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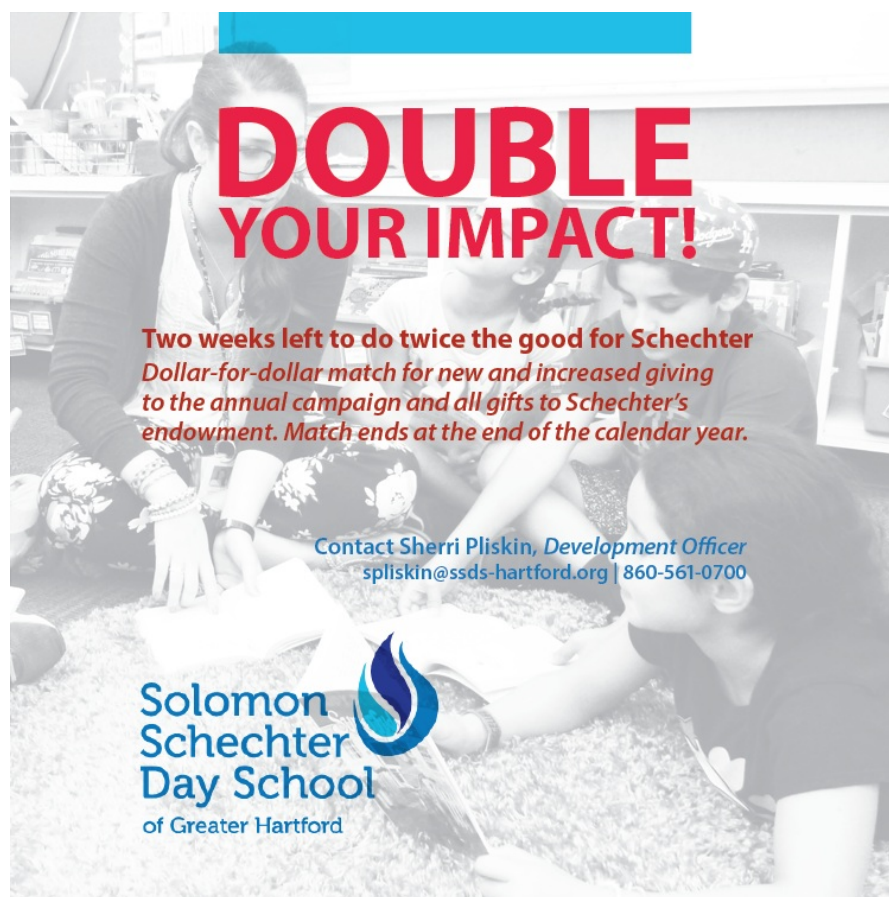
**Schechter School
Office Hours
(Winter):**

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

Shabbat Shalom
Parashat Mikeitz
Candlelighting 4:03 pm

December 15 , 2017
27 Kislev, 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!](#)

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Friday
8am-2:30pm

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For Your Calendar:

December 25
Winter Break
School CLOSED

January 2
Classes resume

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Quick Links

[Solomon Schechter
Website](#)

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Condolences to...

Adam and Alice
Leshem
and their children,
Schechter alumni
Jerry and Elaine,
Ed and Jannine,
Steve and Moira,
and their
grandchildren,
Schechter alumni
Jake, Ariel, Josh, A.J.,
Ethan, Ava,
Talía (6th grade),
Anya (4th grade),
Orla (2nd grade),
Elsa, and Iris,
on the loss of their
beloved
brother, brother-in-
law, uncle, and
great-uncle
Zelig Leshem

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Join Our List

A Message from Andrea

Reflecting on Our New Model: A Time to Check-In

Last year in January, we announced to our families that we would be embarking on a new educational model at Schechter. We would be moving our lower school into a progressive multi-age model with several goals in mind. We were committed to creating a learning environment that kept the students at the center by acknowledging that students develop in different ways and at different paces, with the firm belief that we can better serve our students by creating a structure that allows the faculty to work differently with them.



Our primary goals were to:

1. Instruct each child according to his/her cognitive needs
2. Provide a larger social environment and outlet for our students
3. Increase Hebrew language exposure throughout the day
4. Integrate learning across the disciplines
5. Allow students to move flexibly into the right groupings for social, emotional and cognitive development
6. Foster independent learning in our students

When we spoke about this transformation and laid out the plan for our own professional development and learning, we knew that the transformation would take time. We knew that we would learn, implement, tweak, learn, implement, and tweak some more; this is the way we would hope to continue in perpetuity. With each new learning, a new and better tweak would help us achieve our goals.

Almost four months into the new model, much has been tried, much has been tweaked, and much learning remains. We continuously work on each classroom schedule to achieve the instruction we desire; we continue to work on and discuss multiple ways in which student needs can and should be met; the faculty is practicing and working together as stronger teams. We have often had the conversation about how much has changed since September and how in each year it will become a stronger and stronger model.

One piece that has changed dramatically and far faster than anything we would have predicted is student independence. Almost immediately, our lower school students moved from

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!



MORE in the ArtStudio



dependent to independent learners. When people come and walk through our school it is one of the first things they notice. When you walk into a classroom it becomes immediately clear that each student, whether on his or her own or in a group, is engaged and working independently. After receiving direct instruction in a given area, the students work on a variety of learning tasks which they complete with confidence. It's a phenomenal transformation.

It is no small task to change an educational model; it takes hard work, deep reflection, and patience for learning. Our faculty is engaged and committed to this process and we thank you for your trust as we continue on this journey.

Shabbat Shalom and Happy Hanukkah,
Andrea

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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 Zoe.

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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Hanukkah Celebrations with Papparim and Gesher!



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Celebrating Chanukah with Rimonim and Parparim!



Spinning Dreidels, Lighting candles, and Making Latkes!

During the past few weeks, the students in *Rimonim* have been learning about *Hanukkah*, studying and discussing the holiday in depth. Part of their discussion has been about the meaning of NES -miracle- the wonder of Jewish survival. The students practiced reciting the blessings for the candles, singing *Moaz Tzur*, and other customs of the holiday.

On Thursday, students in *Rimonim* and *Parparim* joined together in



the school cafeteria for a *Hanukkah* celebration. Coordinated by Judaic Studies teacher Ziva Kovner, students gathered together in the cafeteria to demonstrate their knowledge of the holiday through fun *Hanukkah* activities.

The program began with the lighting of the *Hanukkah* candles, followed by singing and dancing. Then they split into multiage groups and moved through four stations: grating and preparing *latkes*, creating an art project with candles, making their own *sevivon* (dreidle) followed by playing the *sevivon* game.

Drew exclaimed, "I love my *sevivon*!" while Alex said, "Yummy *Latkes*!"





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From the Schechter 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 will be posted on Renweb next week.

Please remember to enter your orders over vacation.

Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year.

Leah Berson & Danielle Weiss

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Announcing School Spirit Week!

Next week is Spirit Week, sponsored by the Middle School Student Council. Show your Schechter spirit and your school pride by joining in the fun! Spirit Week is for the whole school.

Mismatch Monday: Wear clothes that don't match

Team Shirt/Schechter Shirt

Tuesday: Wear a shirt from your favorite team or from "Team Schechter"

Wacky Wednesday: Wear something wacky

Pajama Day Thursday: Wear your pajamas to school

Fuzzy Friday: Wear something (or many things) fuzzy



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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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Faculty Spotlight

Colleen Simon

Rogow Middle School Humanities Teacher

Q: What have been your top three highlights at Schechter so far?

The fall holidays, students and faculty have access to technology, the ability to really work with students one-on-one.

Q: It's your first year at Schechter. What are you excited about for the students?

Finding all of the connections between history and ELA

Q: What quality do you most want students to develop?

That they can absolutely make a positive difference in the world.



Q: What's the best thing about your job?

That I am valued as a person.

Q: How long have you lived in Connecticut - where did you come from?

I have lived in and out of Connecticut most of my life. I was born in Baltimore, MD and moved here when I was 8. I did leave to study in France and then I left again to work in the Gambia and Malawi. But I always seem to come back :)

Q: What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

Raspberry Chocolate Truffle (this is a recent discovery)

Q: What's your favorite quote?

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: Indeed it's the only thing that ever has...Margaret Mead

Q: What's your favorite song?

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow" as sung by Eva Cassidy

Q: What word comes to mind when you think of Schechter?

Family

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The Gesher students in the ArtStudio Afternoon Program have been working diligently for 14 weeks, creating murals for the walls of a study space in the Middle School.

During the past two weeks, our artists have learned to be masters of their work; they also learned how to use an apprentice to assist in their vision. Rimmonim students who also attend ArtStudio (on Thursdays), were invited to assist on the murals alongside the artists who had the vision and direction for the mural.



Anya's wall is inspired by the rainforest. She wanted the viewer to feel like they are deep in the tropics, surrounded by the lush green vines and giant leaves. She included vines, tropical plants and animals set against a black background to keep the feeling of a dark, warm night in the jungle.

Zelia's vision features bold and varied color!

She used a sponge technique to create layers of colors to cover her wall. She wanted the viewer to feel happy and inspired! She is finishing the wall mural with a positive and inspirational "Never Give Up" in the center, intended to inspire all who are working in the study space.





Charlie and Andrew were inspired by geometric shapes, abstract art and sports! The pair decided to fill their wall with abstract forms and geometric designs. To add a little more of their own personality and inspiration, they incorporated the numbers and logos of their favorite players and sports teams. The pair worked as an amazing collaborative duo, and had so much fun working out how this mural would come together.

The murals are still in-progress, and the students are excited to continue to have classmates help bring these murals to life!

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6th Grade Girls Rock the Makerspace!

The MakerSpace was bustling last Friday with excitement! A television, which was desperately in need of repairs, had been donated to the school. Since the broken TV also arrived without cords or controllers, the sixth grade girls saw this as an opportunity to test their problem-solving skills. They quickly ascertained that the screen would not stay turned on and there was a buzzing noise emanating from the set. After researching the model of the TV online to find a PDF instruction manual, they rummaged through our collection of random cords and adaptors to figure out how to fix it. Eventually, the girls plugged it into one of their Chromebooks and used a video converter cable...and success!



Because many of our middle school students are intrigued by the challenge of repairing and modifying broken machinery, we are putting out a request for donations of toys and tech that are in need of repairs or new life. Our MakerSpace students will build upon their STEAM foundations as they repair and modify those donated items. Are you upgrading a TV or printer or other technology for Hanukkah? Consider donating your gently used items to the Schechter Hi-Tech MakerSpace. Our students will lead and light the way to help repair whatever is broken.

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EC3 Explore Hanukkah and Science!

The EC3 children have been learning about the "Hanukkah miracle" of oil burning for 8 days.

To make a connection between science and the celebration of Hanukkah, our budding scientists conducted an experiment using cooking oil and water.



Using an eye dropper, the children attempted to mix the oil and water. The predictions and observations about the experiment were amazing!

Benjamin noticed, "Look! there are bubbles and the oil is separating!"

"This is fascinating," said Cameron.



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Schechter Alumni Continue the Legacy of Achieving Great Honors!

Honor Roll Fall 2017

Hall High School Maximum Honors

Jason Buckman
Sossi Bykoff
Rebecca Gold
Dylan Landau
Matthew Patchen
Hannah Pliskin
Madeline Pliskin
Noah Silverman
Harley Neiditz
Scott Ritter
Ahna Bielik
Zachary Goldberg

Samara Gordon-Wexler

Joseph Kornman

Claire Peikes

Izabella Raviv

Olivia Rotter

Jake Zweifler

Joshua Chachques

Jonah Gershon

June Laub

Ruth Nawy

Zachary Sobel-Pressman

Victoria Boustani

Jamie Cowan

Sari Eisen

Yonah Goldberg

Aaron Rotter

Hall High School General Honors

Eden Raviv

Liora Silverman

Aidan Kaminer

Conard High School General Honors

Russell van der Hulst

University High School of Science and Engineering: High Honors

Noah Ehrlich

Eitan Ehrlich

Watkinson School High Honors

Maxx Smith-Rapaport

Ellington High School

Aron Mondschein

This past year, Aron was also invited to be on the Leadership Committee for the Football program.

deToledo High School, California

Maia Chameides: Honor roll (last spring) and National Honor Society

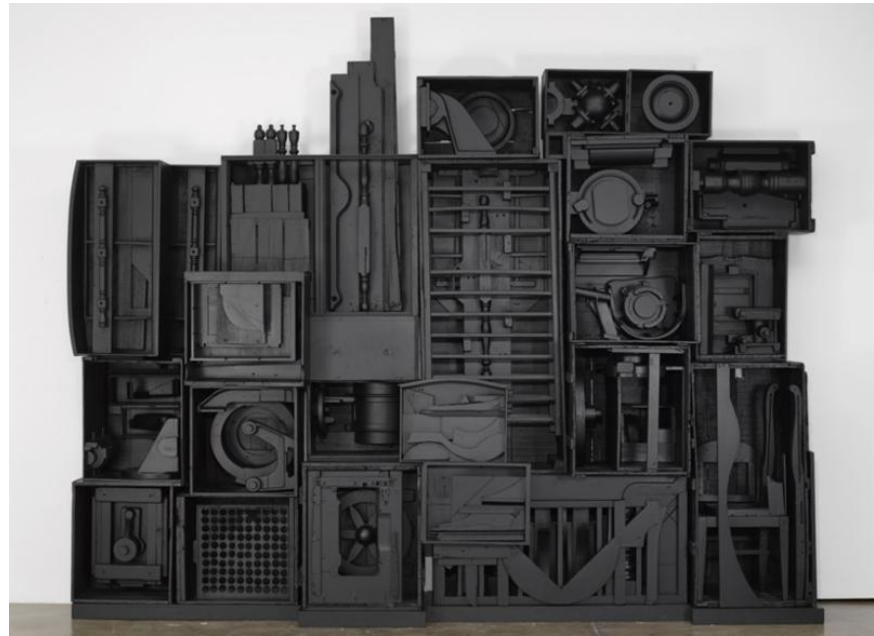
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Makerspace would LOVE your extra stuff!

Students in Low Tech Makerspace would LOVE your help collecting miscellaneous items for their Louise Nevelson-inspired Assemblages! Students are working on building meaningful Three-Dimensional mixed media collages that repurpose old

unused objects into new and meaningful artwork!

Ask your students what they need, what will inspire them. Please take a look around your house for items that can be donated and re-purposed into ART!



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LATKES AND RELISH!

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

Free and open to the public.



Bring your family and friends for
Singing, Storytelling, and Delicious Latkes

Sunday, December 17, 2017. 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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of Greater Hartford



Proudly Presents

Talent Show

SAVE THE DATE

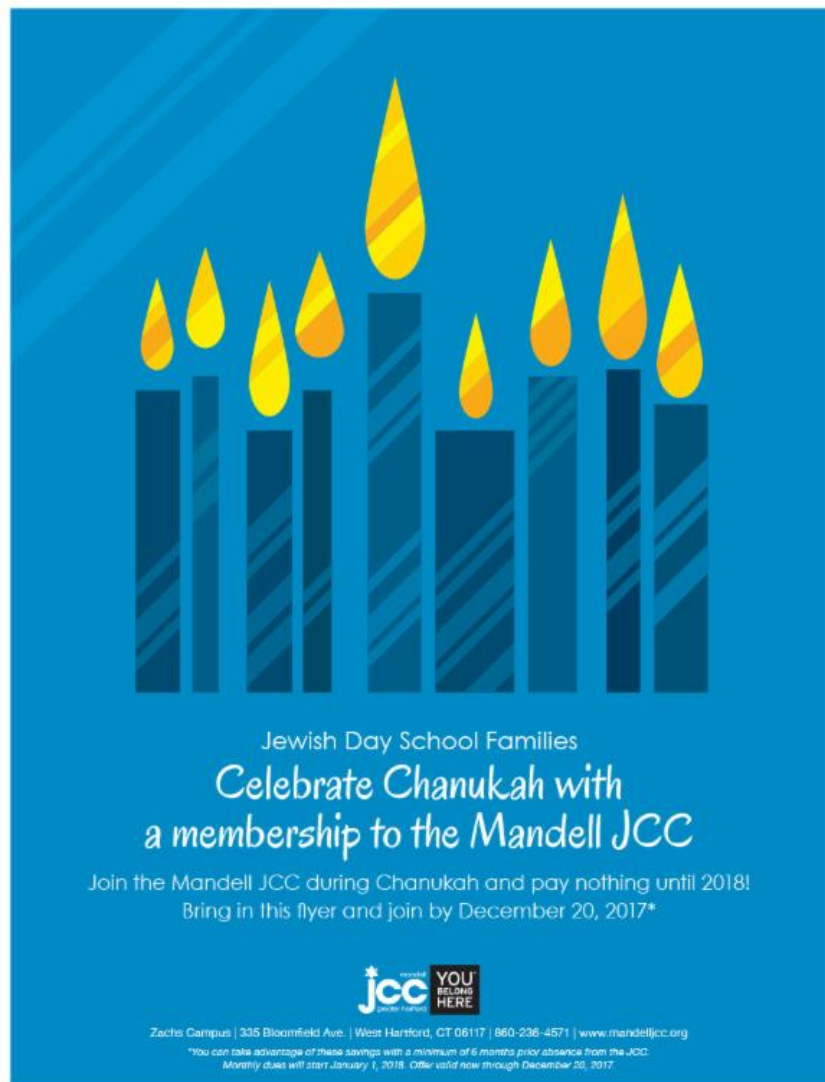
When: Sunday, February 4 at 3 pm

Where: Schechter Auditorium

For questions, contact Bella Medvedovski
shnayder@hotmail.com

Showcasing the talented students of Solomon Schechter

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Families who join now thru Dec 20th (Last day of Chanukah) will not pay a join fee (\$150) or December dues. They will begin paying for membership as of Jan 1, 2018. So if your family joins the savings will be about \$225.00!

This promo will end on Dec 21st, join and get the awesome deal while you can!

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Family Shabbat Service + Chanukah Dinner December 15, 6pm

Join Beth El Temple for a special family service just for Chanukah!
Latkes, dreidels, and more!



Cost: \$12/adult, \$8/child (ages 3-12)

Reservations and payment online or to the Beth El office no later than 12/13 @ 12pm.

2626 Albany Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117 • 860-233-9696 • www.bethelwesthartford.org

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A poster for a Menorah Mystery Chanukah Party. The top half features a black and yellow striped pattern. The text is white and yellow. The event is on Saturday Night, December 16 at 7:30 PM at Young Israel of West Hartford. The cost is \$5/person. RSVP to Juanita Moss at JUANITA.MOSS@GMAIL.COM. Visit WWW.YOUNGISRAELWH.ORG. The logo for West Hartford Young Israel is in the bottom right corner.

Your urgent assistance is requested at our

MENORAH MYSTERY CHANUKAH PARTY

Saturday Night, December 16 at 7:30 PM
Young Israel of West Hartford
Food, Friends & lots of Fun • \$5/person

**RSVP TO JUANITA MOSS AT
JUANITA.MOSS@GMAIL.COM
VISIT WWW.YOUNGISRAELWH.ORG**

The logo for West Hartford Young Israel, featuring the text "WEST HARTFORD YI CT" in a stylized font, with "YOUNG ISRAEL WEST HARTFORD" in smaller text below it.

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Mini Minyan Chanukah Celebration

Open to the community
For families with children ages 0-5
Sponsored by Farmington Valley
Jewish Congregation, Emek Shalom
www.FVJC.org



Saturday, Dec 16

9:00 - 10:00am

at the Farmington Community
and Senior Center

321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville



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JTCCONNECT, USY & JR. USY PRESENT

HANUKKAH ON ICE!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH: 3:30PM - 7:00PM

**JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FROM THROUGHOUT
THE COMMUNITY FOR A HANUKKAH
CELEBRATION!**

**ICE SKATING... NEON PARTY... DINNER...
AND A LOT OF LATKES!**

Open to ALL teens in 8th-12th grade! Cost - \$35 includes ice skating, transportation, neon party and dinner.

Drop off at Veterans Memorial Ice Rink at 3:30pm!
Pickup at Beth El Temple at 7:00pm
"Roundtrip Transportation from FVJC in Simsbury!"

RSVP AT TINYURL.COM/HANUKKAHONICE

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ב"ה

CHANUKAH AT BLUE BACK



CHANUKAH ESSAY CONTEST*
Win a Samsung Galaxy Tablet, FitBit or Drone!
*See back

Fire on Ice

Great Chocolate Chanukah Gelt Drop

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2017 – 4 PM
JOIN CONNECTICUT'S 10TH ANNUAL LARGEST CHANUKAH CELEBRATION
Live Carving of 8ft ICE Menorah

- 3-D Dreidel Printing
- Chanukah Nails Manicure
- Glow-in-the-Dark Face-Painting
- Free Raffle
- Arts and Crafts
- Doughnuts
- Food for Sale
- Heated Tent
- Great Chocolate Chanukah Gelt Drop
- Menorah Lighting Ceremony

Concert by
ROGERS PARK
America's Only Hassidic Folk Band



ROGERS PARK

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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.

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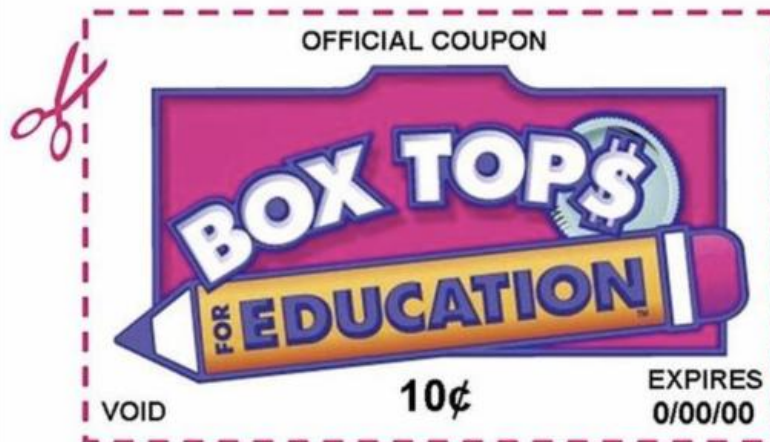
JANUARY 27, 2017

5:30PM • HILTON HOTEL, HARTFORD, CT



SPONSORED BY BBYO AND CAMP LAURELWOOD

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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