One Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830

Pre-Sort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Stamford, CT
Permit No. 1063

UJA•JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Volume XXXV, Number 4 June 2026 | Tamuz 5786

The Black Family Community Forum: An Evening with Ayaan Hirsi Ali

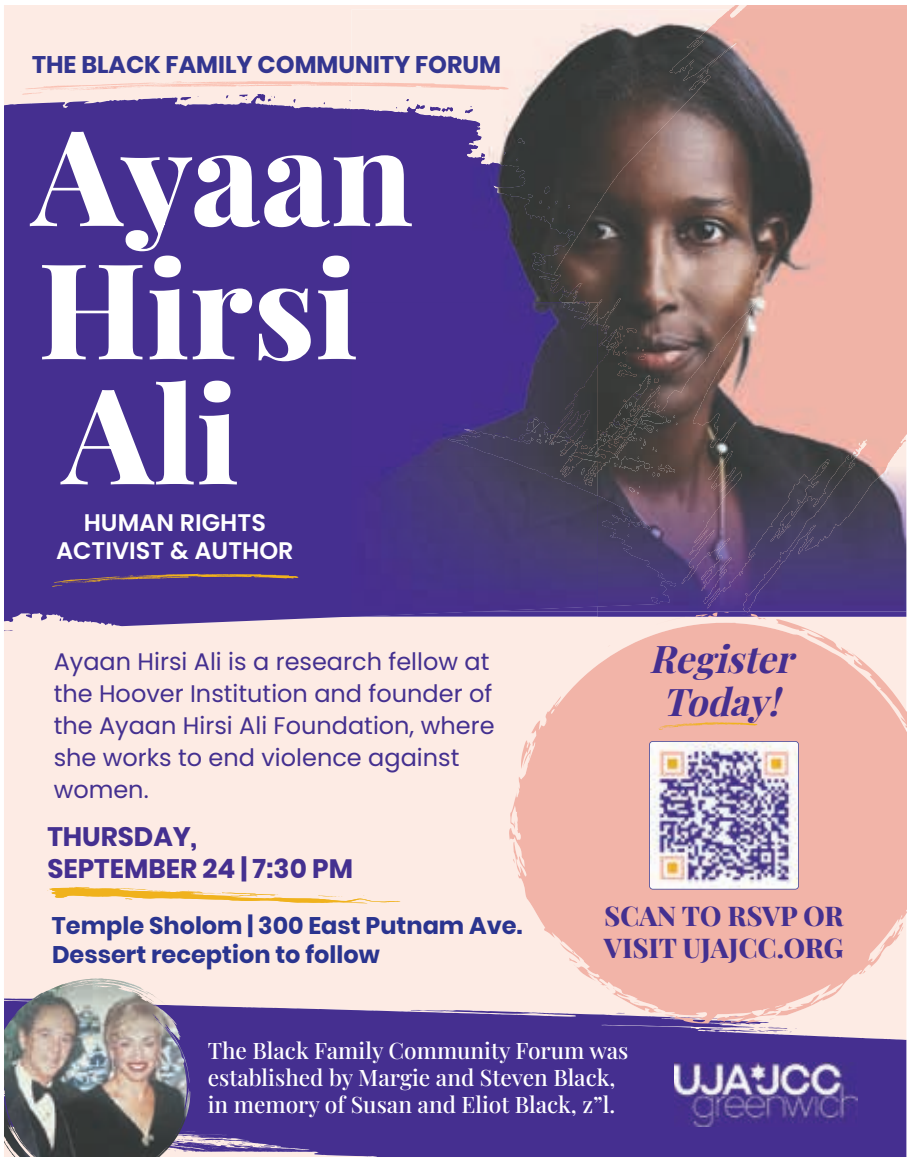
Ayaan Hirsi Ali came of age as a Muslim female in Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Kenya, and many would prefer she kept her mouth shut about it. Not the UJA-JCC Greenwich community. We're excited to welcome this unflinching voice as The Black Family Community Forum speaker, on Thursday, September 24 at 7:30 pm at Temple Sholom.

Hirsi Ali served as an elected member of the Dutch Parliament from 2003 to 2006 and is now a research fellow at the Hoover Institution and founder of the AHA Foundation. Her four books, *The Caged Virgin, Infidel, Heretic* and *Prey*, are all *New York Times* bestsellers, and TIME magazine has twice named her among the 100 Most Influential People in the World. The heart of her work is her personal exodus: from devout Muslim to Christian convert, a journey that has unsettled assumptions and fired up debate.

"Ayaan Hirsi Ali is one of today's most courageous and compelling minds on the rights of women and the clash between cultures," said **Margie Black**.

"We're honored to have Hirsi Ali address the community about gender freedom, religious identity and the ongoing struggle for human dignity," said **Steven Black**.

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



UJA•JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

150 Totes, One Big Impact

An inspiring display of energy and teamwork brought together volunteers of all ages to pack 150 Dignity Grows totes for neighbors in need. This meaningful *mitzvah* helps provide individuals and families throughout the Greenwich community with essential hygiene items in a respectful and dignified way. K. Brent Hill, Executive Director of Neighbor to Neighbor, tells us, "We are thrilled to accept the Dignity Grows totes, and we will put them to great use. Your generosity makes a meaningful difference in our community, and we are very grateful for your support." Special thanks to Dignity Grows Chair **Natasha Luboski**, whose leadership united a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer team and helped make this pack such a success.

UJA•JCC greenwich

Two by Two Zoo

Save The Date

Sunday, October 18
3:30 PM

A hands-on animal experience for the whole family

Join us for an afternoon of fun for preschool and early elementary-aged families.

Questions? Email cara@ujajcc.org

SPONSORED BY
Fred and Donna Nives Foundation

On Being Jewish Now

On May 7, Women's Philanthropy hosted a special morning in conversation with best-selling author, award-winning podcaster, bookstore owner, and mother, Zibby Owens. Before a packed audience, Zibby shared thoughtful and inspiring reflections about her book,*On Being Jewish Now: Deepening Identity and Cultivating Resilience.* Her remarks sparked meaningful conversation around Jewish identity, resilience, and community at this pivotal moment in our history. The event was co-chaired by **Melissa Bohrer**, **Whitney Chernoff**, **Elizabeth Schacher**, and **Emily Wirgin**, whose leadership helped create a morning filled with connection, insight, and engagement. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us and to Greenwich Reform Synagogue for graciously hosting such a memorable gathering.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

UJA-JCC Greenwich
(203) 552-1818

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy
Lower School (203) 329-2186
High School (203) 357-0850

Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich
Gan of Greenwich Preschool
(203) 629-9059

Congregation Shir Ami
(203) 900-7976

Greenwich Reform
(203) 629-0018

Congregation Kehilat Shalom
Hebrew Wizards
(203) 249-4036

Jewish Family Services of Greenwich
(203) 622-1881

Jewish Riverside Old Greenwich
(203) 441-1137

Mozaic Senior Services
(203) 365-6400

Temple Sholom
(203) 869-7191

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

SHABBAT & HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Fri., June 19 ..... 8:12 pm
Fri., June 26 ..... 8:13 pm
Fri., July 3 ..... 8:13 pm
Fri., July 10 ..... 8:10 pm
Fri., July 17 ..... 8:07 pm
Fri., July 24 ..... 8:01 pm
Fri., July 31 ..... 7:54 pm
Fri., Aug. 7 ..... 7:46 pm
Fri., Aug. 14 ..... 7:37 pm
Fri., Aug. 21 ..... 7:27 pm
Fri., Aug. 28 ..... 7:16 pm
Fri., Sept. 4 ..... 7:05 pm
First night Rosh Hashana
Fri., Sept. 11 ..... 6:51 pm
Second night Rosh Hashana
Sat., Sept. 12 ..... 7:58 pm

Greenwich Jewish News

Published by
UJA-JCC Greenwich
One Holly Hill Lane
Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 552-1818
ujajcc.org

LINDSEY KUPFERMAN
Co-President,
WALTER PRIMOFF
Co-President,
UJA-JCC GREENWICH

RACHEL RIMSKY RUBIN
President, Women's Philanthropy

NANCY ZISSON
Editorial Chairman

PAMELA EHRENKRANZ
Chief Executive Officer

CORI SANOGUEIRA
Chief Operating Officer

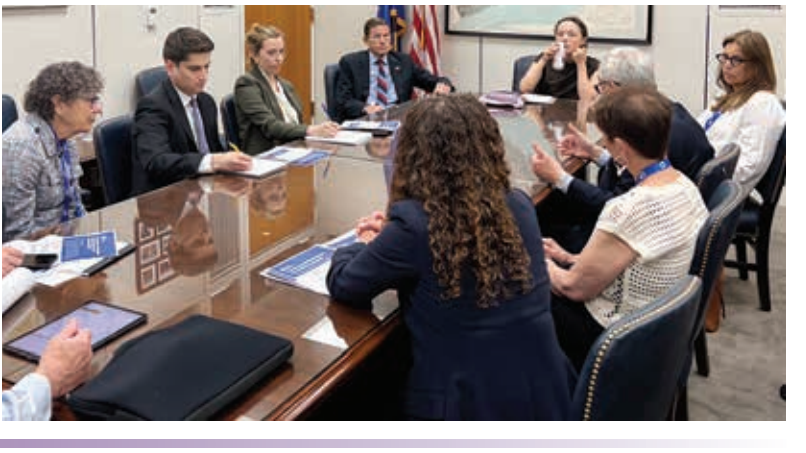
JUDITH MARGOLIN
Editor

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

UJA-JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Lobbying Congress in Favor of Jewish American Security Act

In May more than 400 leaders from 41 states, representing dozens of Federations and organizations, gathered in Washington DC to raise our voices about the state of security of the Jewish community in America. These individuals met with more than 200 Congressional offices and helped introduce a new, comprehensive and much-needed Jewish American Security Act. Jim Comstock, our Regional Security Director, participated on behalf of UJA-JCC Greenwich.



BH

Renovations for the Synagogue Center at 38 Field Point Road are underway, thank G-d!
Temporary locations for our various programs and services can be found at

CHABADGREENWICH.ORG

Holiday Celebrations | Adult Education | Summer Camp | Preschool
Tamim Academy | Women's Events | Family Programs

All events, classes, programs, and services are open to everyone.
Membership/affiliation is not required to be a part of our warm and welcoming community.

Chabad Lubavitch CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE
ADULT EDUCATION
Seaside SOCIETY
camp GAN ISRAEL of Greenwich
CHABAD PRESCHOOL Gan of Greenwich
Tamim Academy
chsn chabadhebrewschool
JTots
JWC JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Greenwich Reform Religious School Enroll Now for 2026-2027; Space Is Limited!

Under the leadership of Cantor/Education Director Michelle Rubin, the GRS Religious School has more than doubled in enrollment.

Students in Pre-K through sixth grade attend on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:30 am; third through sixth graders also attend Hebrew classes on Wednesday afternoons. Seventh grade meets on Tuesday afternoons.

At GRS, kids have fun while learning about and experiencing Judaism. Students particularly enjoy Shabbat Table, *Tefillah* (prayers) and *Shira* (music) as well as special holiday programming. At Friday night family Shabbat services, students rush to the *bimah* to lead the congregation in prayer. In short, our children love being Jewish! By the time of their *B'nei Mitzvah*, they confidently lead the congregation in prayer and song.

Our primary goal is to provide our students with a nurturing and experiential school environment that fosters an enthusiasm and love for Judaism and Jewish learning, while supporting different learning styles and abilities.

The GRS curriculum is geared toward fluency in Hebrew reading, as well as comfort and familiarity with the *Siddur* (prayerbook), synagogue rituals, and a basic understanding of our prayers. We strive to foster a positive Jewish identity in our students, as they develop an understanding

and appreciation for the holidays and Shabbat, Israel, *Tefillah*, Jewish values, and lifecycle events.

If you have questions about enrolling your children for the 2026-27 school year or would like to schedule a tour, please contact Cantor Michelle Rubin, Director of Education, at 203-629-0018 (ext. 3) or cantorrubin@grs.org.

For more information, visit www.grs.org/learning or give us a call!

Friendship Circle Year Finishes with Biggest Walk Ever, Bowling League and a Trip to the Zoo

Friendship Day 2026 was a huge success with 1258 donors and participants! Families, volunteers and community members enjoyed a free lunch and snacks, as well as many different family friendly activities including bumper cars, a petting zoo, face painting and more. We met the fundraising goal for the walk, and actually exceeded it by thousands of dollars.

There will be two additional programs to round out the 2026 year. Bowling League will conclude on May 31st at Nutmeg Bowl with one final session. There will be a special program for Friendship Circle Dads, including time to bowl together. Families will also participate in a trip to the Beardsley Zoo on June 7th.

Friendship Circle is a recipient organization of UJA-JCC Greenwich.

To learn more about the Friendship Circle please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com.

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

That Bubbala
Elise Abbruzzese
Personal Chef - Health Coach - Postpartum Doula
Serving Fairfield and Westchester Counties
(203) 302-9799
thatbubbala@gmail.com
thatbubbala.com
That Bubbala

LOOKING FOR AN AGENT
Buying? Selling? Renting?
Always happy to talk about the market and what's right for you.
STACY YOUNG
HELPING OPEN THE DOOR TO THE NEXT CHAPTER ONE HOME AT A TIME
Licensed RE Salesperson, NY & CT
917.816.6733
Stacy.Young@Raveis.com
StacyYoung.Raveis.com
WILLIAM RAVEIS
45 Field Point Rd, Greenwich, CT 06830

UJA•JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Clergy's Corner

✡ The Power of Our Togetherness ✡

by Rabbi Mitchell Hurvitz, Temple Sholom

During Passover, we retold our familiar story of the exodus from Egyptian bondage: *"We fled Egypt in such haste that the dough for our bread had no time to rise. We hurried, for after Pharaoh let us leave Egypt, he soon reversed course, chasing us with his army and trapping us by the Red Sea."*

The Torah tells us that Moses prayed, and God miraculously parted the waters. But an ancient Midrash adds a more human layer to God's great miracle: Rabbi Meir taught that, as we stood close to the shore, the tribal leaders began arguing among themselves. One chief declared that he should have the honor of leading his tribe first. Then the next chief did the same, and then the next and the next, and so on; they argued with one another. Each chief was consumed by his own status.

The only tribal chief who refused to join the argument was of the tribe of Benjamin. The chief of Benjamin and all of the tribe's men of his clan didn't care for personal honor; they only cared for all of the collective people and the danger that confronted them all. So, while the others continued to debate, the tribe of Benjamin simply jumped into the not-yet-parted sea. And it was only then, when God witnessed their unselfish act of courage, that the Sea parted. Upon the parting of the Sea, our spiritual ancestors didn't just walk through the water; they walked toward our common destiny.

Since our observance of Passover, we observed the counting of the Omer. Our countdown does not simply track the days from our Exodus until our receiving the Torah from God at Mt. Sinai. The annual counting of the Omer is a journey that calls us to intentionality while we move forward.

The first journey of the Exodus began with the "I," individuals trapped at the shore by their own preferences and concerns for their honor. However, the journey finished at the foot of God's Holy Mountain as a united "We." At Mount Sinai, we stood as one, putting the collective over the individual. And it was only because of this unity that God gifted the Torah to the entire community. At that moment, our ancestors promised to share the past, stand strong together in the present, and build a united future.

Each generation restates this promise at the conclusion of the counting of the Omer and during Shavuot. Each night as we counted the Omer, I wondered: Are we genuinely sharing the past, standing strong, and building a united future? In contrast to the unity at Mount Sinai when we received the Torah, today's Jewish landscape can often feel fragmented. Ultra-Orthodox, Modern Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Secular, Unaf-filiated; we retreat into our particular tents and pull the flaps shut. Beyond our Jewish denominational preferences, we further divide because of the politics and hyper-partisanship of today's world. We enter political silos that divide us, and we often choose to speak only to those who echo our beliefs.

I fear we have forgotten the Exodus trip that changed "I" into "We." We should sense the Jewish disconnect and mourn it.

Jewish diversity should be our strength, not our weakness. If we remain isolated in our individual tribes, we will stay lost in the wilderness, never reaching the Promised Land.

Our mission today remains the same as all of the Jewish generations that came before us: To reach God's Holy Mountain together. We proceed by making sure our individuality is grounded in moral integrity and that we are concerned with the needs of the many, not just ourselves. Once grounded, we must reach out, join hands, even sometimes carrying one another, so that nobody falls behind.

Ultimately, the Jewish Tent, the Jewish Totality, Klal Yisrael, only stands when every pole supports the collective. Our task is more than "tolerance." Tolerance doesn't just mean we can ignore one another. Rather, we are called to the Radical Hospitality of Abraham and Sarah: opening our tents and really inviting all others inside. We must better listen to God's continuous call: "Unify, Stand Together, Become the Guardians of the Covenant."

We are an extended family, linked via a shared destiny that rises above any disagreement. Our spiritual mission is to make Mount Sinai more than a memory, but a continual active experience. An experience grounded upon our unity so that we can all find and feel the *Shekhinah*, God's Divine Presence, in our lives.

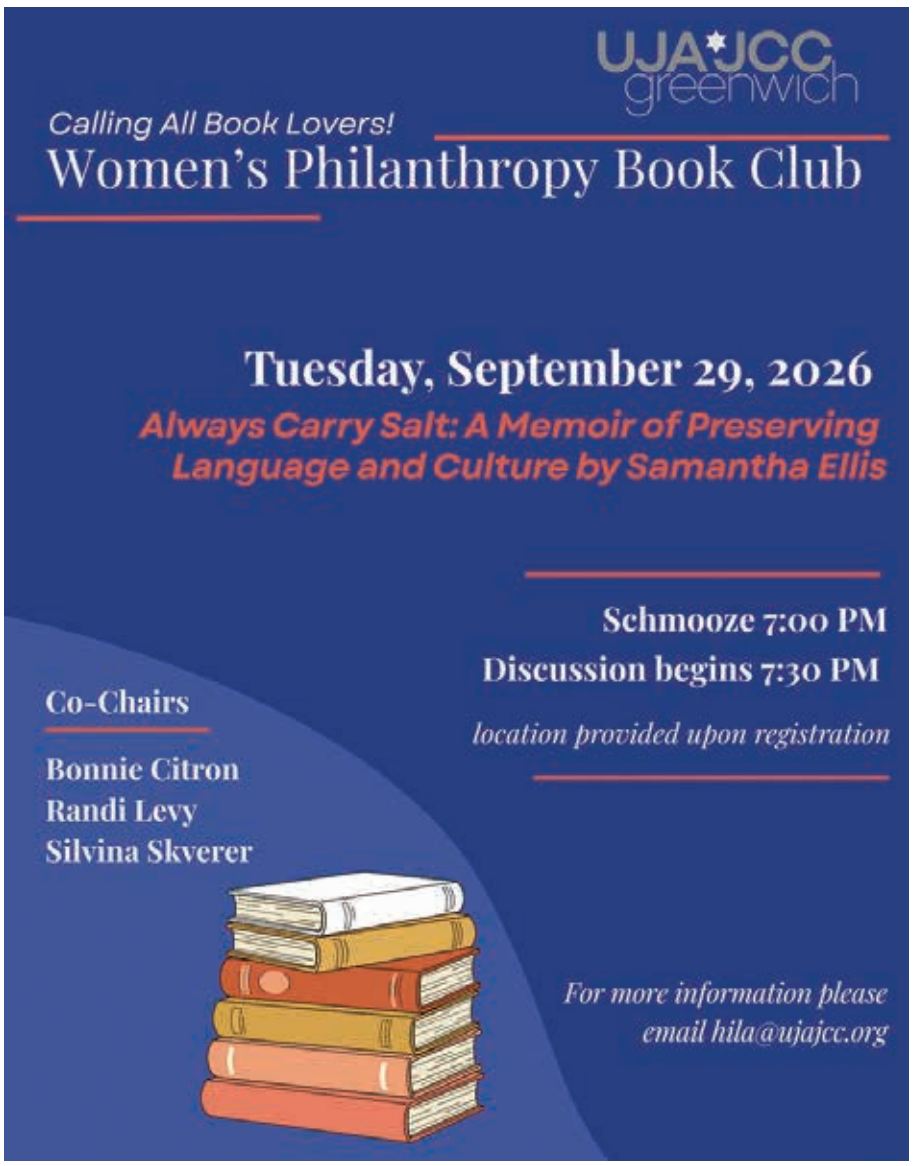
Let's move beyond our divisions and become the united family God calls us to be. Let's listen and respond to God's "Still Small Voice," actively welcoming the power of our togetherness every day.

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.

Advanced Electronic Systems, LLC
Howard Friedman
President
Phone (203) 846-0700 www.aesalarm.com
Fire and Burglar Alarms Serviced Locally Since 1973

Jewish Pride and Wisdom Shared at Graduation

Congratulations to **Mira Niederlander** who delivered the invocation at the Greenwich Academy High School graduation in late May. She evoked the powerful themes from Genesis 12 of *"Lekh Lekha,"* sharing with her classmates that like Abraham, they are on a journey to unfamiliar places and with the ultimate result of finding their true selves. She ended with a Hebrew blessing *"HaTov VeHameitiv,"* recited when a community shares happiness.



Inaugural Security Task Force Met at Stamford Police Department

The Lower Fairfield County Security Task Force recently convened at the Stamford Police station to discuss the ongoing security concerns for the Jewish community. In attendance were lay representatives as well as professional staff from local Jewish organizations. Thank you to UJA-JCC Board members **Lindsey Kupferman** and **Jordan Yarett** for attending. The meeting included a guest speaker from the Tree of Life Synagogue. Many thanks to the Stamford Police Department for hosting and to each of the local police departments for coordinating with our Regional Security Director Jim Comstock and for working each and every day to keep our communities safe. UJA-JCC Greenwich is proud to sponsor the Security Program for all organizations in Greenwich.

Stop the Bleed Helps You Save a Life

The need for ***Stop the Bleed*** training is an unfortunate reality. Houses of worship are often targeted and, having trained congregants, staff and clergy can save lives. Thanks to supporters of UJA-JCC Greenwich, we are able to share our resources to help keep the community safe through the Community Security Initiative. Experienced trainers from CSI taught life-saving skills for participants to use in case of an attack. Program participants included local residents as well as clergy and staff from local churches and synagogues. We are grateful to Christ Church for hosting!

If you are interested in attending future trainings, please reach out to Cara at cara@ujajcc.org. Or visit our website to register for one of five trainings available on July 14 and 15.

UJA·JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Lunch & Learn

SUMMER SERIES 2026

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

THE LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY RITA EDELSTON

UJA·JCC greenwich

JUNE 25
The Origins of Jewish Humor - Part II
Dr. Avinoam Patt
Having traced the roots of Jewish humor from the Torah to Tevye, we now go deeper into the sacred texts. From Genesis to the Talmud's centuries of holy argument, we'll explore the relationship between wrestling with God and Jewish laughter.

JULY 2
What Happy People See That Others Don't
Rabbi Tzvi Sytner
The difference between frustration and peace is often the story you tell about someone else's actions. This class reveals how giving the benefit of the doubt changes your entire emotional world.

JULY 9
Rebuilding After Destruction
Rabbi Menachem Feldman
Explore how the Talmudic sages set out to rebuild Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. We'll see how they drew on centuries of oral tradition to create a portable, text-centered faith that could survive without a homeland.

JULY 16
Tisha B'Av: I'm Too Depressed to Be Sad!
Rabbi David Ehrenkranz
Explore the customs and laws surrounding our one solemn fast day, and discover how its mourning rituals cast their shadow across the entire calendar year.

JULY 23
Tisha B'av - no class

JULY 30
HaMelech BaSadeh: Entering Elul
Rabbi Alissa Platcow
We are about to begin a new year! Not Rosh Hashanah, but Elul. Our sages mark four days of Jewish new year within a single year, including the first day of Elul. Come celebrate this new year and learn how it can help us prepare for the next.

AUGUST 6
Being Holy: What Does It Mean?
Rabbi Robert Abrams
How to find the transcendent amid the mundane? Prep for the High Holidays with help from the Torah, Rashi, Maimonides, Nachmanides, Steinsaltz, Sacks and more.

AUGUST 13
Jews and Entertainment in the Ancient World
Loren Spielman, PhD
What did the rabbis of the Greco-Roman world think about chariot races, theater performances, athletic competitions and gladiator shows? How did their responses compare to those of their Christian contemporaries? We'll navigate the labyrinth of Greco-Roman and Jewish cultural exchange.

AUGUST 20
The Complexity of Reconciliation and Forgiveness
Rabbi Abby Sosland
Explore the raw, often uncomfortable reality of reconciliation through narratives from Masechet Yoma, the Talmudic tractate dedicated to Yom Kippur, to uncover how even the greatest rabbis grappled with the friction of mending broken relationships.

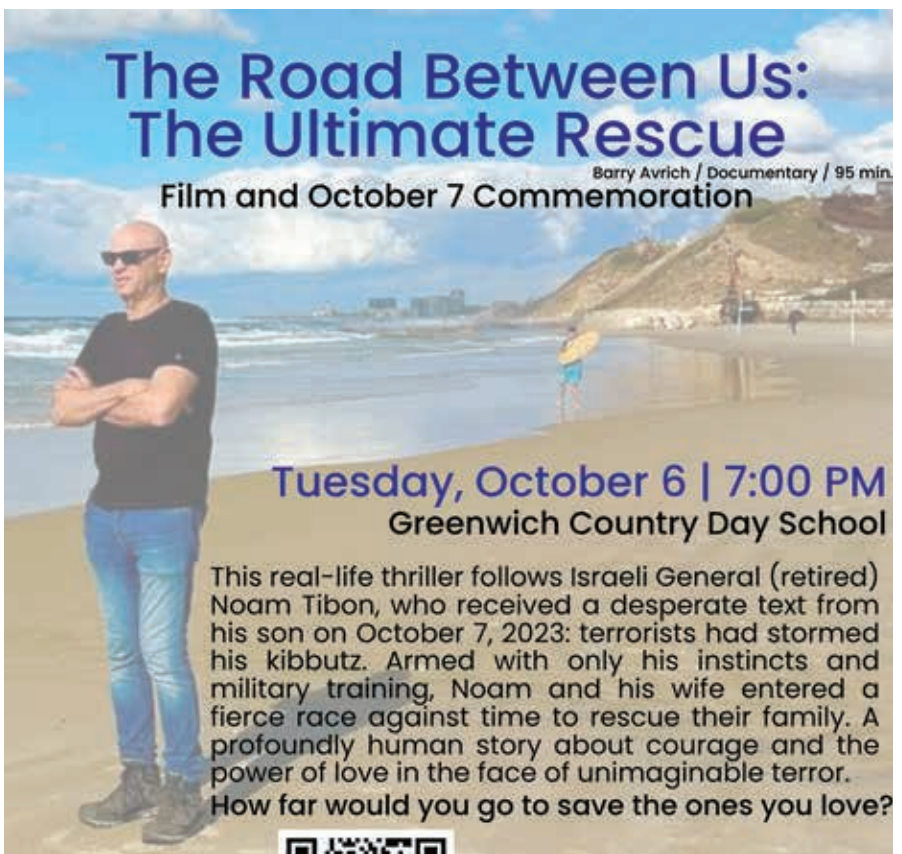
AUGUST 27
Remembering Forward: The Jewish Art of Sacred Memory
Robert Lichtman
Jewish tradition views memory not only as a way of marking our past, but of shaping our destiny. We will explore several examples, and you may find some of them unforgettable.

Register at **ujajcc.org** for Zoom access.
To attend in person with lunch, register online or call **203.552.1818** no later than the day before the program.

The Road Between Us: The Ultimate Rescue

Barry Avrich / Documentary / 95 min.

Film and October 7 Commemoration



Tuesday, October 6 | 7:00 PM

Greenwich Country Day School

This real-life thriller follows Israeli General (retired) 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 fierce race against time to rescue their family. A profoundly human story about courage and the power of love in the face of unimaginable terror.

How far would you go to save the ones you love?

Scan here to register

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CHABAD OF GREENWICH | CONGREGATION SHIR AMI
GREENWICH REFORM SYNAGOGUE
HEBREW WIZARDS | TEMPLE SHOLOM

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

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.

SCAN TO SIGN UP

Starting Tuesday, October 6 at 10:00AM

UJA•JCC greenwich | Melton

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

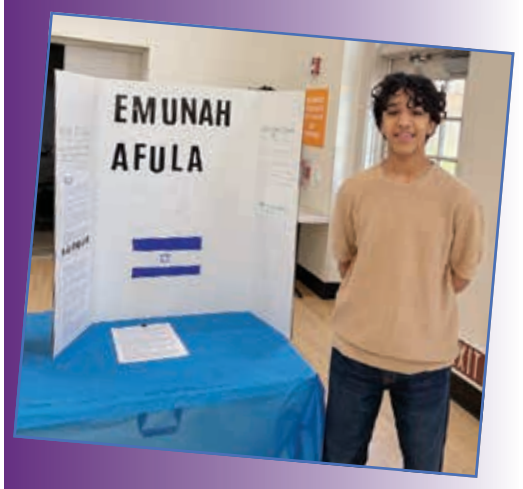
Registration required

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

UJA•JCC greenwich

UJA•JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Teen Changemakers Reach New Heights



This year marked the fifth year for Teen Changemakers, as the high school philanthropy program celebrated a banner year of empowering teens to lead with purpose, compassion, and Jewish values.

By means of approximately a dozen meetings over the course of the school year, Teen Changemakers participants engaged in a hands-on journey into the world of philanthropy. Guided through a Jewish lens, the teens explored pressing societal needs, discussed Jewish teachings and values connected to giving and social responsibility, and learned the many steps involved in thoughtful grantmaking.

The students engaged in much more than the simple study of philanthropy – they practiced it. Together, they developed a Request for Proposal (RFP), researched nonprofit agencies aligned with the group's mission, reviewed applications, listened to agency presentations, and participated in meaningful deliberations, before ultimately making funding allocations to 17 organizations dedicated to a wide range of causes and community needs.

"This experience showed us how much thought and responsibility goes into responsible philanthropy in a meaningful way," said one Teen Changemakers participant. "We learned that philanthropy isn't just about donating – it's about listening, researching, asking questions, and thinking about how to create the greatest impact."

This year also brought an ambitious fundraising challenge. The group was presented with a $20,000 challenge grant: if the teens could raised $20,000 themselves, they would unlock an additional $20,000 for allocations. The teens not only met the challenge – they exceeded it by far! By year end, Teen Changemakers had raised nearly $65,000 to distribute among nonprofit organizations.

The year culminated in the annual Impact Celebration, which featured a fresh and engaging new format. The afternoon began with brief remarks from several Teen Changemakers who reflected on their experiences and personal growth from the program. **Jessica** and **Adam Hirsch**, program sponsors, also shared what motivated them to help establish the initiative and expressed pride in seeing the program flourish over the past five years.

Following the presentations, attendees explored a science fair-style showcase, where the teens, working in pairs, presented posters highlighting the agencies they supported, the causes they researched, and the funding recommendations they helped make. The interactive format gave community members an opportunity to engage directly with the students and hear firsthand about the careful thought and passion behind each allocation decision.

"Teen Changemakers gives students a real seat at the table," said another participant. "It's empowering to know that our voices matter and that we can make a difference right now, not someday in the future."

The teens expressed deep gratitude to the many generous donors whose support made this year possible. In turn, the community celebrates these remarkable students for their dedication, compassion, and leadership – qualities that demonstrate they are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but also the leaders of today.

Applications are now open for the 2026–2027 Teen Changemakers school year. *Contact cori@ujajcc.org for more information.*

in Giving and Leadership

UJA-JCC Greenwich Teen Changemakers 2025-26 Grant Awards

Beit Ruth	$3,040
Eli	$3,040
Emunah Afula Children's Centre	$3,540
Haifa Rape Crisis Center	$4,040
Jaffa Institute	$3,540
JDC	$4,150
Kids In Crisis	$2,540
Leket Israel	$6,540
Neighbor to Neighbor	$3,050
ReGrow Israel	$5,550
Rowan Rape Crisis Center	$3,300
Schoke Jewish Family Service	$4,140
Shchakim Sandwich Club	$5,540
Stand With Us	$1,550
Tzedaka Foundation Argentina	$5,600
Yad Eliezer B' Ezri	$2,550
Yad Ezra V'Shulamit	$3,040
	$64,750

UJA-JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Am Yisrael Chai: Celebrating Israel at 78

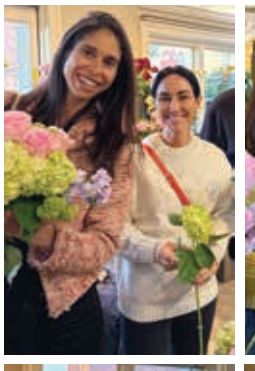
The Greenwich community gathered together in a spirited celebration of Israel's 78th Independence Day, marking the occasion with an afternoon filled with pride, reflection, gratitude, and hope for the future. Through meaningful prayers, readings, words of inspiration, and song, the event highlighted the enduring connection between our community, the people of Israel, and Jewish communities around the world. A moving highlight of the celebration was the raising of the Israeli flag by IDF veterans **Josh Klugman**, **Natanel Sherzer**, and **Retired Lieutenant Colonel Zahava Sherzer**, honoring the courage, resilience, and enduring spirit of Israel and its people.

Hope After Remembrance

In an age marked by rising antisemitism and fierce debates over Zionism, *Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron* and *Yom HaAtzmaut* have taken on renewed spiritual significance for many Jews around the world. Rabbi Menachem Creditor, Rabbi in Residence at UJA Federation of New York, addressed the UJA-JCC Greenwich Torah Leadership Learning Group and past Melton participants, during a 10-day period of reflection in April. He spoke about how these modern observances are evolving into a kind of new sacred season in Jewish life – moving from mourning to hope, from remembrance to resilience. Together, according to Creditor, the holidays honor the cost of Jewish survival, while affirming the enduring strength, identity, and continuity of the Jewish people in a challenging moment for world Jewry.

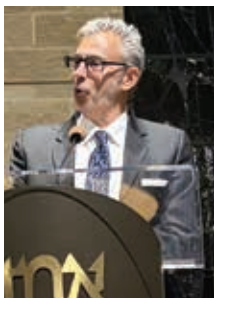
Ladies' Night Draws Full House

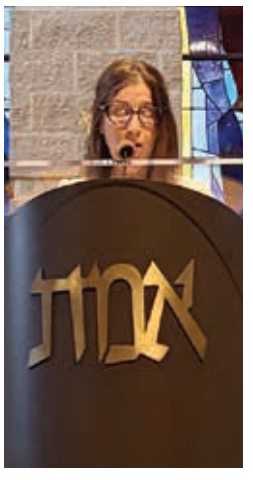
Ladies' Night welcomed a great mix of women for an evening centered on connection and creativity. The event featured beautiful flower arrangements and thoughtful details, thanks to the efforts of event chairs **Jenna Krumholz** and **Natasha Luboski**, who also generously sponsored dinner. The evening was further enhanced by the hospitality and guidance from the staff at McArdle's, helping create an enjoyable and memorable experience for all.



Never Forget, Always Remember

Community members came together for a meaningful Yom HaShoah Commemoration in observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, honoring the memory of the millions who perished in the Holocaust. The program featured Holocaust survivor Dr. Alex Levy, who shared his remarkable story of survival and the compassion of the gracious nuns who hid and protected him during the war. His testimony served as a powerful reminder of the importance of preserving these stories and reaffirming the commitment to Never Forget and Always Remember. Thank you to Temple Sholom for hosting. And special thanks to Reverend Johnson from Saint Paul's Episcopal Church for participating.





UJA JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH

JFS GREENWICH

CEO's Corner

JFS Spring Celebration Brings Community Together

The JFS Spring Celebration at Tamarack Country Club was a truly special evening, bringing together friends, supporters, and community partners in a shared spirit of connection and purpose. More than 200 guests joined us for a warm and vibrant gathering filled with great food, meaningful conversation, and a collective commitment to strengthening our community.

As I looked out around the room, I felt immense gratitude for the compassion and dedication that define our supporters. Throughout the evening, we reflected on the importance of standing together to support mental health care, food security, services for older adults, and assistance for those navigating times of transition and challenge. These are not just services; they are lifelines, and they are only possible because of this community.

We were proud to honor this year's outstanding award recipients, whose leadership and generosity exemplify the mission of JFS: Marc Jaffe, Community Impact Award; Lindsey Rossler, Community Partnership Award; Alek Modi, Rising Star Award; and First County Bank, Corporate Partnership Award. Each of these honorees represents the very best of our community, and their commitment inspires our work every day.

The success of the evening was made possible by strong community support. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Spring Celebration Committee for their leadership and hard work, and to our generous sponsors: Vranos Family Foundation, Robin Bartholomew, Zeena Hine, Debbie and David Rosmarin, Lynn and Vernon Schwartz, Anne Wichman, and First County Bank.

Because of your support, JFS can continue to respond to growing needs across Connecticut while expanding access to equitable, wraparound care for those who need it most. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate community, and continuing to say "yes" when it matters most.

With immense gratitude,

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

Helping Kids Thrive Emotionally Over Summer Break

As summer approaches, many children look forward to freedom from homework, later bedtimes, vacations and more time with friends. While summer can be a fun and restorative season, the change in routine can also impact children' s mental health. Without the structure of the school day, some children may experience increased anxiety, loneliness and irritability. Free time may lead to excessive screen time.

One of the most effective ways to support children's mental health during the summer is maintaining some level of routine. Predictable sleep times, mealtimes, and daily activities help children feel safe and regulated. Consistent sleep patterns can affect mood, attention, and behavior.

Encouraging physical activity is another key factor in supporting emotional well-being. Outdoor play, walks, swimming, and sports may reduce stress, and improve mood. Time outside and exposure to sunlight can also positively impact mental health and overall wellness.

Social connection remains important during the summer months. Children and teens benefit from spending time with their peers, family members and supportive adults. Camps, playdates, community programs, volunteer opportunities, or even regular family outings can help reduce isolation and foster connection.

Summer may bring transitions, worries about the upcoming school year, or changes in family schedules. Checking in regularly and listening without judgment helps children feel understood and supported.

For parents and caregivers, it is equally important to prioritize self-care. Children often take emotional cues from the adults around them. Managing stress, maintaining healthy routines, and taking moments to recharge can improve the overall emotional climate of the home. Simple practices such as family meals, limiting over-scheduling, practicing gratitude, and spending quality time together can help everyone feel more balanced and connected.

Summer does not need to be perfect or packed with activities to be meaningful. Small, intentional efforts to maintain wellness, connection, and routine can make a significant difference in helping children and families feel healthy, supported and emotionally well throughout the season. Learn more here: https://www.jfsgreenwich.org

COPING WITH ANTISEMITISM: Actions and Reactions

A Supportive Space for Understanding, Healing, and Response

JFS GREENWICH | BENNETT CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Join us for a free, supportive group focused on coping with antisemitism, a growing concern that can spark anger and anxiety. Location details will be shared after registration.
Email jschneider@jfsgreenwich.org to sign up.

Upcoming sessions: June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16 | Time: 7-8:30pm

Visit Our Tribute Page

Honor a Loved One. Celebrate a Life.

JFS GREENWICH

Visit jfsgreenwich.org/tributes or scan the QR code to view our Tribute Page.

Building Bright Futures: Introducing Temple Sholom's New Education Directors

Temple Sholom is thrilled to announce the appointment of Susie Weiner and Mason Voit as the synagogue's new education leaders, beginning July 1st. Weiner will serve as Director of Early Childhood at the Temple Sholom Selma Maisel Nursery School, and Voit will serve as Director of the Temple Sholom Learning Center (religious school).

Susie Weiner

Susie Weiner is a seasoned early childhood education leader with more than 30 years of knowledge as an educator, administrator, and community builder within synagogue-based and progressive school settings. Most recently, she served as the Director of the Early Childhood Center at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, where she has led the school for nearly a decade.

Mason Voit

Mason Voit brings more than 25 years of experience, as well as a rich educational background with a focus on innovative, relationship-centered Jewish learning. From 2003 until 2025, he served as the Director of Education and Jewish Family Life at the Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale, NY. Additionally, he served as a manheh in the JTS Davidson School Pedagogic Skills program (2011–2018), as a curriculum developer and trainer with Moving Traditions, and as a mentor in the Qushiyot Israel Education Fellowship.

HEBREW WIZARDS CELEBRATES 21 YEARS

For more than two decades, Hebrew Wizards has reimagined what Jewish education can look like, transforming it from a traditional classroom experience into a dynamic, inclusive, and deeply engaging journey rooted in community values. Founded over 21 years ago by Rabbi Deborah Salomon, Hebrew Wizards was created with a clear and compelling vision; to build a welcoming space where all families, especially interfaith families and those from diverse backgrounds, could feel at home exploring Jewish life, learning, and spirituality. At its core, Hebrew Wizards is both an experiential Jewish learning school and a vibrant congregation. Its unique model blends education with community, offering students and families opportunities to connect not only through study, but through shared experiences, Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations, community service projects, and meaningful life cycle events.

UJA JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Give your child the gift of

Jewish Learning at TSLC!

2026-2027

Temple Sholom Learning Center

REGISTRATION IS OPEN AND FILLING QUICKLY!

The Temple Sholom Learning Center offers PreK-7th graders an engaging Jewish education. Students gain knowledge and experience to take pride in being Jewish, develop a strong Jewish identity, and are inspired to pursue life-long Jewish learning based on Jewish ethics and values.

Announcing Our New Director

MASON VOIT

Learn more at www.templesholom.com/tslc

The Turquoise Butterfly Lands at Lunch & Learn

At a recent Lunch & Learn, **Dr. Dale Atkins** shared insights from her new book, *The Turquoise Butterfly*. Rooted in the Jewish tradition of *l'dor v'dor* – from generation to generation – the discussion explored how storytelling, patience, memory, and love shape family legacy and strengthen intergenerational connection. Through the story of Grandma Sylvia and Victoria, *The Turquoise Butterfly* reminds us that resilience and wisdom are quietly passed on through presence, values, and shared experiences, helping us feel connected even in uncertain times. Lunch & Learn is sponsored by **Rita Edelston**.

MERRITT POINT WEALTH ADVISORS℠

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

Investment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC (WFAFN), Member SIPC. Merritt Point Wealth Advisors is a separate entity from WFAFN.

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.

UJA-JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Emissaries in Uniform

The week of *Yom HaZikaron* and *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* 2026 was one to remember. From April 20 to 27, UJA-JCC Greenwich hosted two Israeli soldiers as *Shlichim B'Madim*, or Emissaries in Uniform. Tomer, a 23-year-old kibbutznik on active duty, and Ido, 28, a reservist from a suburb of Tel Aviv, were brought to Greenwich through a program of The Jewish Agency for Israel. Beyond serving in the IDF, both are proud advocates for Israel.

Joined by JAFI representative Noa, they came to tell their stories firsthand, offer insights into life on Israel's front lines and home front, and help deepen the bond between the Greenwich Jewish community and the Jewish state during these momentous times. The week's packed program crisscrossed the town: schools, synagogues, seniors, and even first responders took part in vibrant, personal exchanges. Participants were able to transcend media headlines and glimpse the flesh-and-blood reality of October 7-era conflict.

"We follow the news, but rarely do we ever really get to talk with the people who are involved in the situations covered," said UJA-JCC Greenwich Program Associate Cara Levine. "These encounters allowed the community to meet people who saw with their own eyes what happened," she added. "Zero politics, just personal experiences."

The opening event was a welcome by the UJA-JCC Greenwich board at the home of co-president, **Lindsey Kupferman**.The following day, the packed schedule began with a Yom HaZikaron memorial ceremony at BiCultural Hebrew Academy, followed by Tomer and Ido meeting with eighth and ninth graders. Later that day, middle school Hebrew students at Greenwich Reform Synagogue, along with Rabbi Jordie Gerson and Cantor Michelle Rubin, gathered with the emissaries for an interactive discussion. After sundown, Israel Remembrance Day gave way to Israel Independence Day and a celebratory mood, with delegates mingling at UJA-JCC Greenwich's Ladies' Night at McArdle's Florist.

At the Chabad Gan of Greenwich Preschool, children embarked on a field day of Yom Ha'Atzmaut pride and joy. They imagined flying to Israel, Israeli passports in hand, where they met heroes who defend the country. One preschooler wanted to know, "How do you protect Israel?" Another asked, "How do you catch the bad guys? Put them in handcuffs and jail?" What stood out for Levine was how genuine and uninhibited

Faces are blurred for security purposes.

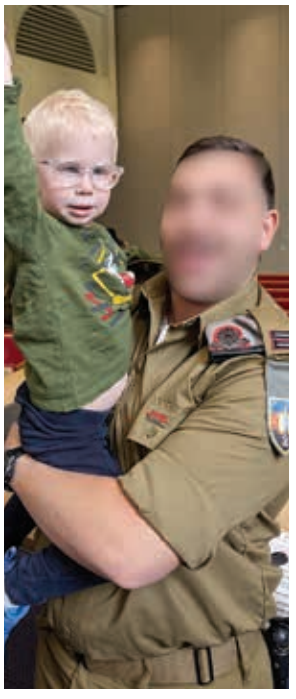
Deployed to Greenwich

the children were in their search for answers. "The kids asked questions that adults are often afraid to," she observed.

Thursday morning brought a thank-you breakfast with Greenwich police and firefighters and tours of their respective stations. With the help of Jim Comstock, regional security director of the Community Security Initiative sponsored by UJA-JCC Greenwich, and James Heavey, Chief of Greenwich Police Department, Tomer and Ido engaged in meaningful exchanges. For their part, Ido and Tomer spoke about the role of the Israeli police and their interactions with them during Oct 7. Their recounting of how the Sderot police station was infiltrated by terrorists and had to be blown up, was especially moving.

Thursday afternoon included informal conversations with Lunch & Learn participants and a stop at Edgehill, a senior residence and rehab center. That evening, a Greenwich family hosted in their home a gathering of Jewish middle school students enrolled at private and public schools, along with their parents. Weekend highlights included a Shabbat Assembly at Temple Sholom, a special event at Stamford's JCC Preschool at GRS and services at Chabad Greenwich. Meet & Greets continued on Sunday, at Temple Sholom Hebrew School and Hebrew Wizards, where the entire student body and Rabbi Deborah Salomon had an extended Q & A. In a private home in Old Greenwich, Ido and Tomer shared their stories with members of the Women's Philanthropy board about how they were injured when serving in Gaza in the wake of October 7.

Although it only lasted a week, the overwhelming feedback suggests that this Soldiers in Uniform initiative will have a lasting impact. "The kids will remember their encounters with these Israeli soldiers for the rest of their lives," Levine noted. One telling sign: an older brother of a preschooler grew animated recalling soldiers who had visited his class years earlier. Rabbi Deborah Salomon praised the opportunity for her Hebrew Wizards to "meet the wonderful protectors of Israel." Her gratitude was echoed by Simone Zwany from Chabad Gan of Greenwich Preschool, who relayed that "it was such a beautiful and important experience for the children to meet actual IDF soldiers." Thank you to all of the host families and organizations.



UJA JCC greenwich | JEWISH NEWS

Leadership. Philanthropy. Impact.

TEEN CHANGEMAKERS

Join a dynamic group of **teen leaders** making impact through philanthropy, fundraising, and service

A meaningful leadership experience—perfect for college applications.

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- *Allocate grants to nonprofits (decisions made entirely by teens)*
- *Learn leadership, philanthropy & fundraising skills*
- *Connect with Jewish teens from across the community*
- *Contribute to nearly $250,000 granted over the past 5 years*

PROGRAM DETAILS:

- *Open to high school students*
- *Approximately 13 Sundays, 5:30–7:30 PM*
- *Service hours available*
- *Free to participate*

Ready to **MAKE AN IMPACT?**

SCAN TO APPLY or visit ujajcc.org

APPLICATION REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 1 | **QUESTIONS?** Contact Cori cori@ujajcc.org

UJA JCC greenwich

UJA JCC greenwich | Generation Gives

GENERATION GIVES

GIVE YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER 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

Reserve your spot today!

Questions? Cori@ujajcc.org

Space is limited and fills quickly