

In This Issue

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

[FOSS kickoff is Tomorrow!](#)

[A Message from Andrea](#)

[A Message from Nancy](#)

[6th Grade at TEVA -sneak
peak](#)

[EC and Parparim learn
Fire Safety from West
Hartford Fire Dept!](#)

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

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

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

[Back to top](#)

For Your Calendar:

**November 18
FOSS Party**

**November 21
Parparim to
Planetarium
Gesher to State
Capitol**

Shabbat Shalom
Parashat Toldot
Candlelighting 4:11 pm

**November 17, 2017
28 Cheshvan, 5778**

Exciting Zachs Family Challenge for FOSS donations!



**DOUBLE
YOUR IMPACT!**

**Announcing the Zachs Family Foundation
Matching Challenge:**
*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](#)

November 22
Noon Dismissal

November 23
Thanksgiving
SCHOOL CLOSED

November 27
Professional
Development
No Classes

December 6
PA Book Fair

[Back to top](#)

Quick Links

[Solomon Schechter
Website](#)

[Back to top](#)

Quick Links

[Solomon Schechter
Website](#)

[Back to top](#)

Quick Links

[Solomon Schechter
Website](#)

[Back to top](#)

RELISH 11.10.17
Fridays ROCK at
RELISH!!!!



Friends of Solomon Schechter

TOMORROW is
our FOSS Kickoff!

Saturday, November 18, 2017
8pm

Location:

Solomon Schechter Day School
26 Buena Vista Road
West Hartford, CT 06119

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP!

[Back to top](#)



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



[Back to top](#)

A Message from Andrea

The Paper in My Pocket Belonging and Community Part 2

There is a Jewish teaching, that according to Rabbi Bunim of P'shiskha, everyone should have two pockets, each containing a slip of paper. On one should be written: I am but dust and ashes, and on the other: The world was created for me. From time to time we must reach into one pocket, or the other. The secret of living comes from knowing when to reach into each.



I have always been deeply uncomfortable with the idea stated on one of those pieces of paper, the one that reads, "The world was created for me." I am hard pressed to imagine a time when anyone of us should heed those words and am furthermore distressed at the ripple effect those words have on people



[Back to top](#)

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!



surrounding the person drawing upon them. I can't imagine that kindness and forgiveness can result from the idea that the world was created for me.

My favorite interpretation of the *Akedah*, the story of the binding of Isaac, is that Avraham was being tested by God and that he failed the test. Learning this interpretation came as a great relief. I had a similar reaction when I was opened to the reading of the Torah, as explained by Abraham Joshua Heschel, that the Torah is God's book about man and that all of the characters are examples of the fundamentally flawed human being. Clearly the interpretation that Avraham failed draws on this understanding of the Torah. I wonder what might happen if we, as a community and as individuals, were to fully internalize the idea of flawed and fallible people. Would we be kinder, more compassionate, inclusive and authentically more forgiving? I believe so. As a Jewish community we accept our patriarchs and matriarchs, sometimes because we aren't asked to be critical of their actions at all, sometimes because we reframe their actions and rationalize them, and sometimes because we decide to better acknowledge their moments of kindness. I suggest that we add another reason, that we see them fully and forgive them, and that we begin to use the language of forgiveness when we encounter their fallibility.

Kindness and forgiveness, we need to speak about these more, all the time as a matter of fact. Imagine the immeasurable good that would come of that. If our language and study and interactions were framed by acknowledging that we are all fundamentally flawed, that we all need to do better at forgiving those flaws, our own and of others, that we all grow and change and still fall short, we might make and be the change we want to see in the world.

Last week I asked: What might you commit to with the goal of creating a sense of belonging?

This week I offer a suggestion and my commitment: to engage in the process of internalizing fallibility, growth, failure and forgiveness. I choose two new pieces of paper for my pocket on which I draw when I feel anger, disappointment and judgment creep in: I am a flawed human being, be kind; and I forgive.

Shabbat Shalom,
Andrea

[Back to top](#)

Middle Schoolers Reflect in Chevrotah

In tefillot this week, the students in grades 7 and 8 reflected on the line "In Your goodness, day after day You renew Creation" from the daily Shacharit service.

After discussing in chevrotah what this line says about God and the world, the students shared insights such as "Every day, the world is different than it was the day before. Nothing stays the same."



Returning to their chevrotah partners, they then pursued what this line means for humanity.

After sharing these ideas with the whole group, the students took time to quietly reflect on them, as individuals, connected to this line and then created individual bumper stickers that advertised their personal messages. The results were incredibly thoughtful and inspiring.



Lilian, a 7th grader, drew several trees and then wrote across the paper, "Every day we grow," explaining that "every day God changes things. We have the ability to improve on yesterday or on ourselves since yesterday."



Harris, also a 7th grader, wrote the word, "Imagination," stating "God makes new things every day. We can imagine what we can do that's new each day."

8th grader, Harry's bumper sticker read, "Don't take life for granted. Take advantage." As Harry further explained, "Don't take everything in life for granted. There are people who are less fortunate so take advantage of what you have."

What inspiring, powerful messages to take to heart!



[Back to top](#)

Follow Schechter on Twitter & on Facebook!!!

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

[Back to top](#)

6th Grade is having an awesome time at TEVA!

Check out next week's MABAT for all the details about the 6th grade's awesome adventures at TEVA!!!



[Back to top](#)

EC and Parparim learn Fire Safety from West Hartford Fire Dept!

On Monday, the West Hartford Fire Fighters visited Schechter's Early Childhood and Parparim classes. You could feel the excitement in the crisp autumn air as the big red fire truck pulled up and parked outside of the school.

The fire fighters talked to the children about the importance of fire safety at home and at school.



The highlight of the presentation was when Fire Fighter Kristin dressed up in her protective clothing and demonstrated how her oxygen tank works and keeps her safe in a smokey environment.

"I liked seeing the hose," said Jonah in EC3.

"I guessed that the oxygen tank was a jet pack!" exclaimed Eli in EC4.



Thanks to the West Hartford Fire Department for a wonderful and informative morning!

[Back to top](#)

Kristallnacht- 7th and 8th grade students learn of the night that should not be forgotten

Rogow Middle School Humanities educator, Colleen Simon, shared the history and events of Kristallnacht with the 7th and 8th Grade. The students read primary and secondary documents about Kristallnacht, took notes, and then from their notes wrote an information piece.

The following is the submission of 8th grade student, Harry.

Kristallnacht

The night of November 9, 1938 through the early hours of the 10th is a time that will never be forgotten. Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, struck terror into the Jews of Germany. It was a horrific night; Jews were killed, arrested and sent to concentration camps, their property stolen and destroyed, and their synagogues burned.

To better understand the events of Kristallnacht, it will be helpful to understand the events leading up to this terrible night. On October 28, 1938, 17,000 Polish Jews were sent across the border of Germany and into Poland. Poland didn't accept them, so they were forced into a "no man's land." Included in the 17,000 Jews sent were the parents of a man named Herschel Grynszpan. On November 7, 1938, Herschel Grynszpan shot German diplomat, Ernst von Roth in response to his parents being sent out of Germany and into a "no man's land." The Nazis used this event to claim a Jewish conspiracy against Germany. On November 9, 1938, Joseph Goebbels, German propaganda minister, delivered an anti-semitic speech. Following the speech, Nazi Officials ordered the attack on the Jews, their homes, businesses, and synagogues. On Kristallnacht, no Jew was safe. It did not matter what someone did or had done for Germany, they were still targeted. As noted in a letter from Margarete Drexler to the Gestapo, money was taken from the wife of a highly decorated German staff surgeon. In the letter, it explained that the money was needed for her and her child. Due to Margarete's husband's service to Germany, she was left without an income, so she requested that the money be given back. Later, Margarete Drexler was deported and died in a concentration camp. The Germans did not see the Jews as full German citizens, only as Jews, no matter what they had done to serve Germany.

Meanwhile, the police did nothing to help the Jews. They were only

there to make sure that the property of non-Jews was safe. In a telegram from Munich to the State Police, the State Police were ordered by Reinhard Heydrich, a high ranking German Nazi official, to allow the demonstrations to happen, but to make sure that Jewish property was not looted and that non-Jewish property was kept completely protected. Synagogues were only to be burned if the fire would not affect other non-Jewish property. The police were instructed to arrest healthy male Jews and have them sent to prisons and concentration camps. They were told not to treat the Jews badly that were detained in accordance with the instructions.

However, this is not exactly what happened. In a description of riots in Dinslaken, it describes that only males under sixty were taken. And the Jews that were taken were beaten and humiliated before being sent to the concentration camps. It explained that the Jews were sent out of their homes and forced to watch as their property was systematically destroyed. When the Jews tried to get help from the police, they found out that the police were not on their side.

Kristallnacht was a terrible night in history, especially Jewish History. The country that Jews were part of, the country they had served, turned on them. It did not matter who they were, they were targeted. The police did not help, they just stood by to make sure non-Jews were safe. Although it was not supposed to happen, Jews were beaten and humiliated before being sent to concentration camps. After all of the destruction, the Nazis fined the Jews 1 billion Reichsmarks, the equivalent of \$400 million in 1938 dollars which would be \$6.7 billion today; the Jews were also ordered to clean up and make repairs. After this night, the Jews were systematically excluded from all public life in Germany.

The following is the submission of 7th Grade students, Matthew.

Night of the Broken Glass

The sun is setting for the day, and with it, the day of November 9th, 1938. Jews all across Germany, have no idea what is about to happen. Tonight will be known all across the world, as the Night of the Broken Glass. As the stormtroopers prepare, the police get into position. Then it all begins.

Stormtroopers burst into houses, apartments, and any other place where a Jew is taking refuge. They show no mercy, as they begin shattering all the windows, knocking down doors, and destroying everything in their path. Jews are herded from their houses onto the streets, where they are arrested for the crime of being Jewish. The destruction continues until the sun rises on November 10, 1938. By that time, hundreds of Jews are killed and even more are injured. Synagogues have been set on fire while firefighters desperately try to protect the non-Jewish homes.

Once Jews are out on the streets, young fit men are separated, and

sent onto trains to go to concentration camps, but not before getting beaten. Women were arrested, and sent to local jails, but no Jews were allowed to be set free.

Now that we know what happened during the Night of Broken Glass, let's find out why it happened. Let's time travel back in time, to November 7 1938. After 17,000 Polish Jews were kicked out of Germany, Poland refused to let them in, so the Jews were stuck in no man's land between Germany, and Poland. When a seventeen year old boy, who was currently living with his uncle in Paris, found out what was happening, he was furious, because two of those 17,000 Jews, were his parents. So he did what any kid in this situation might do. He went to the German Embassy in Paris to kill the ambassador, but sadly for him, the ambassador wasn't currently in the embassy, so he shot Ernst vom Rath instead, who died two days later on November 9 1938.

Because of this event, Hitler's chief of propaganda saw this as an opportunity to expand anti semitism by saying that the Jews planned to overthrow Germany. The leader of the German stormtroopers also saw this as an opportunity and sent instructions to local police forces all across Germany to attack Jewish homes on the night of November 9-10 1938. His instructions told the stormtroopers not to loot, and to treat young men that are being sent off to concentration camps with care, and not to hurt them, which didn't happen.

[Back to top](#)

Schechter Alumni Parents Reunite on Ride for Israel!



Spencer Erman, Sariann Lehrer, Bruce Stanger,
Hilary and David Silver

Sariann, in Israel on her honeymoon, connected with a group of Schechter Alumni parents who were on the Israel bike ride.

[Back to top](#)

Alumni Contribution

By Claire Peikes (Schechter 2015)

Solomon Schechter crafts a tight family that only an alumni can understand. The teachers provide a nurturing classroom, searching for the best methods of learning and supporting each student. Although Hall High School is a strong community, it lacks that essence of family which Schechter provided. When my friend Hannah approached me about volunteering for Friendship Circle, I was skeptical. She explained that at Friendship Circle, you work with special needs kids. Previously, I participated in a program where I worked with an autistic child which was a challenging experience. I reluctantly decided to volunteer, however, I did not know the impact that it would have on me.



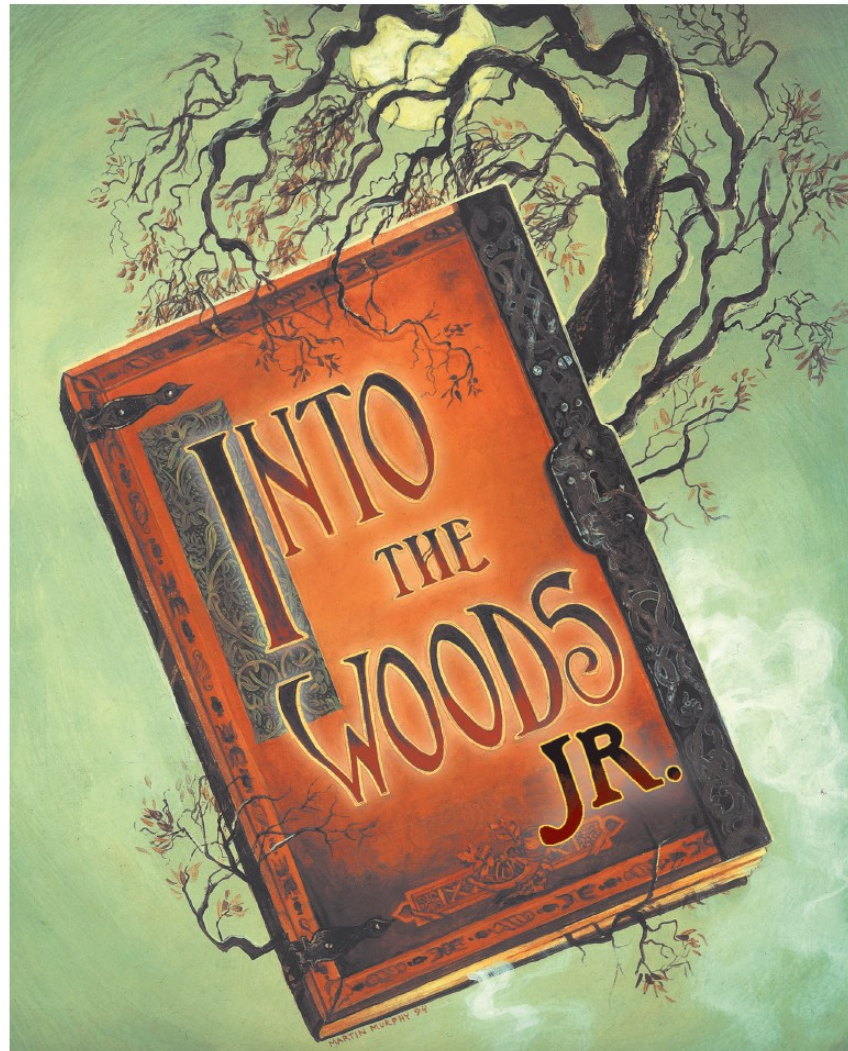
The first day, Hannah and I were greeted by Tammy and Shayna, who assist all of the volunteers. They

explained what activities I would do with my buddy, Keighan. It was not until Keighan came sprinting in that I fully appreciated the new family I was a part of. Keighan is an amazing child, who doesn't always filter his thoughts. Through Friendship Circle I have gained compassion, and I now understand that patience is necessary. Not only have I had the pleasure of working with Keighan and many other children, but I have also reconnected with many friends. When Hannah texted me again and asked if I wanted to be on the Board of Friendship Circle, I could not resist. While at Schechter, I didn't have the opportunity to serve on the Student Council, however it instilled in me the desire to take a leadership position and make an impact on my community. Today, as a member of the Board, through each meeting, I share my ideas and hopes for the upcoming year in Friendship Circle. Openly sharing my ideas feels similar to Schechter, where the

small classes empowered me to consistently raise my hand.
Being on the Board allows me to give everyone the best
Friendship Circle experience.

[Back to top](#)

Check out Schechter Students
Alyssa (Gr. 7), **Lily** (Gr.5),
Zelia (Gr. 4) and **Eliana** (Gr. 4)
in the production of Into the Woods Jr. !!!



MANDELL JCC YOUTH THEATER PRODUCTION

Herbert Gilman Theater

Director: Chris Mansfield | Musical Director: Vera Kushner | Choreographer: Jen Mansfield

Performance Dates:

December 2, 7pm
December 3, 2pm
December 9, 7pm
December 10, 2pm

Tickets and Information:

\$11 Students/\$13 Adults
Member Services Center
860-236-4571
www.mandelljcc.org

Thank You Mandell JCC Partner



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

[Back to top](#)

**Coming Soon - Just in time for Hanukkah:
The Scholastic Book Fair!
December 6 - 12**

[Back to top](#)

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

[Back to top](#)



TOILETRIES DRIVE

The Young Israel of West Hartford is joining the Jewish Federation, CREC and local Jewish Agencies to collect items for victims of Hurricane Maria who have been relocated to Hartford. THESE REFUGEES ARE ARRIVING WITH LITTLE MORE THAN THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS

WE ARE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, SOAP, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT,
FEMININE PRODUCTS, TRAVEL TOILETRY KITS, DIAPERS AND BABY
CARE ITEMS & FIRST AID KITS

ITEMS WILL BE COLLECTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 20, 2017.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:
YOUNG ISRAEL OF WEST HARTFORD
HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL OF NEW ENGLAND
JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT ALANA BUTLER at ABUTLER@JEWISH-HARTFORD.ORG
or 860-727-6152

 **YOUNG ISRAEL
WEST HARTFORD**  

[Back to top](#)



GIVE OUR NEW NEIGHBORS A HELPING HAND! Toiletry Drive for Centro de Ayuda

Imagine arriving in a new place with the clothes on your back and not much else.

Thousands of Puerto Rican and other Caribbean refugees are arriving in Hartford in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Let's extend a hand of friendship!

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Hartford is partnering with local synagogues and Jewish agencies on a toiletry donation drive. Donations will be distributed by the Centro de Ayuda Para Nuestros Amigos Caribeños (Relief Center for our Caribbean Friends) in Hartford, managed by the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC).

What Is Needed

Please donate the following new items in closed packaging:

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Deodorant
- Soap and body wash
- Washcloths and towels
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hairbrushes and combs

DROPBOX LOCATIONS

Drop off your donations to:

Community Services Building
Zachs Campus
333 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford
(enter off Simsbury Road)

Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday - Closed

Or drop off at a participating synagogue, school or agency: Congregation Beth Israel, Hebrew High School of New England, JTConnect in Farmington Valley, Mandell JCC Early Childhood Center, Solomon Schechter Day School, Temple Beth Hillel of South Windsor, Temple Sinai, Young Israel of West Hartford

Questions?

Please contact Alana Butler at **860-727-6152** or
abutler@jewishabuthartford.org.



JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL

[Back to top](#)

Young Israel of West Hartford's
Kidz Club
presents

young israel funniest home videos

November 19th from 4:30-6 pm

Grades 1- 6

Pizza dinner will be served

RSVP to Juanita Moss at
Juanita.Moss@gmail.com

Save the Date
YIWH Kidz Club & Teens
Chanukah Party
12/13



[Back to top](#)



TURKEY BOWL

Flag Football Tournament

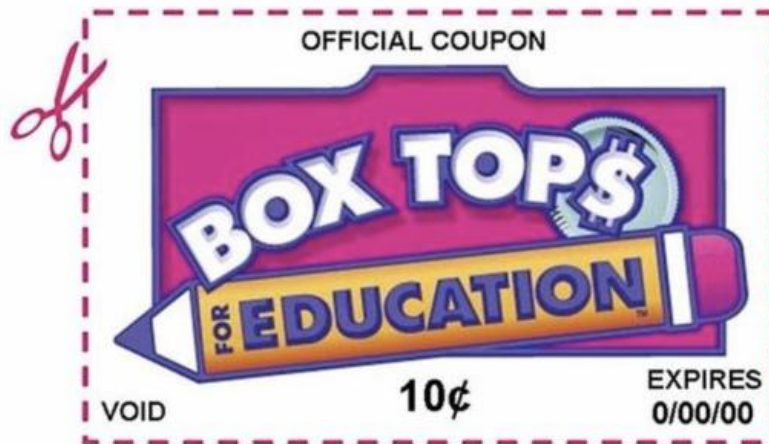
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH
12:30PM AT KING PHILLIP FIELD

BRING FRIENDS!
MUST BE AT LEAST 12 YEARS OLD TO PLAY

RSVP/QUESTIONS?
ELI - ELIAROESTY@GMAIL.COM



[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