

UJA-JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Volume XXXIV, Number 3

February 2025 | Shevat 5785

2024 Closes at Nearly \$4 Million: Annual Campaign Up 10 Percent

UJA-JCC Greenwich raised \$3.952,897 million in 2024. Of this, its Annual Campaign ending December 31, 2024 saw an increase of 10 percent compared to the previous year. The organization's fundraising efforts not only attracted new donors but also inspired existing major supporters to augment their contributions.

"The increase in our campaign reflects our stellar outreach and programs," said **Christine Toback**, whose term as Co-President began on January 28, 2025. "I am extremely excited to work alongside the dedicated leaders and staff at UJA-JCC Greenwich and the donors whose generosity enriches not only our community but Jewish communities around the world as well."

Annual Campaign allocations support local Jewish agencies, Israel and overseas programs and local community investment in community security, education and engagement. All of this helps UJA-JCC Greenwich to alleviate poverty, combat antisemitism, support Jewish students on

college campuses, enrich Jewish education and culture for the elderly, as well as supporting Israel and Jews overseas. Through our campaigns, UJA-JCC Greenwich strengthens the wellbeing of Jews today, while building a vibrant Jewish future.

Throughout 2024, UJA-JCC Greenwich programs boasted record attendance, with many programs sold out. The many outstanding Israel experts who anchored them included Dr. Daniel Gordis, who keynoted the inaugural gathering of the Black Family Community Forum; former Knesset member Einat Wilf; Eylon Levy; and three IDF soldiers from the Soldier in Uniform initiative. Other top-notch speakers addressed the surge of antisemitism on campus and beyond. Three packing events assembled totes with hygiene necessities and drew robust participation. Highlights of the experiential lineup for youth spanned a new philanthropy-minded offering called Generation Gives and year four of Teen Changemakers, both of which were subscribed to capacity.

"We were thrilled to see how many people came to our events and to feel the palpable sense of energy and community," Co-President **Walter Primoff** said. "It's inspiring and uplifting to witness so many members of the Jewish community coming together for our events," Walter added. "People are feeling a heightened sense of connection and engagement, and it is showing up both in their communal participation and philanthropy."

"We are deeply grateful to all those who made gifts to UJA-JCC Greenwich," said CEO Pam Ehrenkranz. "The unwavering support of our donors allows us to make a meaningful impact, strengthening our support for Israelis and at-risk Jews abroad, combating antisemitism, securing our local community and addressing numerous other critical needs."

To support ongoing relief efforts for Israel or make a donation to the 2025 Annual Campaign, scan the QR code or visit UJAJCC.org.



SAVE THE DATE SECOND ANNUAL BLACK FAMILY COMMUNITY FORUM **BRET STEPHENS**



Tuesday, May 13
7:30 pm

UJA-JCC
greenwich
THE CENTER FOR
JEWISH COMMUNITY
CULTURE & CARING

UJA-JCC Names Christine Toback New Co-President

Serves Along with Co-President Walter Primoff

Christine Toback was elected co-president of UJA-JCC Greenwich at the January 28 Annual Meeting, succeeding **Margie Black** as Co-President along with **Walter Primoff**. Toback has spent many years as a volunteer leader of the organization, and served as both vice-president and president of its Women's Philanthropy arm. She has also been an active member of the UJA-JCC Greenwich Board of Directors. Among her myriad of strengths is helping recent arrivals to the Greenwich community feel immediately connected and welcomed.

"Having had the privilege of working closely with Christine at Women's Philanthropy, I've seen firsthand how she takes on every issue with vision and compassion," said WP Director Claudia Brenner.

"What a transformative force she has been in the community!" CEO Pam Ehrenkranz remarked. "Christine is great to work with, smart and committed to advancing the Jewish community in Greenwich and beyond," said Co-President Walter Primoff. "We are lucky to have someone with her talents and dedication as co-president." Walter Primoff added. "Having worked with Christine these past few years I have admiration for her talent and vision. I think the Greenwich community is so lucky to have her leadership; I, for one, am grateful."

See full board slate on page 12.





SAVE THE DATE

Moms' Night Out!

ENJOY AN EVENING WITH
YOUR FRIENDS AND
CREATE A BEAUTIFUL
MEZUZAH TO TAKE HOME.

Tuesday, March 4 | 7 PM
At UJA-JCC Greenwich




All Turkey Hands on Deck

Hands of all sizes jumped in ready to help with a Thanksgiving mitzvah project to assist local families in need, chaired by Jenna Krumholz and Natasha Luboski. Children and parents arrived ready to have a fun time socializing, drawing, and packing up kosher non-perishable Thanksgiving fixings. Turkey-themed activities kicked the event off, and then it was time to get to work! Stuffing, cranberry sauce, pie filling, cinnamon and more were carefully placed into bags and gathered into a room filled with enough packages for 60 families. Thanks to our partners at JFS Greenwich and Schoke JFS for assisting us in doing this mitzvah by distributing the packages to their clients.



See more photos on page 16

PJ Library's Snowy Days Crafts – Family Fun for All

Marshmallow, frosting and hot cocoa, oh my! Everyone had a great time at PJ Library's Snowy Crafts and Snacks event. Chairs Lindsay Doyle and Leslie Laerner attended to every last detail, which was greatly appreciated by kids and parents alike. Thank you to Greenwich Reform Synagogue for lending us their beautiful space. What a treat it was to have

GRS's Rabbi Jordie Gerson and The JCC Preschool Director Gabriela Marcus read stories. Our young listeners were captivated. Many thanks to the Pratalongo family for sponsoring the event and to volunteers Betsy Bernstein and Randi Levy for lending their time at check in. We can't wait to see everyone at the next PJ family event on May 4!



WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

Lion of Judah Conference

Greenwich was well represented at the international Lion of Judah conference in Atlanta in January by Bryanna Kallman, Lindsey Kupferman Levine, Christine Toback and Rachel Rubin, along with Pam Ehrenkranz and Claudia Brenner.

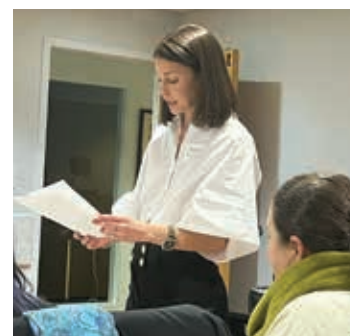
The Lions of Judah are an international sisterhood of more than 18,000 philanthropic women of all ages, who serve as leaders in their communities to strengthen the Jewish future. Every Lion plays a critical role in driving social justice, helping the vulnerable, and building flourishing Jewish communities around the world with high-impact philanthropic gifts through their Jewish Federations.

At this year's conference, Rachel Goldberg-Polin, devoted mother to Hersh Goldberg-Polin z"l and a tireless advocate for the Israeli hostages in Gaza, was awarded the Lion of Valor Award for her unwavering courage and dedication.



Women's Philanthropy Board Celebrates Chanukah in a Meaningful Way

In early December, our Women's Philanthropy Board enjoyed a pre-Chanukah gathering. Our very own Rabbi Pam Ehrenkranz was the guest speaker. She delivered a powerful Chanukah message. Board members had fun with a game called "Chanukah Harry." We also exchanged gifts as a gesture of solidarity. The best part? All the gifts we exchanged were purchased from Israeli artists in support of Israel.



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 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. 14.....5:10 pm
Fri., Feb. 21.....5:18 pm
Fri., Feb. 28.....5:27 pm
Fri., Mar. 75:35 pm
Fri. Mar. 146:42 pm
Fri., Mar. 216:50 pm
Fri., Mar. 286:58 pm
Fri., Apr. 4.....7:05 pm
Fri., Apr. 11.....7:12 pm
First nights Passover
Sat., Apr. 12 8:14 pm
Sun., Apr. 13 8:15 pm
Fri., Apr. 18.....7:20 pm
Last night Passover
Sat., Apr. 198:22 pm

Greenwich Jewish News

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Alumni Coalition Fights Jew-hatred and Anti-Zionism on Campus

The Pan-University Jewish Alumni Coalition did not begin with loads of resources. It began with the resolve of concerned Jewish alumni to fortify Jewish college life in the U.S. The catalyst for the initiative came last September when the Harvard Jewish Alumni Association hosted an antisemitism summit with participants from institutions like Stanford and MIT. Now the resulting 501(c)(3), called PAN-JAC for short, is mobilizing the power and generosity of Jewish alumni to fight Jew-hatred and its anti-Zionist variant. *Greenwich Jewish News* spoke with two of its seven founding members, Greenwich resident **Claudine Cohen** and Dalia Yablon. (Devorah Inwood, the third founder, was unavailable.)

"We felt it would be productive to join forces as alumni across schools because there are a lot of schools that lack the resources or numbers to have their own Jewish alum organization," Yablon told GJN. "We wanted to draw from different schools' experiences and share best practices and resources to build something that would really help alumni and universities everywhere."

With the surge of violence toward Jewish institutions on campus following Hamas' October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel, PAN-JAC's founders saw



the need for a dual strategy: challenging these hostile trends through activism, while building a parallel educational and social infrastructure. The way forward was to develop a resource library and civic campaign alongside programming to nurture a positive Jewish identity.

In short order, they produced the handbook *Anti-Zionism IS Antisemitism: A Guide for Higher Education*, along with pro-Israel templates enabling student governments to get in front of critical issues. Other pieces of the PAN-JAC toolkit involve generating articles, op-eds and speeches by experts on Jewish and Israeli history and antisemitism, plus a list of speakers on these topics.

"This is a grassroots organization for alumni to join hands and work together for all the campuses," Cohen stressed. "We'll have committees working on the resource library and events, and it's open to everyone."

A core component of PAN-JAC's work is addressing biased academic frameworks, such as the binary "oppressor vs. oppressed" narrative and the concept of settler colonialism. The Harvard Jewish Alumni Alliance conducted an audit of the course catalog at Harvard, revealing much unscholarly content. As Yablon reported, "It's not just the students

who are not knowledgeable — many course offerings are biased and inaccurate. There's little nuance or complexity. It's an us-versus-them setup."

Cohen, a native of South Africa, added, "When I hear comparisons of Israel to an apartheid state, I can't wrap my head around it." She pointed out that the challenge goes beyond campus dynamics. "The UN, UNRWA, the ICC, the ICJ—they are all spewing all these blood libels and things that are very inaccurate, but people view them as being credible organizations. It's hard to counter that."

Yablon observed, "Human nature favors the underdog. Israel was the underdog for a while, and then no longer. And that's how the narrative has been structured."

"It's very important that some of our partners will not be Jewish," said Cohen. "Our vision is that we will have boots on the ground and an effort that's proactive, that's in people's face, like the Students for Justice in Palestine, but in a positive, non-militant way."

Equally important are PAN-JAC's experiential programs. These include



Claudine Cohen
WP Board Member

events celebrating Jewish culture and tradition as well as networking and outreach efforts fostering community connection. Projected programs range from webinars, to film screenings, to in-person gatherings.

Student security is another priority for PAN-JAC. In collaboration with partners,

the coalition plans to offer training resources for Jewish students, faculty and administrators on safety techniques. Countering anti-Israel academic boycotts and forming PAN-JAC chapters on campuses are also on the agenda.

"It will be very iterative and evolve over time," said Cohen. "So what it looks like today might not be what it looks like in a year or two."

She continued, "PAN-JAC is not going to solve things any time soon. But as a friend of mine says, 'If you can influence one person, one at a time, it'll have an impact.' Hopefully, we will do more than one at a time. You have to start somewhere. Otherwise, if we're not going to be proactive, and we throw our arms up in the air, there is no hope."

Visit www.panjac.org to learn more.

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The Light (and Kindness) for Chanukah Was Shining Bright!

Thank you to the generous supporters of this year's annual Chanukah gift drive. These meaningful donations enabled parents of local Jewish children to give their children Chanukah gifts, making the children's lives brighter, but also ensuring that the parents experienced dignity along with the pleasure of gifting. The *Matanot Lev* (Gifts from the Heart) program was created and facilitated by Schoke JFS.

Barbara Ascitutto

Patti and Stuart

Bressman

Anna Buzik

Whitney Chernoff

Stephanie Esquenazi

Andi Fern

Susan Frieden

Allison Jackson

Shelby Katz

Lindsey Levine

Amanda Miller

Rachel Rimsky Rubin

Karen Ross

Kim Sands

Debra Shore

Maura Smotrich

Jill Swartz

Christine Toback

Abby Vorobeychik

Dassi Yechiely

Lindsay Zaken

Clergy's Corner

☆ A Second Chance at Love – a Personal Story ☆

by Rabbi Deborah Salomon, Hebrew Wizards/Kehilat Shalom

As a Rabbi, I have the privilege of officiating at dozens of funerals for my congregation offering comfort to them through their saddest moments. But nothing can compare to how I felt last month officiating at my own mother's funeral. It's impossible to share with you the profound impact that my Mom had on me. Somehow I truly never expected that this powerful force in my life would simply be gone...just like that. Her absence is this shocking and unshakable void. I think of the woman who holds the key to my history, my memory, and was my guide. My forever teacher will no longer be here to voice her opinion and be my devoted support system.

My Mom showed me how to love being Jewish and to live life with vigor and passion. She taught us the joy of our religion, and she led by example how to reimagine Judaism. Mom introduced Debbie Friedman to us, the Jewish pioneer who turned prayers into relatable songs, which we inhaled with joy. Mom made delicious sabbath dinners with traditional foods followed by hours of singing with songbooks that she created just for us. She was our patient teacher when we attended Saturday morning services each week, as we followed her lead using our pointer finger to shadow each prayer. Mom sewed our costumes on Purim, and we made Hamantashen with chocolate and jelly fillings. Every month we danced to the rhythm of the Jewish calendar, happily celebrating the holidays. It was my mom who advocated for both my secular and Jewish life, and it is because of her that I can be the unique Jewish educator that I am today.

Our family has been through the loss of our father 35 years ago and my brother's untimely death 23 years ago. These were hard times to navigate. Some families grow closer during the time of grieving, but sadly ours did not. You can imagine how three powerful strong-willed women would clash. I am going to fast forward to the last 20 months, when second chances came into play. This time provided my sister and me the rare privilege to have the relationship we had always wished to have with our mom. For me, it was hard to see the strong heroic mother become so vulnerable, but the beauty that I got to witness was a gift that I will cherish forever. My sister and I came to the rescue just like our mom had done for us our whole lives. No questions asked, no job too hard, we joyfully helped her regain her strength. Her stroke left her speechless with lung, heart and kidney failure. The whole family pitched in and embraced her, and she responded to our love with a miraculous recovery. We rallied to her defense, and our tag team approach made it possible for our Momma to feel healthy, safe and secure.

After a year at the Atria, she moved to Hartford, to be closer to my sister. It was there, at Avery Heights Senior Village, that she met 82 year-old Don Chaffee. He was a gentle lovable soul and a perfect partner for my Mom. They laughed, held hands, and had a wonderful time supporting one another as they explored their new life together. Then sadly just months after she met him, my Mom developed

Celebrating the Life of Helena Marc Tarasow



Rabbi Deb's Mom suddenly passed away of heart failure just weeks before her upcoming wedding to Don. Helena survived her stroke 20 months ago, conquered through cancer 6 months ago and succumbed on Dec 10th, 2024. Helena will always be remembered as Fearless, Brilliant, Beautiful & Loving.

an aggressive uterine cancer, and she needed chemo and radiation treatments. As we entered her first chemo treatment she blurted out that she and Don were talking about getting married. As any good daughter would, I said: "Let's see how he supports you through the cancer treatment." No surprise there. Don was dedicated and didn't miss the chance to be with us through all her chemotherapy appointments and follow-up visits, and he was my Mom's lifeline to hope.

Just this past Thanksgiving we were surrounded by all the people we love, sharing stories, and excitedly discussing Mom and Don's upcoming wedding. She had been cured of cancer, and we were eternally grateful. Sadly, that was the last time I saw my Mom. Helena Marc Tarasow died in the arms of her beloved Don after a massive heart attack on December 10. She had just turned 82, and her upcoming wedding was only months away.

Judaism is filled with lessons of second chances. It's the journey in life that will bring us the most joy like Mom's excitement in planning her wedding. The three Tarasow women were given the rare opportunity to make amends. Mom was given a second chance to find love again, and we are eternally grateful for the opportunity to see our Mom happier than she had been in decades. There is nothing more intimate than helping someone you love in their time of need. We may have lost the physical presence of our Mom, but our love for her and our beautiful memories of her thoughtful teachings will live in our hearts forever.

Editor's Note: 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

NEW GRS Movie Club Thursday, March 6, 7 pm

How it works: We'll meet at the home of a GRS member family, on Thursday evening, March 6 at 7 pm to enjoy light refreshments while we watch and discuss the movie.

About the movie: *A Real Pain* tells the story of mismatched cousins David and Benji, who tour Poland to honor their late grandmother. Their adventure becomes complicated as old tensions resurface while exploring their family history.

Anne Wichman, long-time movie lover and GRS member, will start off our discussion with a few thought-provoking questions. Please email Admin@GRS.org for details or call 203-629-0018.



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Mazel Tov to Hebrew Wizards on its 20th Year!



Local School Harnesses Power of Art to Foster Holistic Development in Children

Tamim Academy of Greenwich recently launched a unique Art Program dedicated to creating a nurturing environment where children can flourish cognitively, emotionally and socially. Per Maryashie Deren, Director, “We are piloting the program in our Kindergarten classroom and are seeing tremendous results. We plan to offer a similar curriculum in our preschool classrooms in the future.”

The carefully crafted curriculum complements traditional classroom learning by providing hands-on experiences that illustrate complex concepts in social studies, science, Judaica and nature. The curriculum is designed and led by Ayelet Goldstein, an expressive arts facilitator with 16 years’ experience. Ms. Goldstein holds a Master’s degree in creative arts therapy from the School of Visual Arts in NYC and a Bachelor’s degree in psychology and studio art. The common thread in her approach is to always use the creative process to heal and address all aspects of the human experience: social, emotional, spiritual, physical, and cognitive. “Creating art is about infusing joy in people’s lives and helping to build connections to other people and the world around us.” Every art project has thoughtful skills or lessons that children can externalize into other aspects of their lives.

Inspired by Chabad, guided by leading educators and enriched by the spirit of community, Tamim Academy prepares students for purposeful lives by empowering them with a positive self-concept, a passion for learning, and eternal values. Chabad of Greenwich also operates a preschool servicing children ages 16 months – five years. Chabad offers half-day and full-day options.

For additional information regarding Tamim Academy or Chabad Preschool, contact Maryashie Deren (maryashie@chabadgreenwich.org) or Simone Zwany, Assistant Director (Simone@chabadgreenwich.org) – 203-629-9059. Visit our websites at www.tamimgreenwich.org and www.ganofgreenwich.org.

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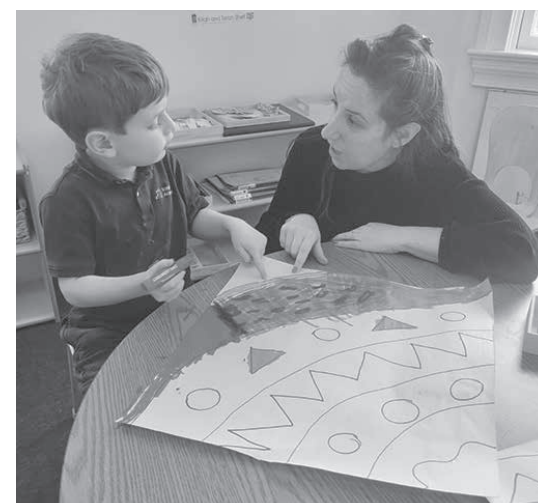
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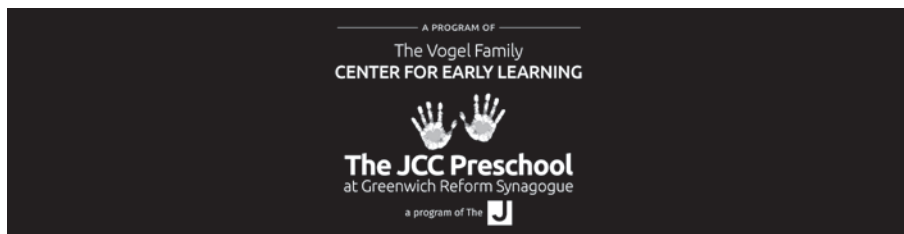
Temple Sholom Welcomes Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy for Holiday Luncheon

Temple Sholom hosted the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy's Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 19. Clergy leaders from different houses of worship were welcomed by Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz and Rabbi Gisel Baler for a special Chanukah-themed menu, the lighting of the menorah, and a few holiday songs.

The Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy consists of more than 40 members from local religious institutions and comes together to collaborate on Interfaith programming and projects to benefit the community.



Back row: Rev. Emilie Finn (St. Paul's Episcopal Church), Rev. Glen Harvison (Harvest Time Church), Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz (Temple Sholom), Rev. Cedric Johnson (Diamond Hill United Methodist Church), Prof. Mark Diamond (Loyola Marymount University), Rev. Dr. Edward Horstmann (Round Hill Community Church). Seated: Rev. Stephanie Johnson (St. Paul's Episcopal Church), Pastor Jim O'Hanlon (St. Paul's Rye Brook), Rev. Monsignor Alan Detscher (St. Catherine of Siena Church), Rev. Karen Halac (North Greenwich Congregational Church), Rabbi Gisel Baler (Temple Sholom), Rev. Terry Elsberry (Christ Church Greenwich), Rev. Leo Curry (First Church, Round Hill).



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2025-26 school year
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SUMMER FUN!

for children 18 months - 4 years

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Geared for Children 5 Years Old and Younger

Led by Rabbi Mitch, Rabbi Gisel and music specialist Joanna Levine, Together Shabbat is an opportunity to welcome Shabbat as a family through interactive songs, stories and prayer.

Fridays, Feb. 28 & Apr. 4

5:30 pm - 6:15 pm

at Temple Sholom

Come build your child's connection to Shabbat, Judaism, and our Kehillah (community). Each Together Shabbat will include dedicated time for socializing and a snack.

Advance registration is required to Gina Cristino at gina.cristino@templesholom.com.

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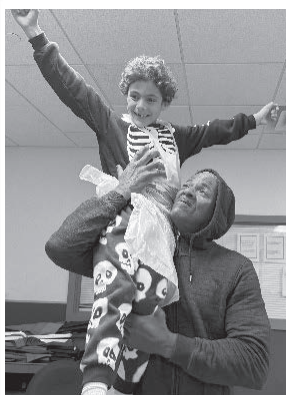
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Celebrate Purim at Greenwich Reform

Greenwich Reform Religious School will be hosting a pre-Purim celebration on Sunday, March 2, from 10-11:30 am; please contact Admin@GRS.org if you'd like to experience the joy.

On Friday, March 14, all are welcome to join us for a family celebration of Shabbat

and Purim, complete with a Purim Shpiel and costumes for all. Tot services start at 5:15 pm, with dinner at 5:45 pm, and Family Shabbat Service and Purim Shpiel at 6:30 pm.

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



Greenwich Shines Bright: Chabad's Chanukah Celebration Brings Light and Unity to the Avenue

Greenwich Avenue came alive on the final night of Chanukah as hundreds gathered at Restoration Hardware Square to mark the culmination of the holiday with a beautiful public menorah lighting and unity concert. The night brought together Greenwich residents in a celebration of Jewish pride, resilience, and the power of light to dispel darkness.

Hosted by Chabad of Greenwich and Jewish Riverside Old Greenwich, the celebration featured a heartfelt menorah lighting ceremony, with Rabbi Yossi Deren joined by Sen. Richard Blumenthal and First Selectman Fred Camillo. Together, they brought the light of Chanukah into the heart of Greenwich, showcasing the strength of the Greenwich Jewish community, filling Greenwich Avenue with holiness and joy.

The festivities soared with an inspiring performance by Israeli singer and IDF soldier Noam Buskila. His soulful music brought the crowd together in song and dance, creating a vibrant atmosphere that truly captured the spirit of the holiday. Serving on Israel's northern border since October, Noam's presence deeply connected the audience to the courage and strength embodied by Chanukah. "Chanukah teaches us that even in the darkest of times, a single flame can ignite infinite light, illuminating every corner of the world with acts of goodness and holiness," Rabbi Deren reflected. "The menorah's flames are not meant to stay behind closed doors – they must shine outward, casting light into our lives and inspiring us to bring joy, holiness, and Jewish pride to the world."

From families enjoying the festive atmosphere to children marveling at the menorah's glow, the event was a powerful reminder of the strength and unity of our community.

As the menorah's candles continued to shine on Greenwich Avenue, they carried a timeless message: the light of Chanukah is not confined to eight days – it endures in every act of kindness, every shared moment of joy, and every effort to spread light throughout the year.



**Jewish Answers
to Life's Most
Challenging
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- Is everything that happens pre-ordained?
- Can't G-d make a miracle for me?
- Why is there so much evil in the world?

Join Rabbi Pam for this six-part
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timeless questions—and
others—through the eyes of
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**Tuesdays, February 25 - April 1
10:00 - 11:15 AM
At UJA-JCC Greenwich**





**4TH ANNUAL
MEN'S PADDLE
EVENT**

PADDLE, DINNER, BEER,
AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION!

**Wednesday, February 26 | 7:30 PM
Innis Arden Paddle Hut**

SCAN TO REGISTER



This event supports security for Jewish Greenwich.

**Don't play paddle? Come and enjoy dinner and beer by the fire pit,
and meet our new Regional Security Director, Jim Comstock.**

Sponsors: Stuart Berni • Joe Cohen • Jeff Davis
Michael Delikat • Dan Keating • Jeff Toback





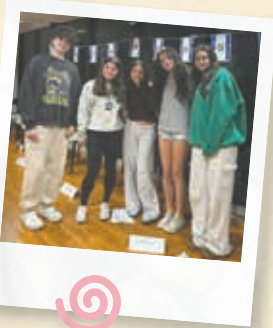
**CELEBRATE
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Join our incredible **Teen Changemakers**
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Hear from our inspiring teens, the organizations
they raised funds for, and nosh on some sweet treats.

**Sunday, April 27 • 2 pm
At Greenwich Botanical Center**

Scan to register



**YOM
HASHOAH**

Save the Date



**Wednesday, April 23 | 7 pm
At Greenwich Reform Synagogue**





Temple Shalom Makes a Difference!

SOCIAL ACTION

2024 AT A GLANCE



Cooking Dinner for
Kids in Crisis



High Holiday Food Drive &
Sorting for Neighbor to Neighbor



Diapers & Wipes Collection for
Mothers for Others and Abilis



Teen Thanksgiving Cooking to Benefit JFS of Greenwich,
McKinney Terrace and Don Bosco



Nursery School Weekly Tzedakah
for Neighbor to Neighbor



Religious School Students
Send Letters of Support to
IDF Lone Soldiers



Toy Drive to Benefit David's
Treasure Chest Toy Closet



Temple Shalom

300 East Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830
203-869-7191
www.templesholom.com

GENERATION GIVES Connects with Older Generations

The Generation Gives Middle Schoolers have been busy this winter. In December, the group visited King Street Rehab Facility where they had the opportunity to interact with residents. Together they played games such as Hanukkah Bingo, passing balloons back and forth without letting them fall and tossing balls into beach buckets. Watch out – some of the King Street residents have quite the arm on them! It was a really fun experience for both kids and residents. It was heartwarming to see inter-generational friendships cemented. One middle schooler jumped in the car and said to his mom, “I made three new friends...Susan, Joyce and Betty. Oh, and Betty is 105!” Many thanks to the **Borzykowski** and **Wilner** families for arranging for this special visit.

January brought an amazing speaker named Michelle Bisson whose mother survived the Holocaust. Michelle wrote a book about her mother's experiences titled *Hedy's Journey*, which she read to the group of teens who listened incredibly attentively to Hedy's harrowing tale. After Michelle's presentation, the students shared not only some of their own families' histories but also asked astute questions of the speaker. The group then packed up care packages for local Holocaust survivors to be distributed through Schoke JFS in Stamford. Finally, the group settled into a delicious kosher spread prepared by our host Greenwich & Delancey. We greatly appreciate **David Teyf** and his staff for welcoming us at Greenwich & Delancey for this event.



Protecting and Enhancing Security for the Greenwich Jewish Community

Three months ago, the Southwest Connecticut Jewish Federations hired Jim Comstock as our new Security Director. Since then, Jim has been working tirelessly to deepen his understanding of the Jewish community and its institutions.

Having most recently served as Patrol Lieutenant with the Stamford Police Department, where he managed a team of six sergeants and twenty-four patrol officers across a 42-square-mile area, Jim has seamlessly transitioned into his new role. He remains closely aligned with his former law enforcement colleagues and is well-positioned to help protect all the institutions in our community.

Jim's distinguished experience as a Bomb Squad Commander for all of Fairfield County (including supervising bomb technician training and developing protocols for handling bomb threats) has already proven invaluable. He successfully handled the bomb threats



received at several of our synagogues on December 14, 2024. Jim continues to work alongside his colleagues at the FBI and the local police agencies to investigate the bomb threats in hopes of prosecuting the individual responsible. He also coordinated security for the Eylon Levi and Douglas Murray events in Greenwich. And he was instrumental in helping police increase police controls during Hanukkah. Jim also has consulted on the implementation of a new security fence at UJA-JCC Greenwich, among many other achievements.

Most importantly, Jim is an integral part of the **Community Security Initiative (CSI)**

team, whose mission is to protect and enhance security for Jewish communities and institutions in the New York City metro area and Southwest Connecticut. CSI's resources include an intelligence desk to help mitigate potential threats, a dedicated cybersecurity officer, and a team of regional security officers who work closely together to ensure the community is protected.

Over the past three months, Jim has visited all of the Jewish institutions in our community, reevaluating security protocols and procedures. He has ensured that he is the primary point of contact for all security-related matters.

As we welcome the new year, we are deeply grateful for CSI's commitment to our community's safety and look forward to the positive impact of Jim's leadership.

Jim Comstock's email: comstockj@csiny.org

2025 UJA-JCC Board Members

Jane Batkin
Stuart Berni
Marjorie Black
Rebecca Cooper
Ellen Davis
Michael Delikat
Rabbi Yossi Deren
Pamela Ehrenkranz
Susan Elkin
Geoffrey Erickson
Andi Fern
Martin Flashner
Rabbi Jordie Gerson
Joui Hessel
Rabbi Mitchell Hurvitz
Bryanna Kallman
Silvina Knoll
Scott Kramer
Lindsey Kupferman Levine
Adam Leader

Sally Mann
Rabbi David Markus
Jackie Marschall
Amanda Miller
Michele Neuberg
Jill Oberlander
Walter Primoff
Rachel Rimsky Rubin
Yael Rosen
Ellen Schapps Richman
Zion Shoheit
Maura Smotrich
Rebecca Tipermas
Christine Toback
Jane Weitzman
Ellen Wolfson
Jordan Yarett
Nancy Zisson

Executive Committee members in bold



CSI & George Washington University invited Chief Heavey and Sgt. Thorne of the Greenwich Police Dept as well as regional security director Jim Comstock to NYC for dinner and a lecture on the origin of the Hamas network in America and its connection to Post 10/7 protest activity in our streets.

Stay in the loop!

Keep updated on all the latest at UJA-JCC Greenwich

Follow Us!



@ujajcc



A Morning Gathering with Author and Advocate Alyssa Rosenheck



Despite being one of the coldest days of the year, the atmosphere inside Innis Arden Country Club couldn't have been warmer at the Women's Philanthropy breakfast with Alyssa Rosenheck. Women's Philanthropy Board President, Rachel Rimsky Rubin, welcomed the group of seventy women from across generations. Christine Toback, who was the driving force behind the event, introduced Rosenheck; author, photographer and tireless advocate for Israel and for fighting antisemitism. The group was captivated by Alyssa's recounting of meeting kidnapped concert survivors, family members of hostages and a glimpse into the content of her upcoming book. Participants left feeling renewed in our commitment to our Greenwich Jewish community and with continued resolve to support Israel.



Roots of the Middle East Conflict with Oren Kessler

On January 8th, award-winning author Oren Kessler spoke to a group at an event co-sponsored by Greenwich Reform Synagogue and the Jewish Book Council. His talk focused on his book, *Palestine 1936: The Great Revolt and the Roots of the Middle East Conflict*.



Lunch & Learn

Thursdays from 12:30 – 1:30 pm. In person and on Zoom. Register online at ujajcc.org to receive the Zoom link. To attend in person and have lunch, you must register online or call 203.552.1818 no later than the day before the program.

February 13



What Work Is: The Poetry of Philip Levine and Blue-Collar America

Ezra Cappell, PhD

Together, we'll sample poems by the former United States Poet Laureate and consider his foundations as a Jewish writer and as a champion of working-class America.

February 20



From Disappointment to Delight

Steven Gallen Edersheim

We'll probe one of our sages' difficult family dynamics, drawing upon texts from Pirkei de Rebbe Eliezer and Talmud Bavli.

February 27

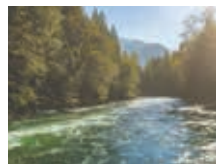


Delicious Ways to Think about Torah

Tamar Arnowitz

It's always a pleasure to have good food, but you can add another layer of meaning to a meal with purposeful menus. We'll explore creative ways to connect ideas to the food you eat, with a focus on the weekly parsha.

March 6



Come with Me, to the Sea of Love...

Rabbi Greg Wall

Water references have flowed freely for Jews since the opening verses of the Chumash: "The Earth was formless and void, with darkness over the deep, and the Spirit of the Divine hovered over the water." Where did that H₂O come from? Water not only is our planet's most essential resource, but also the most destructive (unless you're Noah!). We will dip into the ocean of hydro-Judaism and immerse ourselves in water's metaphoric relationship to Jewish tradition.

March 13



To Be, or Not to Be, a Jew: Esther, Mordecai and the Existential Dangers of Public Jewish Identity

Rabbi Lester Bronstein

The Book of Esther gives us a surprisingly modern perspective on timeless questions of Jewish identity in Diaspora. Are Esther and Mordecai more successful before or after they emerge from hiding their Jewishness? Do they "use" their Jewishness or circumvent it? And how do we measure success for them and the Jews of Shushan? Today, the Fast of Esther, let's explore old and new commentaries to learn about Esther and ourselves.

March 20



Critical Verses

Rabbi Yonah Berman

What is the most important line in the Torah? Get ready to identify and parse it.

March 27



Pekudei: Build It and They Will Come

Steven Gallen Edersheim

Secular artistry, religious spirituality and the creation of Israel in the poetry of Avraham Shlonsky.

April 3

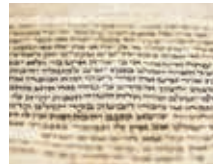


It's a Marvelous Night for a Moondance

Bob Lichtman

The ritual of Kiddush Levana, a monthly blessing over the moon, is full of mystery and history. We will review the prayer text to unveil its meaning for the Jewish people and for each one of us.

April 10



The Secret Lives of Torah Letters

Sofer Neil Yerman

Together with a scribe, we will glimpse ancient pictographs and Gematria to uncover some common myth-understandings of Torah text.



Enjoy the Davis Film Festival

Enjoy these quality films for just \$9

Children of Nobody

Link available from Sunday, February 9 at 5 pm to Tuesday, February 11 at 9 pm

In Tel Aviv's Neve Tzedek, a deteriorated house serves as a refuge for troubled youth. Jackie, a young man thrust into the role of shelter caretaker, launches a campaign with the at-risk youth to save their home after it's threatened to be replaced by a boutique hotel.



Bad Shabbos

Monday, March 17, 3 pm, UJA-JCC Greenwich, One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich

When two couples return home for Shabbat dinner in New York City, an unexpected shadow looms over their night — an accidental death (or is it murder?)



One Week and a Day

Link available from Sunday, April 27 at 5 pm to Tuesday, April 29 at 9 pm

Two misfits embark on a tragicomical journey to discover that there are still things worth living for after the death of a child radically alters life.



Loving Leah

Link available from Sunday, May 18 at 5 pm to Tuesday, May 20 at 9 pm

A single cardiologist is persuaded to honor an ancient Jewish custom by marrying his late brother's childless widow so that the deceased's name will continue on.



Close to Home

Link available from Sunday, June 15 at 5 pm to Tuesday, June 17 at 9 pm

Rebellious Smadar and introverted Mirit are assigned to a patrol in Jerusalem to record Palestinian passersby as part of their military service. How will these two 18-year-old girls navigate their roles, realities and relationships as vastly different people?



Library All Turkey Hands On Deck *Continued from page 2*



Report from Two GCDS Students on Independent Study

Greenwich Country Day School offers a two-week program in the month of January called intersession. It gives students an opportunity to pursue one specialized learning experience between fall and spring semesters. We decided to propose an “Independent Study” where we could work with an organization that we were already familiar with—that being UJA-JCC Greenwich. During our two weeks, we learned about the operations and steps involved to keep a nonprofit running smoothly. This meant sorting donations and inventory, sourcing products for different programs and events, calling to thank donors, and working on the Teen Changemakers program. We’re grateful for the experience that UJA-JCC provided for us, and we leave with an informed perspective on how a nonprofit organization functions.



Mason Davis and Josh Lunder, GCDS '25

Jewish Leaders Meet with Governor Lamont



In December, CEO Pam Ehrenkranz, along with a delegation from Jewish Federations Across Connecticut, met with Governor Lamont to thank him for his strong support of Israel and to discuss rising antisemitism and security concerns for Jewish people and institutions in the state of Connecticut.

Winter Camp Fun with the Friendship Circle

More than 30 friends joined together for Winter Camp 2024 with the Friendship Circle Dec 22-26. Camp was based at BiCultural Hebrew Academy. Each day a different trip was planned for the participants and volunteers to enjoy. Many of the volunteers who come to camp are friendship circle alumni who are home from college for winter break. It is a wonderful reunion for all.

Day trips included bowling, Chelsea Piers and Sky Zone. When participants returned to BCHA at the end of the day they all gathered together for a special circle time. During Chanukah everyone played dreidel and participated in a gelt game.

To become involved with the Friendship Circle, please reach out to Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com



WIZARDS MAKING MITZVAH MOMENTS

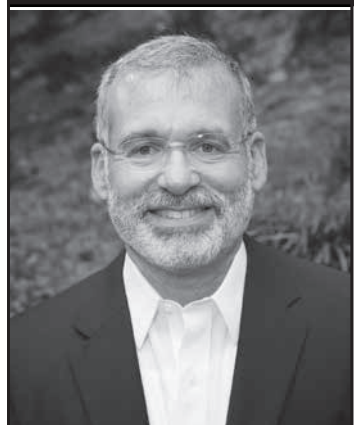


EVERY CHANCE YOU HAVE TO MAKE A MITZVAH IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THE WORLD. FROM DONATING BASKETS OF FOOD FOR KIDS IN CRISIS, TO THE JFS FOOD PANTRY TRUCK, TO HELPING SERVE & PREPARE DINNER TO THE MENS SHELTER, THE WIZARDS ARE TAKING PART IN TIKKUN OLAM.



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Family Passover Seder at Greenwich Reform

GRS Family Seder, Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Come participate in a wonderful, family-friendly Passover Seder, with none of the work or stress! Cantor Michelle Rubin will lead an educational, entertaining, and thought-provoking seder for both children and adults. Space is limited and advance reservations are essential; email admin@GRS.org or call 203-629-0018 for details.



Join Temple Sholom for a

WICKED

Purim Celebration!

Sunday, March 9
3:00-4:30 pm Purim Carnival

Thursday, March 13
6:30 pm Family-friendly Megillah Reading
8:00 pm Traditional Full Megillah Reading

For full details, visit:
www.templesholom.com

Temple Sholom

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH



CEO's Corner

The New Year is a time to hit the reset button and create new goals. This year more than ever, JFS is looking at ways to minimize the suffering of our extended community, one connection at a time.

For 2025, we set our goals high! I cannot wait to share our ever-expanding list of services at the Bennett Center for Behavioral Health. With satellite sites opening throughout Fairfield County, our quality and accessible services are within reach of thousands of Connecticut families.

Our older adult services for homebound seniors bring compassionate transportation to medical appointments and food on a daily basis. We look to expand evidence-based programming for our older adults to increase wrap-around support and ensure their health and well-being are holistically addressed every week.

The immigration legal program at JFS of Greenwich will expand in every way, increasing the number of clients served with our team of attorneys and paralegals. With opportunities for education, legal representation, and empathic person-centered care – we will support more people than ever to become U.S. citizens in 2025.

The Jewish Health and Healing Center inspires exploration of one's spirituality while touching heart, body, and mind. This year's lineup of activities is not to be missed with book groups, discussions, and learning modules. With opportunities to train as Bikur Cholim, 2025 will bring increased comfort to the sick by enhancing compassionate care, while supporting personal wellbeing for all.

In a world that needs more peace and safety, our commitment to the vulnerable refugees in Connecticut will only increase. Regardless of party lines, please continue to support our efforts to care for those living in our community and facing unimaginable stress from policy change for Humanitarian Parolees (Ukrainian, Afghan, Haitian, Cuban, Venezuelan, Sudanese, Nicaraguan), Asylees, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

The work at JFS of Greenwich is diverse with incredible depth of service. Our team of highly qualified professionals will bring unprecedented support to the community through our wide array of programming. Let us all set our goals high for 2025!

—Rachel Kornfeld, LCSW, SBL

Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

Tribute Contributions to Jewish Family Services of Greenwich

Kathleen Burgweger in honor of JoAnn Messina

Steven Certilman in memory of Nardy Certilman

Alice and Michael Delikat in honor of Rachel Kornfeld

Cheryl Dunson in honor of JoAnn Messina

Barbara Epstein in honor of Helen and Bob Stark

Pamela Liflander in honor of Peter Furth

Kristina Lindstedt in honor of JoAnn Messina

Ariel Manacher in honor of Rachel Kornfeld

Michael Nash in honor of Barbara Salop

Dawn Schindelman in memory of Matthew Genzler

Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Jeffrey Held

Phyllis Shapiro and Marty Flashner in memory of Jacob Elisha Seligmann

Ellie Silber in memory of Matthew Genzler

Jane Sims in honor of Barbara Epstein

Lauren and Andy Wels in honor of the marriage of Michael and Paige D'Arco

Lauren and Andy Wels in honor of Ilana and Alex's engagement

Judy and Allen Zaks in honor of Michelle Weissman's birthday

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

Barrier Free Behavioral Health Care for All

by: Erin Tishman, JFS Clinical Director

Balancing family needs – from schedules, to jobs, to kids' academic, social and sports schedules – is incredibly difficult. Now imagine you are newly arrived in the U.S., with limited English language skills, no car, no time, and on top of all that, you've just learned that your child is having a hard time in school. You have no money to pay for therapy, and no way to get a child from school to a therapist. Just imagine the stress these families are undergoing!

Fortunately, JFS is here to help. The Bennett Center for Behavioral Health removes barriers to services and reaches directly into the surrounding community. With the support of local sites, licensed JFS clinicians are bridging the gap in affordable mental health care. Building One Community and the Stamford Boys and Girls Club provide direct access to students and families in need of mental health support. Not only is JFS able to provide therapy in the languages of origin for children and families, but we are also able to break down the transportation, financial, and time constraint barriers that prevent access for many children and families.

Our satellite offices at the Church of the Archangels in Stamford and at the Greenwich YMCA allow for individuals and families to be seen outside of regular business hours in their own communities, enabling more clients to access therapy and to encourage whole body wellness. With the ever-evolving need for mental health support for children and adolescents, we are working with Greenwich and Stamford Public Schools to provide a variety of therapeutic services during the school day and after school.

Bringing additional counseling support to the schools helps to alleviate the growing impact on school personnel, while allowing students to gain coping skills, learn and implement stress management strategies, and identify areas of growth and development. Students who are living in chronically stressful situations learn techniques to manage emotional dysregulation along with the support of their peers. Social Emotional Support Groups ("lunch bunches") enable students in new arrivals classrooms to meet with licensed clinicians who work with them in their native languages to adjust to the United States. JFS is pleased to partner with Rippowam, Dolan, Turn of River, and Scofield Middle Schools, Toquam Elementary School, and Stamford and Greenwich High School. Our simple goal is bringing much needed therapeutic support to all community members promoting mental health wellness to all. *If you would like to volunteer or provide financial or other support, please contact JFS at VolunteerDepartment@jfsgreenwich.org.*



Greenwich Families Sponsor Healing Journey for Israeli Children

by: Beth Jabick, JFS Director of Volunteer Services

As we marked the one-year anniversary of the devastating attacks in Israel, a group of local Greenwich residents decided that they wanted to create a positive and uplifting experience for some young people impacted by this horrific event. Project Re'im was created to bring Israeli children from Kibbutz Re'im to Greenwich as part of their trauma recovery.

Spearheaded by Greenwich resident **Romy Cohen**, the residents fundraised to cover the expenses of the trip for a group of B'nei Mitzvah children.

"After spending time in Israel since October 7, I felt an undeniable call to help. Witnessing the heartbreak and loss at Kibbutz Re'im deepened my resolve to contribute in any way I could. For the kids, this trip was far more than a vacation – it became a journey of renewal, offering moments to breathe, rediscover joy, and connect with the local Jewish community in a spirit of solidarity," said Romy Cohen.

The transformative trip for the Israeli 12- and 13-year-olds (Bar/Bat Mitzvah ages) from

Kibbutz Re'im took place from December 3-9, 2024. The teens stayed with local host families, explored New York City, and connected with peers at Jewish schools and community centers. As part of their itinerary, JFS of Greenwich organized a day of fun at Chelsea Piers in Stamford. Understanding the needs of children and those managing trauma, the goal was simply to provide a healthy, safe, and FUN day of activity. We are grateful to Chelsea Piers for their warmth and care of this special group of children from Israel.

The children came from a community deeply affected by the tragic events of October 7th. Many lost family members and friends, and their lives were disrupted by trauma and displacement. This journey provided them with the chance to escape the hardship they experienced. It was more than a simple visit; it was a lifeline. In the safety and warmth of the Greenwich community, these young people had the opportunity to continue their recovery process and have an experience as a kid again, one that they will never forget.



Save the Date

CHABAD OF GREENWICH
ANNUAL GALA

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

Marking 28 years **נח**

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 6:00 PM



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MATISYAHU

INVITE TO FOLLOW



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sparks new adventures!

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Archery Baseball - Softball Basketball Capture The Flag Flag Football	Floor Hockey Frisbee Gaga Intensive Tennis Soccer	Tennis Volleyball Yoga Gymnastics Special Sports Events
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Private door-to-door transportation in Greenwich

Jewish Pride!

Temple Sholom Learning Center Families Experience “Havdalah Together”

On Saturday, January 11, 3rd grade families from the Temple Sholom Learning Center (TSLC) joined Temple Sholom’s clergy and staff for “Havdalah Together,” a special ritual-themed evening rooted in Jewish tradition. “Havdalah is an inspiring way to acknowledge the end of Shabbat and start the new week as a family,” said Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz. “During a Havdalah ceremony, we use our senses to define the boundaries “between the sacred and the everyday.” Added David Cohen, Director of Schools: “These students have been learning the songs and prayers for Havdalah over the past few weeks and were so eager to share this experience with their parents, siblings and our religious school community.”

During the program, families created spice jars to be used to comfort the “soul” given by God during shabbat, and to represent its sweetness. The group then gathered in the synagogue’s Sanctuary to participate in the ritual blessings over the wine, spices and braided candle to mark the closing of Shabbat and to help carry its gifts into the week ahead.

In recognition of this milestone in their Jewish education at TSLC, the 3rd grade students were given their own Havdalah set to cherish for years to come.

To learn more about the Temple Sholom Learning Center, visit www.templesholom.com/tslc



Choral Shabbats at Greenwich Reform

The GRS Choir will be enhancing services at Greenwich Reform on Friday night, February 7, Saturday morning, March 2 and Friday night, April 25, concluding with the annual GRS Broadway Shabbat celebration on Friday night, May 30. *If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Cantor Michelle Rubin (CantorRubin@GRS.org); for more information, visit GRS.org for calendar updates or call 203-629-0018.*



HEBREW WIZARDS NY CITY FIELD TRIP 11/5/24



ON 11/5/24 - THE WIZARDS HEADED TO A SCAVENGER HUNT THROUGH CENTRAL PARK WITH 24 STUDENTS, HAD LUNCH AND WENT TO THE COOL SPY MUSEUM. WE FINISHED THE DAY AT MAX BRENNER’S FOR SOME DESSERT CHOCOLATE PIZZAS. PARTY BUS HOME.

ITSY BITSY PLAY GROUP

FRIDAYS
9:15 - 10:00 AM

AT TEMPLE SHOLOM

300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT



CONNECT WITH OTHER PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN WHILE INTRODUCING YOUR LITTLE ONE TO MUSIC, SOCIALIZATION AND INTERACTIVE PLAY.

FOR NEWBORNS TO 12 MONTHS WITH A PARENT

While there is no charge to participate, registration is required to Gina Cristino at gina.cristino@templesholom.com.

Latkes, Learning and Leadership

On December 10, UJA-JCC Board President **Margie Black**, led a women's leadership event hosting foreign policy expert, Hagar Chemali, at women's speciality shop, Eleventy, on Greenwich Avenue. Everyone enjoyed a fabulous evening of shopping, wine and latkes just in time for Chanukah. Proceeds from the event were donated in support of the UJA-JCC Greenwich.



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and businesses
that advertise
in our paper
and tell them
you saw
their ads
in the
Greenwich
Jewish News.*

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Compassionate Companions

Serving Greenwich & Stamford

**Door through door
transportation to non-
emergency medical
appointments for seniors**



To volunteer, here are 3 ways to contact us:
Email VolunteerDepartment@jfsgreenwich.org
Scan the QR code below for a volunteer interest form
Call 203-622-1881, ext. 129



Seven Hundred Strong: Beyond the Headlines with Douglas Murray

Welcomed by a standing ovation, Murray, an exceptionally strong voice supporting Israel and Jews across the world, shed light on current events in Israel to an audience of nearly seven hundred on February 3 at Temple Shalom. Liel Leibovitz, moderator and editor of *Tablet Magazine*, expertly drew out his experiences as journalist, author and conservative voice. Co-sponsored by UJA-JCC Greenwich, UJF of Greater Stamford, Chabad of Greenwich and Temple Shalom, it was a great evening of insight and education shared across the community.



Photos by Marilyn Roos Photography

Teens Perform Informed Philanthropy



The Teen Changemakers program has been growing in popularity and impact over the four years since it began. With the growth has also come change – not only with the teens making positive differences in the world – but also with their helpful feedback on how to improve the program. This year, the group heard from hopeful grant recipient agencies who pitched their causes. Representatives of agencies arrived in the conference room where more than 30 high schoolers sat, grant proposals in hand, ready to learn about the organizations and their projects. The teens asked astute questions about everything from overall budgets to numbers of individuals served to data on past programming. Stay tuned to see which organizations they choose to fund!



Partnership2Gether in Our Sister City and Region of Afula-Gilboa

Claudia Brenner, Director of Women's Philanthropy, traveled to our Partnership2Gether sister city Afula-Gilboa in January. There she had the opportunity to have an in-person look at the numerous programs UJA-JCC Greenwich supports in the region. A highlight was participating in the Afula Crowns Sandwich Club, where each day after school a group of teens pack

hundreds of lunches, which are then distributed at local schools to children in need. Additionally, Brenner heard first-hand accounts of the terrible effect on the area of the October 7 attack and the ongoing war. Claudia reports that it was a wonderful experience meeting with our Israeli family and seeing the impact of your donations.



We welcome home these hostages, released in 2025 and hopefully, those released after this paper goes to print. We await the release of all the remaining hostages and an end to terrorist rule in Gaza.



Doron Steinbrecher
Emily Damari
Romi Gonen
Naama Levy
Daniella Gilboa
Karina Arieiv
Liri Albag
Thaenna Pongsak
Sathian Suwannakham

Sriaoun Watchara
Seathao Bannawat
Lumnao Surasak
Gadi Mozes
Agam Berger
Arbel Yehud
Ofer Calderon
Keith Siegel
Yarden Bibas

#LetThemGoNOW