

In This Issue

[Exciting Zachs Family
Challenge for FOSS
donations!](#)

[A Message from Nancy](#)

[Save the Date for Ner Tamid!](#)

[Gesher's Special Birken
Tour](#)

[Latkes and RELISH](#)

[Harvesting Potatoes!](#)

[Schechter's Warmth
During the Holidays](#)

[Middle School Hanukkah
Jeopardy is a Winner!](#)

[Passing the Torch](#)

[Passing the Torch](#)

[Passing the Torch](#)

[Passing the Torch](#)

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

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

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

[Back to top](#)

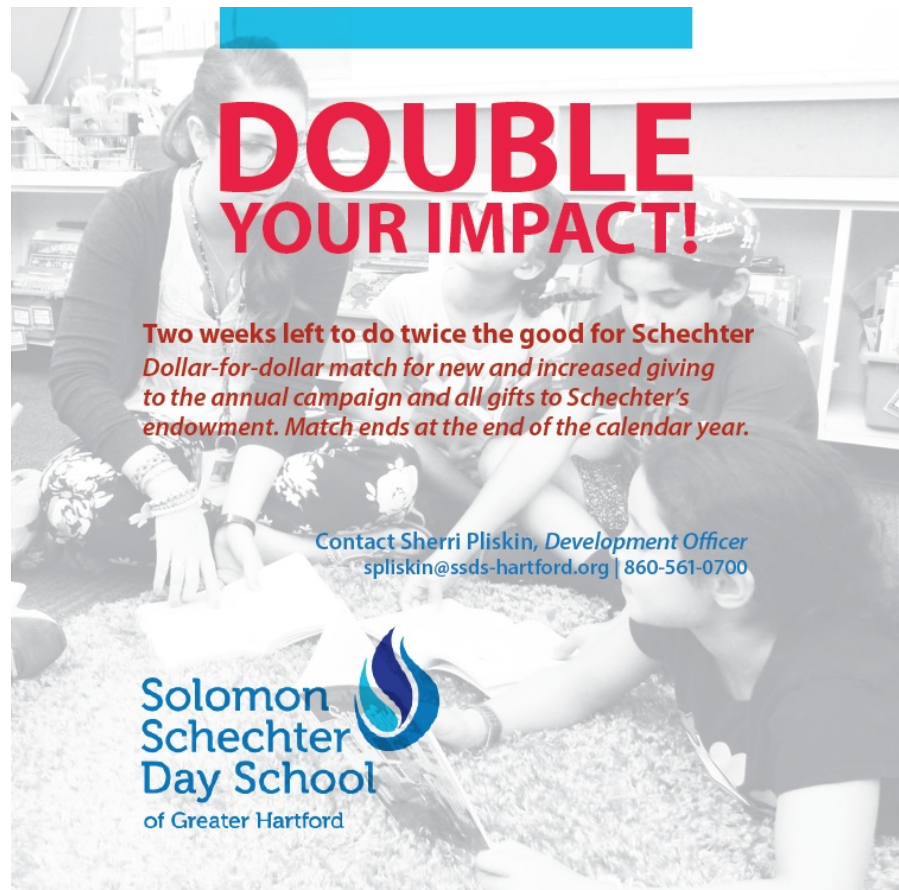
For Your Calendar:

**January 2
Classes Resume**

Shabbat Shalom
Parashat Vayigash
Candlelighting 4:06 pm

**December 22 , 2017
4 Tevet, 5778**

Exciting Zachs Family Challenge for FOSS donations!



**DOUBLE
YOUR IMPACT!**

Two weeks left to do twice the good for Schechter
*Dollar-for-dollar match for new and increased giving
to the annual campaign and all gifts to Schechter's
endowment. Match ends at the end of the calendar year.*

Contact Sherri Pliskin, Development Officer
spliskin@ssds-hartford.org | 860-561-0700

Solomon
Schechter
Day School
of Greater Hartford

[Donate Now!](#)

[Back to top](#)

January 12

EC RELISH

January 15

Martin Luther King
Day
School OPEN
Prospective Students
Day
MLK Celebration

January 17

Middle School
Restructuring Info
Meeting for Parents

January 18

Chumash
Presentation
Rimonim

January 19

End of Term 1

January 22

Lower School Report
Card Information
Meeting for Parents
7pm

January 25

Parparim Shema
Program

Tallit Family Program
for 6th grade families

January 31

MakerSpace Night for
Parents

[Back to top](#)

Quick Links

[Solomon Schechter
Website](#)

[Back to top](#)

6th Day

A Message from Nancy

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." These are the enduring, historic words heard by millions of people all over the world as astronaut Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon in July, 1969. These few words spoke volumes of the generic human yearning to conquer space and jump boldly into the future.



Except-that's not exactly what Armstrong uttered on that July day. With technology not quite what it is today, a word was lost in transmission.

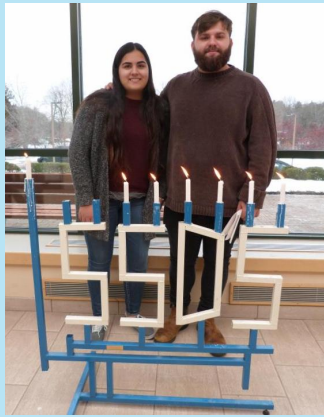
What he actually said was, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." That one small letter "a" changes the meaning completely, indicating that one person can effect a change that has unbounded repercussions. This week's parasha, "Vayigash" provides a powerful example.

This week's reading opens with the word, vayigash, meaning "he stepped forward." Just two weeks ago in Parashat Vayeshev, Judah convinced his brothers not to kill Joseph but rather to sell him into slavery. In that way, Joseph's blood would not be on their hands. "After all, he is our brother, our own flesh." Not a great sign of brotherly love. In the time that has passed, Judah has seen his father destroyed by the loss of Joseph, and now he is faced with returning home without Benjamin, the only remaining child of Jacob's beloved Rachel.

It is at this point that Judah has his "Neil Armstrong moment." Vayigash: Judah takes one step forward, taking responsibility for his younger brother, Benjamin, and for his father's peace of mind. In that one step forward, Judah creates an opening for Joseph to reveal his identity to his brothers and for the reunification and healing of this painfully broken family. Just as Armstrong's step broke through the limit of the "final frontier" of space, Judah's one step changed the course of our story, setting the stage for the enslavement of the descendants of Jacob, the freeing of the slaves, the receiving of Torah at Sinai and the creation of the nation of Israel in the Land of Israel.

We hear so much about the power of one these days, and I am so proud that our students understand at a very early age that they can harness that power when they take one step forward to help others. Making peanut butter sandwiches, donating non-perishable food items, sharing a toy with a friend, inviting a classmate to join a game: these actions all involve taking a step forward and inviting change.

**Candlelighting
with
Roni and Tomer**



[Back to top](#)

Mazel Tov to....

**Alex and Bella
Medvedovski**
on the Bar Mitzvah of
their son
Matthew
(7th Grade)

&

Gregory and Michelle

As we move into Shabbat Vayigash, what will be your "Neil Armstrong moment"-or better yet, what will be your "Judah moment"?

[Back to top](#)

Announcing our Honorees for Ner Tamid!

Save the Date for Ner Tamid!

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

**We are thrilled to announce that 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.**



[Back to top](#)

Follow Schechter on Twitter & Facebook!!!

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

on the Bar Mitzvah of
their son
William (7th Grade)

[Back to top](#)

Schechter Offers our Condolences to....

Gerald Gelles,
David and Robin
Gelles,
Schechter alumni
Alisha and Ronald
Cipriano, Stefanie and
David Ochs, and
Matthew (Schechter
2002) and Tracey
Gelles,
and
Olivia, Ella, and Jordan
Cipriano
on the passing of
beloved wife, mother,
grandmother, and
great-grandmother

Phyllis Gelles

[Back to top](#)

Join Our List

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



RELISH
12.15.17

-

Music Tech Coming Soon to Middle School!

Hello Schechter Community!

I am excited to share with you a project that I have been working on since my start this past July. Starting the second term, I will be teaching a hybrid music/technology course called "Music Tech Studio."



The newly re-imagined space includes 17 Digital Audio Workstations that will be used for teaching advanced recording and music production techniques to Schechter middle school students. Each student workstation is equipped with a full instance of "PreSonus" industry standard music production software, digital keyboards donated by **Frances and Herman Kroshinsky** and **Joann Temkin (z"l)**, and other music apps. The studio also features a Zoom mobile recording interface, as well as various instruments and equipment from donors **Chris and Samantha Brainard** of Shelton, CT.



The Music Tech Studio is a space where students can engage with one another via project-based learning. The classroom environment will be immersed in creativity and advanced technology,

and is aimed at fostering the growth and development of musicianship. Stay tuned for more info!

- Mr. Debicella



[Back to top](#)



Student Council Hot Chocolate Sales Provide New Balls!

Student council donated funds from the sale of cocoa to purchase new basketballs for the PE program. Students came up with the idea on their own and then consulted with Mr G on the specific needs for the school. "Let's do something for the school," proposed 8th grader Michael W. as the students were developing the idea.



[Back to top](#)

MORE great news from Schechter alumni!

Three Schechter alumni, Joey Kornman (2015), Dylan Landau (2014), and Jake Zweifler, competed on behalf of Hall High School in "As Schools Match Wits," a high school televised trivia competition.

Hall won the first round! They will advance to round two!

[Back to top](#)

MORE Latkes and RELISH !!



[Back to top](#)

Important Dates Coming Up!

You can always find important dates listed on our [website calendar](#), and also in the margins of our Mabat each week. We've got some dates that we don't want you to miss, so we are listing them here this week. Mark your calendars!

January 12

EC RELISH

January 15

Martin Luther King Day: School OPEN
Prospective Students Day and MLK Celebration
7pm MLK Program (See flyer below!)

January 17

7pm Middle School Restructuring Info Meeting for Parents

January 18

Chumash Presentation in Rimonim

January 19

End of Term 1

January 22

7pm Lower School Report Card Information Meeting for Parents

January 25



9am Parparim Shema Program
7pm Talit Family Program for 6th grade families

January 31

7pm MakerSpace Night for Parents

February 4

3pm Schechter Talent Show

February 14

Middle School Science Fair (Time TBD)

February 25

2:30-4:00pm Hamentashen and RELISH!

[Back to top](#)



World Dance with Ms. Kate and Judy Poltorak

World Dance is a wonderful new program that has been added to Schechter's array of after school activities. It combines geography, history, culture, and social studies with the fun of dance!

During the fall session, students learned about India, Hawaii and the Polynesian Islands, as well as many different Spanish-speaking countries. The students first learned how to locate the countries on a



map, and then learned a variety of dances from those places. The types of dances included Hawaiian and Tahitian, Cha-Cha and Salsa, and Hindi and Bhangra Dance. **Nava K.** said, "I liked learning the different Hawaiian moves, especially the one that looks like lava." The students practiced each style of dance for two weeks and then put them all together for a performance. This session, the dancers decided to perform in front of the *Rimonim* class and their parents.





[Back to top](#)



Milo explained, "I like world dance because you get to learn different dances from different countries and the dances are really fun!"

The next session, led again by Kate and Judy Poltorak, will be starting January 9th! This will be a 9 week session with 2 weeks for each style of dance and 3 weeks to prepare for the performance on March 16th at 2:00pm in the auditorium. The styles of dance that will be done in this session include African, Irish Step, and More Latin (Cumbia and Flamenco)! According to **Noah**, World Dance is "one of the best after school activities!"

Come join in on all the fun! **Iliana**'s message to other Schechter students: "If you like to dance, you will like World Dance!"



[Back to top](#)

Gesher's Inside View of Airplane Manufacturing

Gesher students took a field trip to Birken Manufacturing in Bloomfield to learn about parts that the company manufactures for airplane engines. The students were able to see first-hand the process of inception or blue prints through completion. Many thanks to **Gary Greenberg** for the invitation and **Eric Schneider** (EC4 Teacher Bonnie's husband) for their in-depth tour.

The insider tour was especially meaningful to the students after Mr. Greenberg visited them in Schechter's High-Tech MakerSpace at the culmination of their wind turbine projects.





[Back to top](#)

Latkes and RELISH!!!

Thank you to Jason Kay, Jamie Debicella, Chrissy Whalen, and Leah Berson for making our Community-wide Hanukkah Celebration a success! And thanks to all who came to celebrate with Schechter!!!





[Back to top](#)



Harvesting Potatoes!!











[Back to top](#)

Thoughtful Donations Made to South Park Inn

The Schechter community continues to live up to our core value of *Lev Tov* (Good Heart), this time providing for people in need! This week, the South Park Inn Homeless Shelter received a wonderful donation made by faculty and families including:

17 scarves lovingly hand-made by Nancy Rosen, June Renert, and Susan Kippur (grandmother of Rimonim's Asher),
6 fleece hats for children,
2 sets of hats and scarves,
an assortment of children's mittens and other store-bought scarves!

Thanks so much to everyone who helped participate! You have

brightened people's spirits and kept their bodies warm!



[Back to top](#)

Hanukkah Jeopardy for the Win!

Middle School students tested their knowledge of Hanukkah history, customs, and practices with a lively game of Jeopardy led by Hebrew teacher Shay Bachar. Post-game Sufganiyot a celebratory snack for everyone!



[Back to top](#)

News from the Kitchen

We are excited to introduce some new lunch offerings for the new year. Two new menu items will be offered :

Breakfast Buffet will make its debut in January and will include waffles, scrambled eggs, mini bagels with cream cheese and mini yogurt parfaits. Students will be able to try just one or all of these offerings, if they choose to.



In February, look out for our kosher version of Chick-fil-A, a chicken patty sandwich accompanied by condiments and gourmet side salads such as cole slaw and cucumber salad.

This past Monday, we offered raviolis for the first time in a few years; we would love to get feedback from the kids on how they liked it.

As always feel free to email us at kitchen@ssds-hartford.org with feedback, comments or suggestions for us. We are always in need of parent volunteers to help serve lunch. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out.

January and February menus have been posted on Renweb. Please remember to enter your orders over vacation.

Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year.
Leah Berson & Danielle Weiss

[Back to top](#)

A poster for a Talent Show. At the top left is the logo for Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford, featuring a blue flame icon. Below the logo, it says "Proudly Presents". In the center, a large blue star contains the text "Talent Show" in a large, bold, black font, followed by "SAVE THE DATE" in a smaller, bold, black font. Below this, it says "When: Sunday, February 4 at 3 pm" and "Where: Schechter Auditorium". At the bottom of the star, it says "For questions, contact Bella Medvedovski" and "shnayder@hotmail.com". Below the star, it says "Showcasing the talented students of Solomon Schechter". The background of the poster is white with several small black stars scattered around the central star.

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

Solomon Schechter Day School
of Greater Hartford



Baby and Me Music Time!

Time: Thursdays, 9:00-9:30AM

Begins 1.8.2018 / Ends 3.18.2018

All are welcome to register, bring your friends!

Ages 6 months-3 years

Cost: \$150

Program capacity: 12 pairs (adult and child together)

Facilitated by Chrissy Whalen, EC and LS general music teacher

Tummy tickles, toe wiggles, finger plays, and bouncing babies! Join Miss Chrissy Whalen, certified First Steps in Music teacher, in a musically nourishing class for you and your littlest musicians. Music begins to take shape in the brain from birth, and by learning songs, rhymes, and games to sing, speak, and play with your little ones from such an important age, you and your child can plant and cultivate the seeds of living a tuneful, beautiful, and artful life. Contact cwhalen@ssds-hartford.org with any questions. Register by emailing Karen Shakun at kshakun@ssds-hartford.org and sending in check made out to **Schechter** or pay online through our website, <http://www.ssds-hartford.org/giving/ways-give>, and write **Baby and Me Music Time!** in the description line.



**SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL AND
WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENT:**

Thinking Beyond Disabilities:

A Community Conversation about Intersectionality

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, a conversation on disabilities and race

An evening of thoughtful conversation about disabilities, access and the intersectionality of race. This panel conversation will highlight the perspectives of four Connecticut leaders who have dedicated their lives to advocating on behalf of people with disabilities and providing direct services to them and their families in the hopes of meeting their individual, familial and community needs. This conversation will emphasize how race and culture intersect and help us understand these complex realities.

Monday, January 15, 2018 from 7 -8:30 pm

Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford

26 Buena Vista Road, West Hartford, CT

This event is free and open to the public.

Reservations required. Please call **860-561-0700** or email rsvp@ssds-hartford.org.



Solomon Schechter Day School
of Greater Hartford



[Back to top](#)



YOU'RE INVITED!

Join Solomon Schechter Day School for Havdallah and Hockey featuring Jewish A Capella Group Six13!

All children will receive a special Havdallah gift!

Following Havdallah, we will attend the Hartford Wolfpack game at the XL Center

Cost:

5:30pm Havdallah with Six13 Hilton Hartford - Free!!

7:30pm Hockey game XL Center - Tickets \$10 each

For more information and to reserve your space today, please use this

link. <https://form.jotform.com/73314196353153>

Ticket orders and RSVP are due January 7

Due to space limitations, walk ins are not permitted.

Solomon Schechter Day School
of Greater Hartford



JANUARY 27, 2017

5:30PM • HILTON HOTEL, HARTFORD, CT



SPONSORED BY BBYO AND CAMP LAURELWOOD

[Back to top](#)

2ND ANNUAL

BIRTHDAY BASH!

MON. JAN 1, 2018
1:00-4:00 PM

Save the Date and Join the Party!
Celebrate our second year in the Valley and welcome in 2018 with a BIG Birthday Bash! Games, contests, bounce houses, face painting and, of course, birthday cake!

\$18 per family by Dec 26
\$20 per family after Dec 26
Call to Register – 860-693-2378



Valley Sports &
Community Center

310 Albany Turnpike, Canton
860-693-2378 www.manoel@ccvalley.org



[Back to top](#)

Beth David Men's Club Kickoff Event Breakfast Program



“How Much Should We Spend To Keep Our Drinking Water Clean And Safe”

January 7, 2018 9:15 a.m. immediately after morning minyan

Beth David Synagogue, 20 Dover Road, West Hartford

Join us at 9:15 for a hot breakfast with bagels; \$5 donation per person for the breakfast.

Open to the community.

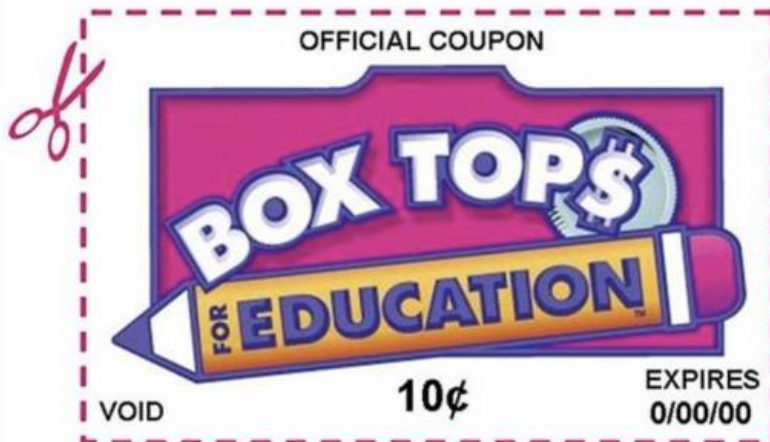
Our guest speaker:

David Silverstone, on November 9th, named the first Independent Consumer Advocate for the Metropolitan District Commission, the agency charged with providing water and sewer service in greater Hartford. He was Connecticut's first consumer counsel in the early 1970's, went on to a career in public utility law in the 80s and 90s, including a stint as the consumer advocate and then CEO for the Regional Water Authority in New Haven.

His civic engagement has included numerous Boards including President of the Bess and Paul Sigal Hebrew Academy.

Please RSVP by Thursday, January 4 if you are coming for breakfast so we can prepare properly: jobilmes@sbcglobal.net or jerry.benjamin@comcast.net or 860-805-5261.

[Back to top](#)



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!

[Back to top](#)

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