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**Schechter School
Office Hours
(Winter):**

**Monday-Thursday
8am -4pm**

**Friday
8am- 2:30pm**

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For Your Calendar:

**-
February 1
Talent Show Dress
Rehearsal**

Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Beshalach

Candlelighting 4:41 pm

January 26, 2017

10 Shevat , 5778

A Message from Andrea

The Changing Landscape of Math Education Part 2 Comparing Multiple Strategies

Math education now emphasizes the teaching of multiple strategies for any given problem. An often asked question is, why? Why do students need to know so many strategies? If my child has mastered one, why would she need anymore? These are good questions and they deserve thoughtful answers.

There are at least three reasons why it is important for students to learn multiple strategies in math. The first, and perhaps the simplest, is that we want our students to be skilled mathematical thinkers who have self-confidence in math. We know that different students gravitate to different strategies; knowing a variety of approaches will help a student identify which one works best for her. When we teach students



mathematics with the philosophy of multiple strategies, we are teaching them that there isn't only one way to solve a problem; they not longer have to feel that they either "get it" or they don't. With multiple strategies, we move them past the barrier of thinking "I can't do this," to facing a challenge with new

approaches and strategies until they can.

February 4
**Student Talent
Show**

February 9
Shabbat Share

February 11
**Seder Plate
Tournament**

February 14
**Middle School
Science Fair**

February 16
**Professional
Development
NO CLASSES**

February 19-20
**February Break
School Closed**

February 25
**Hamentashen and
RELISH!
(bring your friends!)
Packing Purim Baskets**

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Quick Links

[Solomon Schechter
Website](#)

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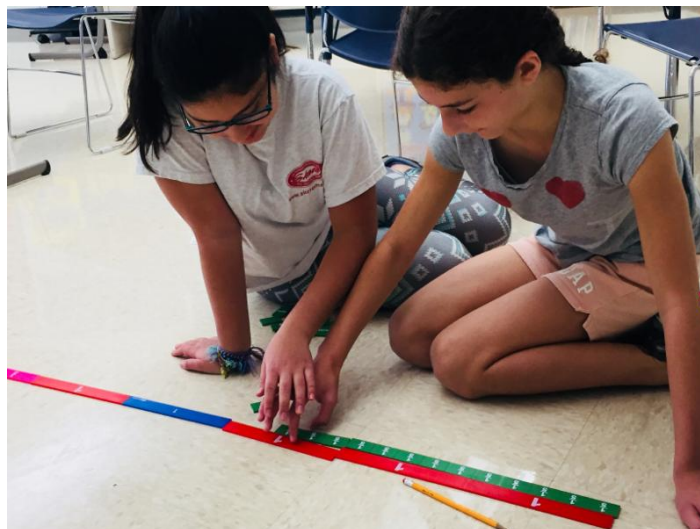
Join Our List

Would you like a grandparent, relative, or friend to receive the Schechter newsletter? Email ASobel@ssds-hartford.org and include the name, email address, and relationship to Schechter and we will add them to our list!



The second reason is that multiple strategies help students develop flexible thinking, which is essential for students to apply knowledge to new contexts. Imagine, for an instance, a math classroom where one algorithm is taught and practiced repeatedly. The students learn the algorithm and are able to successfully solve it in that particular context. They may later face a challenge when the context changes and they haven't developed enough flexible thinking, a fundamental aspect of problem solving. When students are exposed to and learn multiple strategies, it allows students to apply their knowledge rather than to simply retrieve it. Flexible thinking develops higher-level problem solving skills by giving students multiple approaches to solving a problem and increasing their understanding of the relational nature of numbers.

Finally, cognitive science research supports that comparing and contrasting information promotes learning and creates a pathway for flexible and transferable knowledge. Associate Professor Jon Star at the Harvard Graduate School of Education explains, "In math class, you should have opportunities to talk about different approaches, and comparison helps us to think not only about what works in mathematics, but also about how and why things work."



We LOVE RELISH!
1.19.18



One of Schechter's core values is Wisdom - *Chochma*, which we understand as the application of knowledge in a thoughtful and critical manner. We promote flexible thinking across content areas so that we can best prepare our students to demonstrate wisdom in the world.

Shabbat Shalom,
Andrea

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HAMENTASHEN AND RELISH!

A community-wide Purim celebration for all ages,
bringing the warmth of Schechter's Friday morning
Shabbat RELISH to the joy of Purim.

Free and open to the public.



Bring your family and friends for Costumes,
Singing, Storytelling, and Delicious Hamentashen

Sunday, February 25, 2018, 2:30-4 pm

At Solomon Schechter Day School

26 Buena Vista Road

West Hartford, CT 06107

Kindly RSVP: rsvp@ssds-hartford.org

Solomon Schechter Day School
of Greater Hartford



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Follow Schechter on Twitter & Facebook!!!

To keep up with all the happenings at SSDS,
Follow us on Twitter [HERE](#) and on Facebook [HERE](#)



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Schechter Hoops off to Hot Start!



After averaging an impressive 53 points in their first three games, the Solomon Schechter Scorpions faced their match against Watkinson last week. Towards the end of the first half, with the score showing 23-15, the Scorpions found their groove! Intense man-to-man defensive pressure and a couple adjustments on offense led to an exciting 18-0 run, spanning from late 2nd quarter into the early 3rd quarter, propelling Schechter to a 33-23 lead. It continued to be all Scorpions from there on out as they pulled away for a 58-37 win. You can find highlights of the Watkinson game [HERE](#).



The victory marked the third win in as many tries against middle school opponents. In their first two games of the season,

Schechter outscored opponents 102-29, using stifling defense to cause turnovers and excellent transition offense to lead to many baskets. Then, the



Scorpions received a real test, this one against an in-town high school opponent in HHNE. Despite being undersized, Schechter did not back down, leading the entire game until halfway through the fourth quarter thanks to team defense and hot three-point shooting. Winning 53-45 heading into the final quarter of play, fatigue and lack of height finally became a factor as HHNE pulled away for a 63-56 win. All in all, our Solomon Schechter Scorpions learned two valuable lessons from its date with HHNE: they can play with anyone and not to take anyone lightly.



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Gesher takes a Field Trip to Schechter!



Gesher students have been learning about the burning bush in their Chumash unit. They took a "field trip" to our very own flame on the mosaic floor outside the Beit Tefilah to see an artistic representation of it. There, students discussed the symbolism of the burning bush and noted that many Jewish organizations - including Schechter - use this as their symbol. In



EC RELISH



discussing the connection between the burning bush, Judaism and studying Torah, students made some interesting observations.

Anya, a fourth grader, said, "the burning bush is like the Torah because it never stopped burning and we never stop learning the Torah. Moses was drawn towards the bush and wanted to know more about it. We keep coming to the Torah because we want to learn more."

Fifth grader, **Jeremy**, had a different interpretation: "I think the burning bush symbolizes the power of God and what he can do. It shows us the small, yet important things that helped the people of Israel leave Egypt, and that this one thing has a lot of power."

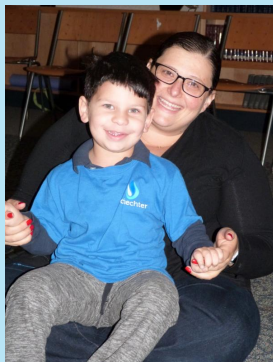


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MS students honor Julius Lester: exploring his beautiful legacy of finding the potential of the human soul.

Last week, the world lost a beautiful, soulful voice with the death of Julius Lester, a man who touched the hearts of countless third grade students at Schechter. On the surface, it would seem that Mr. Lester, an African-American and the son of a Methodist minister, would have little in common with our Schechter students, let alone have any influence. Yet, he had great impact on their understanding of text and appreciation of the the beauty of language.

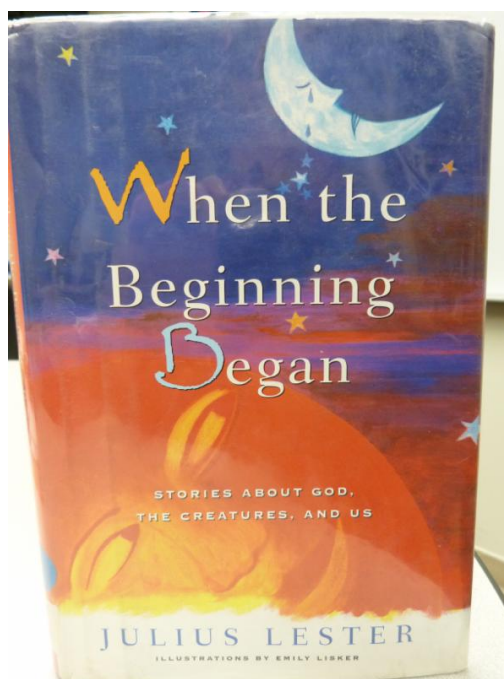
Mr. Lester lived an eclectic life. He was a folk singer, and with Pete Seeger, he wrote an instructional guitar book for budding folk singers. He was a renowned photographer whose sharp eye was later reflected his attention to detail and imagery in his writing, gifting us with phrases such as his description of angels "sitting on



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clouds like wishes on the razor blade of hope." Mr. Lester joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst as a member of the African American Studies and then Judaic and Near Eastern Studies departments.

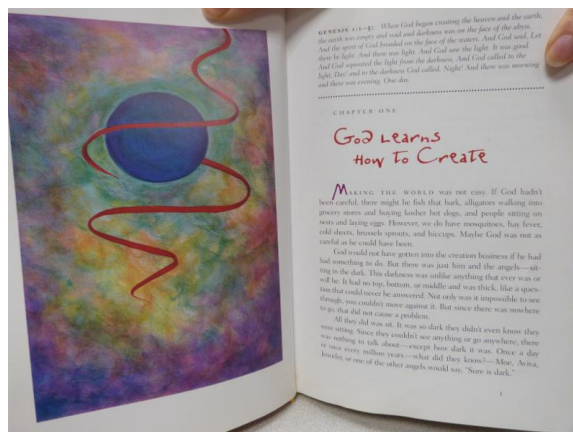
Discovering that one of his great-grandparents was Jewish, Mr. Lester undertook an exploration of what that meant and later converted to Judaism. As an adult, he was extremely outspoken on behalf of African-Americans, Jews and Israel, often finding himself under attack by various groups.



What does all of this have to do with eight year old students at Solomon Schechter? It all comes down to a delightful short book entitled "When the Beginning Began," a collection of traditional and modern-day midrashim based on the days of creation. For years, as each new class of third graders began their study of Breishit with the creation of the world, it was our treat to read Mr. Lester's commentary in story form as we compared the midrash to the actual text of the Torah.

Several years ago, one particular class was so taken by the writing that they asked if they could write to Mr. Lester. Each student wrote what s/he loved the most about the book, referencing specific sections and word choices, and several students included midrashim that they, themselves, wrote. A few weeks later, the class, taught by **Mrs. Nancy Rosen**, received a response from Mr. Lester in which he expressed how overwhelmed he was by their letters, how moved by their own midrashim and how grateful he was to our students for sharing their learning with him. It was an unbelievable day for both students and Mrs. Rosen!

This week, to honor Mr. Lester's memory, Mrs. Rosen read three short selections from this wondrous book to the Middle School students and asked them to choose a passage for personal reflection. The results were powerful, a meeting of the Mr. Lester's words and the souls



of our students.

"Maybe it means that we should talk to everyone as if it is God." 8th grader, **Michael**, commented, "I agree with this statement because if we were to do this, then we would choose our words more carefully, and we would respect everyone. If this happened, I think that the world would have more peace and not a lot of wars."

"Last will be the Individual Soul, that part of myself I give each person to care for." **Lilian**, a 7th grader, wrote, "I have learned from this quote that God cared so much that God took the time and effort to put a piece of God's self into each and every human. I feel happy that I have been specifically crafted to be me and that I can use the part of God that I have in my way."

Another passage from Lester, in which he writes in the voice of an angel reacting to the creation of humans: "I know. But they get the chance to finish what God began. Isn't that incredible?" 7th grader, **Harris**, reflected, "I liked this quote because God wants people to have a chance to finish what God began...I also think that God is trying to say that the world is never fully finished and every day, people can create and invent new things to change the world and make it a better place...God is being very unselfish which is good and very kind because God doesn't want the world to be His world. God want it to be everyone's world." 8th grader, **Jack**, summed it up so beautifully. "I think that we are doing a good job advancing. All we need to work on now is being kind to each other. We shouldn't drown ourselves in war, but in happiness."

Julius Lester would be proud to know that our Schechter students carry on his legacy of the firm belief in the potential of every human soul to strive for repair and completion of God's magnificent world.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Parents Night Out @ Muse Paintbar,
Monday March 19

Bar opens at 6:30 - Painting Starts at 7:00 PM Cost is
\$40/pp

Come out and paint with other Schechter parents.
We have the backroom reserved for us, but seating is
limited to the first 22 people.

So please register as soon as possible.

Use the following private link to register [HERE](#)

A Great Big THANK YOU to Rabbi Rosenbaum from Parparim



Middle Schoolers Interview the Interviewer!

On Tuesday, Rogow Middle School hosted **Mr. Ryan Caron King**, a journalist for Connecticut's National Public Radio affiliate, WNPR. As a follow-up to the students' previous studies on Puerto Rico, King discussed reports of how Puerto Rican families are coping in the wake of Hurricane Maria. King primarily did photography and video for NPR on his multiple trips to the island, and he shared with our students videos and radio broadcasts covering stories about how the families are tackling the challenges of both rebuilding the island and adjusting to life in Connecticut.

The students enjoyed meeting

an NPR reporter, seeing the "before" and "after" pictures from the island, and listening to the audio stories shared from people he'd interviewed. They especially loved asking him questions including:

- how are people coping?
- what is being done to help them?
- why have recovery efforts taken so long?
- why some people were still without electricity and clean water so many months later?



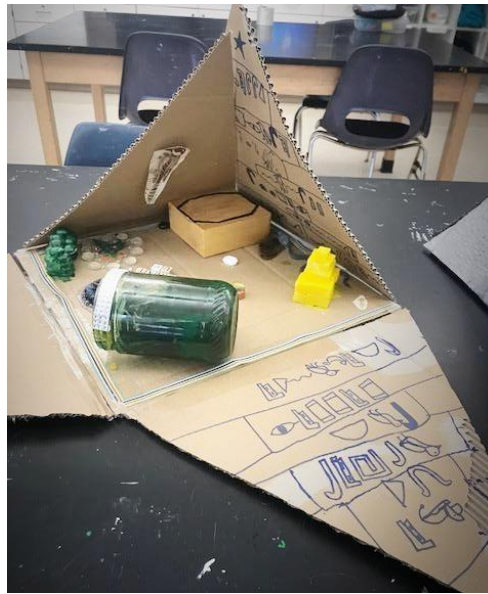
They didn't shy away from asking the difficult questions! **Ari** was impressed with King's persistence as a reporter, noting, "when he went to Puerto Rico right after the storm, his drone broke. But when he returned a few months later, he brought a new drone to photograph the destruction caused by the hurricane." Another student was surprised to learn that "recent photographs show the trees in Puerto Rico without leaves, which is normal during Connecticut winters, but that isn't supposed to be the case in a tropical climate!"



You can read more of his reports
[HERE](#)

6th Grade explores Ancient Egypt, and all its wonders!

The sixth grade humanities class recently completed its unit on



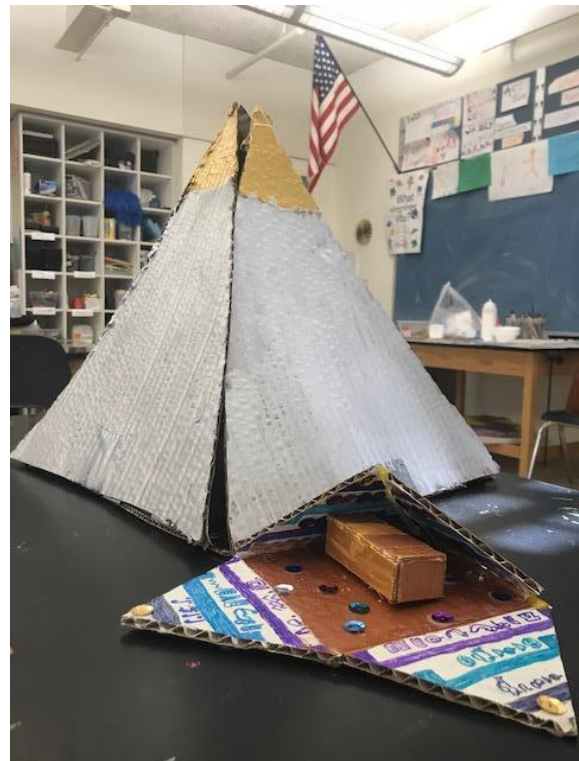
Ancient Egypt. The students explored how the Nile created the perfect conditions for the development of a great civilization.

Pauline noted, "I thought it was cool that the Nile flows upstream instead of downstream!"

The students each researched their own topic about Ancient

Egypt, wrote an informational essay, and then turned what they learned into a powerpoint presentation to share with the class.

The students researched the different animals of Ancient Egypt (including cats, crocodiles and snakes), the curse of King Tut, Egyptian jewelry, Egyptian gods and river transport. **Talia** stated, "Egypt is such an interesting subject. There is so much to learn about. You could spend your whole life studying Egypt."



Miriam felt that the best part was making pyramids in the art studio with **Ms. Van**. The students enjoyed having the opportunity to approach their studies from a cross-curricular perspective!

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Donate to the Makerspace!!

Do you have unused items around your house, basement, etc? The LowTech Makerspace would LOVE your **old newspapers, used paint, tools, wood**, or anything you can repurpose!

Please contact Ms.Van at rvanbindsbergen@ssds-hartford.org with any questions or to schedule a pick up!



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Purim is coming!!!

We have officially launched this years Purim basket (Mishloach Manot) fundraiser.

We hope all families will participate and send Purim greetings to their friends, teachers and Rabbis.

We are seeking volunteers to help pack Purim baskets on Sunday **Feb. 25** from **9-12** at school.

Any amount of time you can help is greatly appreciated. This is a great opportunity for middle school students to earn community service hours. We also need volunteers to deliver Purim baskets to community members on **Thursday March 1**.

Delivery routes can be done at your leisure and usually entails 12-15 deliveries.

Please contact Leah Berson at ohboyz@comcast.net if you are able to assist with packing and or delivering.



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Save the Date for Ner Tamid!

Save the Date for Ner Tamid!

Evening of Sunday, April 29, 2018
at Beth El Temple

This year's honorees are Eric and Jessica Zachs and
their children,

Ben and Paige, Jacob, and Zoë.

The Zachs family exemplifies Schechter's core values of
Chochma (Wisdom), *Klal Yisrael* (Community) and
Lev Tov (Good Heart). We hope you will join us to
celebrate Schechter and our honorees.



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Solomon Schechter Day School
of Greater Hartford

Proudly Presents

Talent Show

SAVE THE DATE

When: Sunday, February 4 at 3 pm
Where: Schechter Auditorium

For questions, contact Bella Medvedovski
shnayder@hotmail.com

Showcasing the talented students of Solomon Schechter

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Have you shopped at the Crown Lately?



Stop By the Crown Market TODAY!

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Shabbat Club

For
1st - 5th
Graders

מוֹעֵדוֹן שַׁבָּת

January 27 - Tu B'Shvat Seder

● **11AM-12PM, Rooms 12/13, Beth El** ●

All 1st - 5th graders are invited to participate in this great program that will include Shabbat prayers, a scavenger hunt, and a fun Tu B'Shvat Seder.

Questions? Contact Rabbi Garber at
igarber@bethelwh.org.

Beth El
Temple
Be★

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Do you have an athlete in your family?



Come learn about the new Jewish Sports
sleep-away camp in Fairfield, CT.

They are running 2 week sessions this summer!

Meet the director, Rabbi David Levy and learn about
this new summer camp opportunity for your athlete!

February 8, 2018 at 7pm

The Emanuel Synagogue

160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford CT, 06107



Sponsored by:
questions? Principal@emanuelsynagogue.org



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Open to the
public!

A MAGICAL PURIM CELEBRATION!

at Congregation Beth Israel



Sunday, February 25th at 9:30am

Featuring...

Carnival

Shpiel

Acrobatic Act

Megillah Reading

...and more!

701 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
www.cbict.org
860.233.8215

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OPEN TO ALL TEENS IN 8TH-12TH GRADE

KARAOKE & HAVDALLAH

WITH JACOB "SPIKE" KRAUS
Song Leader Extraordinaire

SATURDAY, FEB 24TH
6:30PM - 8:30PM
@ FVJC

55 BUSHY HILL ROAD, SIMSBURY

DINNER INCLUDED!
BRING A FRIEND!

RSVP TO
OFFICE@JTCONNECT.ORG



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Musician in Residence Weekend



SHABBAT WITH
SINGER SONGWRITER

*Jacob
"Spike"
Kraus*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY
23, 7:00PM

Oneg Following

6:00PM
WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION



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♦ AN EVENING OF FILM & MUSIC ♦

THE STIRRING STORY BEHIND THE HASSIDIC MELODIES
OF THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE.
TOLD THROUGH FILM AND A LIVE STRING QUARTET.



CHABAD HOUSE OF GREATER HARTFORD PRESENTS:
THE REBBE'S NIGGUNIM
Songs of the Inspired Soul

SATURDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 3, 2018 | 8PM | CHABAD HOUSE 2352 ALBANY AVENUE

TICKET \$20 | ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIRED

BUY TICKETS: p. 860.232.1116 e. Info@ChabadHartford.com w. ChabadHartford.com



SALAD BAR & HOT SOUPS
TO WARM YOUR WINTER
SPIRITS!



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JEWISH ACAPELLA WORKSHOP

FOR TEENS



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH
10:30AM-12:00PM
THE EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE

JOIN JTCONNECT FOR AN ACAPELLA
WORKSHOP WITH KASKESET, THE
CO-ED JEWISH ACAPELLA GROUP
FROM BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY!

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VOICES OF HOPE INVITES YOU TO A
DAIRY BRUNCH & THE 8TH ANNUAL



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018 | 12 - 2PM
THE EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE | WEST HARTFORD

BEN COOPER
2018 CHESED AWARD RECIPIENT



HONORING LOCAL HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



\$18 REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Free for Holocaust survivors, their families and for students.
For more information, to register or to learn about sponsorship
opportunities, visit us online at www.ctvoicesofhope.org,
call 860.470.5591 or email info@ctvoicesofhope.org

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Sunday, January 28 | 7 pm

Panera Bread, 2534 Albany Avenue, West Hartford

Are you part of an intermarried couple/family? How did you celebrate the December holidays? Did you do things differently this year than in the past? What went well? What didn't? Join others, share experiences and get new ideas!

RSVP: Elana MacGilpin, emacgilpin@mandelljcc.org, 860-231-6366



Zach's Campus | 335 Bloomfield Ave.
West Hartford, CT 06117
860-236-4571 | www.mandelljcc.org



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On Sunday, February 4, 2018,
celebrate the **World Wide Wrap**
at the Emanuel Synagogue
(160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford)
and join congregations from around the world
performing the Mitzvah of wrapping Tefillin.
At **9:00am**, receive interactive Tefillin wrapping
instructions.

At **10:00am**, experience a lively, musical, family-friendly,
shortened morning service

10:30-11:30am, enjoy brunch prepared by the Emanuel
Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Minyonaires, Religious
School and Ritual Committee.

This Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs program is free
and open to the community, family and friends. No

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YOUNG ISRAEL SPEAKERS SERIES 5778
presents
SHABBAT WITH PROFESSOR NECHAMA PRICE
Shabbat BeShalach • January 26-27, 2018



Both Director and alumna of the Program for Advanced Talmud Studies (GPATS) at Yeshiva University, **Professor Nechama Price** is preparing an elite cadre of female scholars of Talmud and Halacha to serve as leaders and role models for the Orthodox Jewish community.

Nechama Price serves on the Judaic Studies faculty in Stern College teaching courses in Tanach and Halacha. She graduated from Stern College, received her Masters in Jewish Education from the Azrieli Graduate School and a Masters in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School.

In addition, she serves as a Yoetzet Halacha (Adviser in Jewish Law) in Englewood, Tenafly, and Long Branch. She regularly gives shiurim throughout the greater NY area along with a weekly shiur in her hometown in Teaneck, NJ.

Also upcoming as part of 5778 Speakers Series...



Gavy Friedson

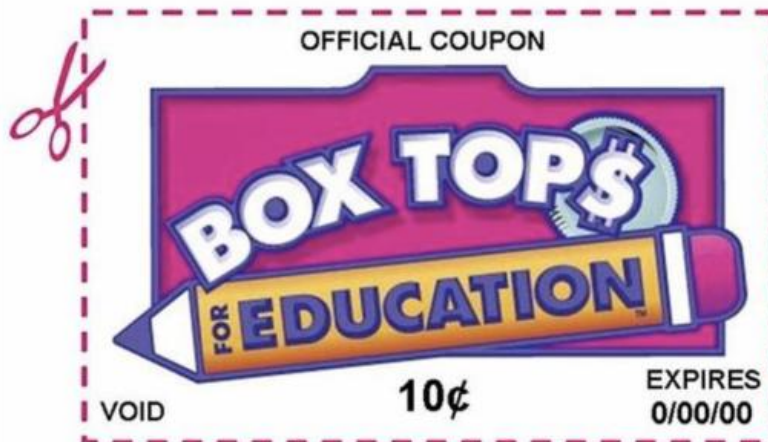
United Hatzalah International



Sponsorship opportunities are available, please contact
Rabbi Brander at rabbi@youngisraelwh.org for more information.



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Let's get clipping!

Box Tops for Education is **free money** for our school!
There are many brands that you may purchase that
have this coupon on them...

Pillsbury

Kleenex

Ziploc

Betty Crocker

General Mills

Hefty

Box Tops will be collected the **First Friday of each month!** Drop them off in any of the collection bins you see around the school. Be sure to visit www.btfe.com to sign up for additional offers, support Solomon Schechter and even download the easy to use app!

Thanks for your support!

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Audrey Sobel and Rhiannon Van Bindsbergen, Co-Editors
Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford