings a clear vision and a strong commitment to the future of JFACT. At a time when antisemitism is surging, JFACT's mission is more important than ever. Her leadership will be instrumental in meeting the growing challenges facing the Jewish community."

David Waren, Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford reflected that "Having watched Tara in action throughout the last legislative ses-



Tara Cook-Littman

sion, I can say without hesitation that she is a pleasure to work with – collaborative, thoughtful, and a true powerhouse. JFACT could not have a stronger leader at this critical moment."

In her new role, Cook-Littman will lead JFACT's strategic initiatives, advocacy efforts, and coalition-building work across Connecticut, strengthening the organization's mission to support Jewish communities and institutions statewide.



**HEBREW WIZARDS TEEN PROGRAM  
OPEN FOR NEW TEENS TO JOIN US...  
HEBREWWIZARDS.COM**



BLAKE LEVY—LEAD TEEN

**OUR TEENS TEACH, MENTOR  
AND GUIDE OUR YOUNGER  
STUDENTS.**

IT'S A PAID POSITION, WHICH INCLUDES A MONTHLY COMMUNITY SERVICE COMPONENT, WHERE WE HELP THE YOUNGER GENERATION LEARN AND MAKE OUR MITZVAH MOMENTS WITH THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED OF HELP. LE DOR VA DOR - WE ARE LIVING THE BEST JEWISH LIFE.

# Follow Us on Social Media

Stay Connected for Our Latest Programs & Updates

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@UJAJCC

**Facebook**  
@UJAJCC

**Instagram**  
@PJLIBRARYGREENWICH

**Blake Levy** – grew from student to Teen Wizard leader, he embraced the opportunity to give back by helping younger students experience the same joy and excitement that inspired him. His kindness, enthusiasm, and leadership have made a lasting impact on our community.

As Blake prepares to graduate this year, we celebrate not only his many achievements, but also the thoughtful, talented, and compassionate young man he has become. We are proud of all he has accomplished and look forward to seeing the many ways he will continue to make a difference in the world.

**Mazel Tov to Blake.**



***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

## Lunch 'n Learn with Cantor Michelle at Greenwich Reform

Lunch and Learn with Cantor Rubin: Join us for a musical “lunch and learn” with Cantor Rubin held twice monthly on Thursdays, from 12 noon to 1:15 pm, starting on October 15, 2026.

A light lunch is provided; email [Admin@GRS.org](mailto:Admin@GRS.org) for details and to RSVP.

We study prayers from the Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services, learning the history and meaning of each prayer as well as how to read it (in transliteration) and sing it (using typical GRS melodies).

Come to Greenwich Reform for exceptional learning opportunities! Check the GRS calendar (<https://grs.org/grs-calendar/>) for more information.



**NEW CLASSES STARTING THIS FALL AT SMNS!**

*Geared for children 8 months old to 2 years old with caregiver.*

**LITTLE EXPLORERS**  
Thursdays, 9:00-10:15 am

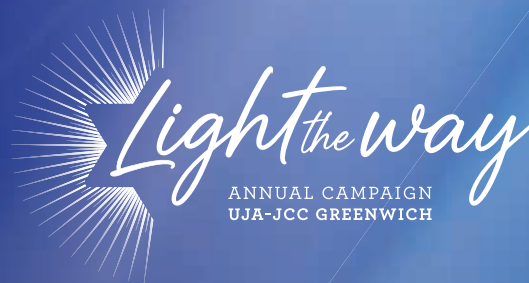
**LITTLE TUMBLERS**  
Mondays, 9:15-10:00 am

Choose between three different sessions of each or join us for the full year!

**Temple Sholom**  
Selma Matisel Nursery School

For pricing and availability for either program, call 203-622-8121.

300 EAST PUTNAM AVENUE, GREENWICH, CT



# TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A BRIGHTER JEWISH FUTURE.

A gift to UJA-JCC Greenwich helps Light the Way  
for Jewish life to flourish in Greenwich, in Israel,  
and around the world.

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*Light the way*

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

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gift today**

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