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### Schechter School Office Hours:

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

**Friday**  
**8am- 3:30pm**

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### For Your Calendar:

**September 29**  
**Kol Nidre**  
**Noon Dismissal**

-  
**September 30**  
**Yom Kippur**

**October 4**

**Rosh Hashanah**

**Eve of Yom Kippur**

**Candlelighting 6:18 pm**

**September 29, 2017**

**9 Tishrei, 5778**

### A Message from Nancy

On Yom Kippur during the mincha, afternoon, service, we read the entire book of Jonah, the story of a most reluctant prophet. Charged by God to tell the citizens of the city of Nineveh to repent their evil ways or the city would be destroyed, Jonah flees because he knows how God works: If Jonah tells the people to repent or die, they will repent, and God will forgive them. We know how this story unfolds. After boarding a ship, Jonah is thrown overboard and after 3 days of praying in the belly of a fish, he is thrown back onto dry land. At this point, Jonah goes to Nineveh and delivers God's message. The people do in fact repent and are saved, making the connection to Yom Kippur- the call to do teshuva, a return to the proper path in life.



It is the end of the story that I always find fascinating. After delivering his message, Jonah leaves town in anger. While Jonah is sitting in the sun and pouting, God causes a plant to spring up from the ground, shading Jonah from the intense heat. In the morning, God sends a worm to destroy the plant, exposing Jonah to the fierce sun once again. This is the final straw for Jonah. He calls on God to just kill him and get it over with! God then says to Jonah, "You cared about the plant, which you did not work for and which you did not grow, which appeared overnight and perished overnight. And should not I care about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty

**Erev Sukkot  
Noon Dismissal**

**October 5-6  
Sukkot  
School Closed**

**October 9  
Columbus Day  
(school IN  
session!)  
Prospective  
Students Day**

**October 10  
Middle School  
Sukkah Sleepover**

**October 20  
PA Shabbat Share  
Dinner**

**October 26  
Picture Retake Day**

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### Quick Links

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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](mailto:ASobel@ssds-hartford.org) and include the name, email address, and relationship to Schechter and we will add them to our list!



**More Potato Pics!**

thousand persons who do not yet know their right hand from their left, and many beasts as well!" With that, the book of Jonah comes to an end, leaving us wondering.

To me, the final section of this book conveys a key Yom Kippur message, and it is a message that we seek to instill in the hearts and souls of our Schechter students: don't be a Jonah who is so focused on his own emotional state and creature comforts that he finds no joy in the helping others and seeing them succeed. We want our students to look up and to look out.

So far this year, we are off to a great start. Within the first few weeks of school, we answered the call to feed the hungry, sending food donations to the West Hartford Food Pantry. We raised \$500 to help a 7th grade classroom in Houston buy books, not only for their classroom but also for students living below the poverty line who could not afford to replace their own precious books that were lost in the flood waters.



I am excited to announce that we are going to extend our healing hands even further. In a few weeks, the date still to be determined, we will dedicate a day that we are calling "Puerto Rico Day". On that day, students from the youngest to the oldest will learn about Puerto Rico in the context of their classes: geography, history, political status, language, customs, art, music, weather patterns, etc. We are arranging to bring in speakers and other guests who can share personal stories and experiences. At the close of the day, once our students have made a connection, we will kick off a week long campaign to raise funds for the residents of Puerto Rico, helping them rebuild after the devastation of a horrific hurricane.

So, back to Yom Kippur. For sure, there are several messages. However, one that I hope we will take to heart this year is to remember Jonah and do the opposite. Let's put our core values of Lev Tov, good heart, and Klal Yisrael, responsibility for community, into action, to act with kindness and to care for



those in need. Then, as Isaiah states in the Yom Kippur morning haftarah, our "light shall burst forth like the dawn."

Nancy

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## Why Independent Schools? A Message from Doug Lyons

Doug Lyons, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), was asked to write an article in CT Magazine about the advantages of independent schools. Please click [HERE](#) to open the essay that will appear in the October issue.

Lyons noted, "whenever I have expressed concern about public education, I have received email comments from public school teachers and principals - who uniformly regret that a test-centric regulatory environment prohibits them from replicating the conditions and innovative practices found in independent schools."

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**Solomon Schechter Day School**  
of Greater Hartford



## Calling All Schechter Graduates!

You're invited back "home."

**Monday, October 9, 2017**

Catch up with old friends and teachers....  
Assist with engaging Middle School programs....  
Read with our youngest students!

### Schedule:

10:30-11 Graduates Greet Your Middle School Teachers  
Refreshments will be served





11-11:30 Assist in Programming:  
Cardboard Challenge  
Science Olympiad  
Read Aloud in Early Childhood

Kindly rsvp so we know you're coming!

[rsvp@ssds-hartford.org](mailto:rsvp@ssds-hartford.org)



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## Celebrating our First Weeks of School



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First Weeks of School!

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## Follow Schechter on Twitter & on Facebook!!!

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

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## Preparing for Yom Kippur with Gesher

In preparation for Yom Kippur, the Gesher students learned about the meaning and customs of Tashlich.



In class, the students created a group tashlich prayer that gave voice to their regrets, their thanks and their desire to ask forgiveness.

This prayer stated in part: "We might have made mistakes this year, but please accept our apologies. Thank you for everything that You have given us. We will try to be better this year. Thank You for being there for us".

On Tuesday morning, the Gesher class walked to the stream across the street and participated in a Tashlich service. They sang Avinu Malkaynu, the special prayer that humbly asks God to forgive us, and then



together read their Tashlich prayer, while throwing bread crumbs as a symbol of ridding ourselves of our mistakes.

The students then took a moment to silently reflect on their past year and their hopes and dreams for this new year. They concluded the service with the song Eli Eli and wished each other the traditional Yom Kippur blessing, G'mar Chatimah Tova, May you be inscribed for a good year.





## Schechter's 4th Year of Potato Planting

All Schechter students from the youngest to the oldest came together, for the 4th year, to plant our potatoes.



They mixed the compost and soil with great care on a lovely autumn day.





They worked tirelessly and very well alongside each other in their multiage groupings getting dirty and planting seed potatoes.

They are looking forward to caring for their plants, harvesting them before Hanukkah and making delicious Latkes together.



As the days get colder looks for the plants in the front hallway!

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## Schechter Spotlight

### Chrissy Whalen Musician in Residence

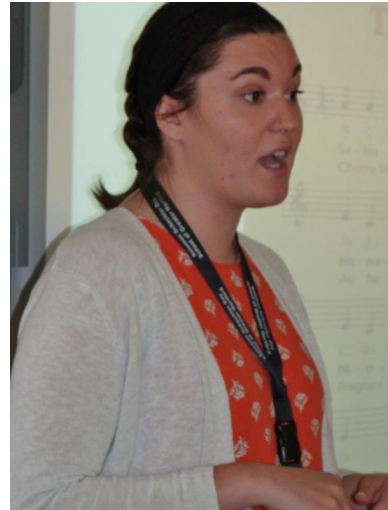
**Q: What do you love about music?**

There are so many things I love about music! My favorite thing about music is how so many different people use so many different kinds of music to communicate so many different

things. The possibilities among different people, different cultures, different instruments, different voice techniques, and different styles are endless!

**Q: As you begin your first year, what are you excited about for the students?**

I'm excited for the students to experience music through so many different mediums. We'll be singing, dancing, doing different movement activities, playing musical instruments, and listening to so many different types of music. I'm excited for them to experience all of them!



**Q: Why did you become a teacher?**

I became a teacher so that I could help spread my love of music to others. Equipping young people with the ability to sing simple songs, such as "Happy Birthday," or to take part in different celebratory dances, or to clap along to a special song are all such important skills. I became a teacher so I can instill those skills in children from a young age, not so they can become lifelong virtuosos, but so they can take part in all of the musical aspects of our culture wholeheartedly.

**Q: How do you hope music will impact Schechter students?**

I know that music already impacts Schechter students every single day! Just by experiencing RELISH, by attending different classroom events, and simply by walking through the halls, I know that music is such an integral part of Schechter. I hope to further develop the musical skills of the students so that they are able to sing and clap and dance in celebration of their culture with confidence.







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## STEAMing Into Schechter: Cardboard Challenge & Hands-on Science

We are very excited to tell you that  
on **Monday, October 9th,**  
**Gesher** and **MS students**  
will participate in the second annual  
Cardboard Challenge plus a Science Olympiad,  
directed by **HHNE** students!!  
We are also inviting prospective students in grades 4-  
7 to visit for the day.

We are looking for help and donations of:  
Cardboard-Large pieces/Boxes  
Duct Tape  
Hot Glue Sticks  
Box Cutters/Straight Edge Cutters

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Tashlich





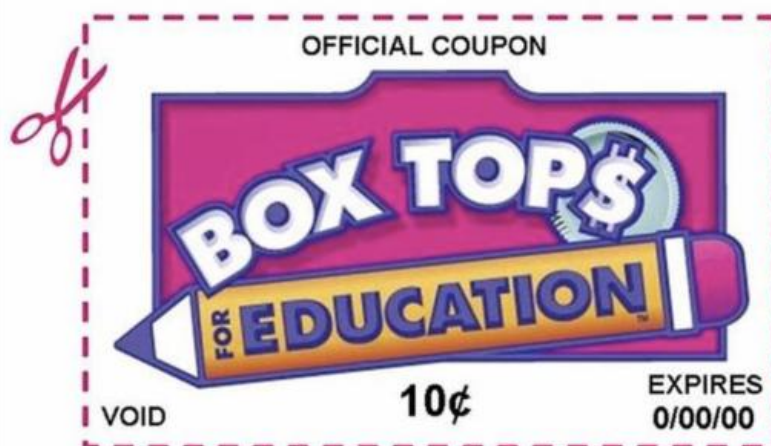








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## Let's get clipping!

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.btfе.com](http://www.btfе.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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# Solomon Schechter SUKKAH HOP

Sunday, October 8th

10 am to 12 pm

@ **The Bitton Family** Succah  
8 Sequin Road, West Hartford

12 pm to 2 pm

**The Resnick Family** Succah  
@ 20 Brookside Boulevard, West  
Hartford

We look forward to seeing  
friends, new & old, as we perform  
the mitzvot of Sukkot!



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**SCHECHTER LOGO-ED APPAREL IS HERE!!!**

You've seen the fantastic Schechter shirts  
provided by the PA for us to wear each Friday

for RELISH.... Now you can order some other varieties for yourselves or your kids!

- 10% of everything you order goes back to Schechter
- Now through October 16th you can order Schechter logo-ed, Tshirts, polos (short sleeved AND long sleeved!), sweatshirts and hats!!
- For adult and youth size use the following link: <http://www.spiritgeardirect.com/shop>
- Toddler sizing is not available on line, so please call the office to get a toddler order form and bring your checks into the office.



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The 7th annual Tour de Shuls community bike ride will be **Sunday morning, October 8**, starting at Emanuel Synagogue and Temple Sinai.

This year offers a 25 mile and 10 mile family friendly ride as well as a 5K (Walk/Run).

All of the proceeds will benefit Camp Eisner-Chazak and Camp Ramah-Tikvah Programs for campers with developmental disabilities.

Take part in this inclusive community event for all ages. Registration and all other info can be found at [www.tourdeshulsct.org](http://www.tourdeshulsct.org).

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Each teen's Jewish journey is unique. Through JTConnect, teens have the freedom to reach beyond the familiar to prepare them to become leaders in the Jewish community. JTConnect is a learning and social program for teens from throughout Greater Hartford to live and learn Jewishly in a broader community!

There is a place and a program for everyone at JTConnect.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about our different programs and how to register!



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# MITZVAH FAIR & EXPO

SUNDAY · 10.1.17 · 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Young Israel of West Hartford  
2240 Albany Ave.

**BBQ**

- Get Your Mezuzot Checked
- Get Swabbed for Gift of Life
- Pick Out A Lulav & Etrog
- Buy Sukkah Decorations
- Watch Vegetable Cleaning Demo
- Peruse Hebrew Academy Sukkah Exhibit
- Kashering Station
- Check Your Clothing for Shatnez
- Design & Create Sukkah Decorations with your Kids
- Explore Volunteer Opportunities Through the Federation

Special  
Sukkot  
Craft  
for the  
Kids

Cost of Admission: Non-Perishable Food Item for Kasher Food Pantry

For information or to volunteer, visit [www.youngisraelwh.org/mitzvahexpo](http://www.youngisraelwh.org/mitzvahexpo)



In  
conjunction  
with



התאחדות ישראל  
Hebrew Academy  
of Greater Hartford

HHNE  
THE HEBREW NISIM SCHOOL OF NEW HAVEN AND  
GROTON



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Young Israel

## Sukkah HOP

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Sukkot, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>  
3:50 PM – 5:40 PM

(Rain Date: Shabbat Chol HaMoed, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>)

### Pre-K – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Begin at Elefant (105 Mohawk Dr)  
Continue to Brander (6 Seneca Rd)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Begin at Brander (6 Seneca Rd)  
Continue to Braune Friedman (19 Mansfield Ave)

### 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Begin at Bernstein (95 Brewster Rd)  
Continue to Klein (48 Brewster Rd)  
Conclude at Brander (6 Seneca Rd)

### Teens (Beginning at 3:20)

Begin at Glahn (42 Brainard Rd)  
Continue to Ganeles (83 Brewster Rd)  
Conclude at Brander (6 Seneca Rd)

PAREVE SNACKS WILL BE SERVED!

Questions? Contact [Info@youngisraelwh.org](mailto:Info@youngisraelwh.org)



YOUNG ISRAEL OF WEST HARTFORD  
2240 ALBANY AVENUE  
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06117  
[WWW.YOUNGISRAELWH.ORG](http://WWW.YOUNGISRAELWH.ORG)

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# UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

## Decorate Our Sukkah

Sunday, October 1 • 11:30 - 2:00 pm

All children are invited for special *sukkah* themed arts and crafts project as part of the Mitzvah Fair!



Young Israel

## Sukkah Hop

## Young Israel Sukkah Hop

Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> • 3:50 - 5:40 pm

Ages: Pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Come visit different *sukkot* each with their own special treat! See flyer for full details

## Sushi in the Sukkah

Motzaei Shabbat, October 22<sup>nd</sup> • 8:00 PM

Ages: Teens Grade 9-12

Come make delicious sushi in our sukkah!

At the home of Rabbi & Miriam Brander  
in partnership with NCSY



## Kiddie Hakafo!

Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> • 4:30 PM

Come dance and celebrate with the Torah! Every child will get candy!


*All events free and open to the public. Events are at Young Israel unless noted.*


For more information, visit our website  
or contact [info@youngisraelwh.org](mailto:info@youngisraelwh.org)



YOUNG ISRAEL OF WEST HARTFORD  
2240 ALBANY AVENUE  
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06117  
[WWW.YOUNGISRAELWH.ORG](http://WWW.YOUNGISRAELWH.ORG)

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## Sushi in the sukkah

**Calling all teens – Grades 9 through 12**  
**Come join us in our Sukkah for an evening of Sushi, Sukkah and Socializing!**

**Saturday Night, October 7<sup>th</sup> • 8-10 PM**  
**in the Sukkah of**  
**Miriam & Rabbi Brander**  
**(6 Seneca Road)**



in partnership with



inspiring the Jewish future

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Chai Mitzvah come join us!

Chai Mitzvah is an adult Jewish engagement group that takes place over the course of 12 months. We meet once per month for conversation and learning. We welcome you to come and join a current group or if you have a group of friends you can start a new group. This is a great way to reconnect, recharge, and re-examine your Jewish life.

Please contact Susan Fried at 203-606-4522 or [Susan@chaimitzvah.org](mailto:Susan@chaimitzvah.org)



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Jewish Family Services Tara's Closet & Mandell JCC's Family Room  
Present:

### **SCREENAGERS: Growing Up in the Digital Age**

Growing Up in The Digital Age is selling out audiences around the country.

**SCREENAGERS** is the first feature documentary to explore the impact of screen technology on kids and to offer parents proven solutions that work. The documentary reveals stories that depict struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. **SCREENAGERS** goes far beyond exposing the risks of screen time, but reveals multiple approaches on how parents and educators can work with kids to help them achieve a healthy amount of screen time. **SCREENAGERS** is known as a community viewing model, in hopes that parents and educators can start a conversation nationwide about how screen time impacts our lives.

This movie screening is for parents and teens. Parents are

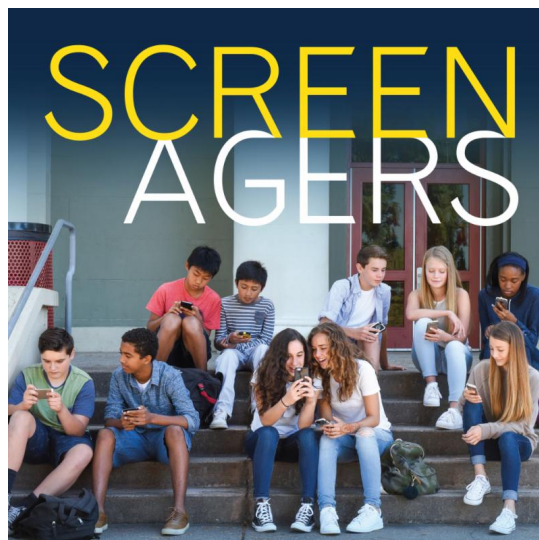


encouraged to attend this screening and discussion along with their children. A mental health professional from Jewish Family Services will discuss the movie and offer advice to parents. We will also hear teenagers testimonials on how they deal with social media. Panel discussion following the film will be moderated by Dennis House, Channel 3 Eyewitness News Anchor and Face the State moderator.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 18, 2017  
7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Mandell JCC of Greater Hartford  
335 Bloomfield Avenue  
West Hartford, CT

ADMISSION: Free with advance reservation. To reserve your tickets call 860-236-1927 ext. 7129 or go to [www.jfshartford.org/screenagers](http://www.jfshartford.org/screenagers) or call



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