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

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

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

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For Your Calendar:

**April 22
Earth Day**

**April 24-26
7th grade Science trip
throughout New
England**

April 27

Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Tazria-Metzora
Candlelighting 7:19 pm

April 20, 2018

5 Iyar, 5778

A Message from our 8th Graders

This speech was written by 8th graders Harry Gold and Michael Weiss, and was delivered by them on Wednesday night at the Yom Hazikaron-Yom Ha'atzmaut program.

One score and 17 days ago we embarked on an unforgettable trip to Israel. We got to see places we had learned so much about during our years at Schechter. We got to experience Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem, the Old City, the Dead Sea, Masada, Ben Yehuda, Yad Vashem, Tzfat, and the Kineret.

One of the most amazing places was the Kotel. It was the retaining wall around the temple from ancient times. It is a place where people go to pray. A place where people place messages. It is at this place that people feel closer to God.



On our second full day in Israel, Michael and I were privileged to read Torah at this very holy and historical site. It's amazing that we were able to read from the Torah near the same place it was read 3000 years ago. I read Torah regularly at Schechter, however this experience was different. Being so close to the same place where it was read thousands of years ago made the experience more spiritually incredible. I actually read Torah at the Kotel!

Eight days later we returned to the Old City. Before revisiting the Kotel we enjoyed a nice Kabbalat Shabbat nearby. Kabbalat Shabbat was complete with spiritual prayer and lots of dancing. This was one

**8th grade vs. Faculty
basketball game**

**April 29
Ner Tamid Gala!!**

**May 3
Israeli Dance Festival**

**May 14
7th grade Presentation
of Facing History
Project**

**May 21
Shavuot School
Closed**

**May 23
7th Grade to NYC
(rescheduled)**

**June 13
Last day of classes
8th grade graduation**

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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 and include the name, email address, and relationship to Schechter and we will add them to our list!



Condolences to...

former Schechter teacher
and administrator
Galya Greenberg
and her husband,

of the most spiritual times that we had. We took the spirit and energy with us to the Kotel where we got to have a private prayer and create a connection to G-d. After learning about the Kotel for so many years, it was amazing to experience it for myself. I actually got to touch and feel the Kotel!

Everywhere we looked, both at the Kotel and everywhere else, we saw young people in the army. Some of these soldiers were only a few years older than us. They were so proud of their country and of their participation in the army to protect all that their country stands for.



We stand here in honor of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut. I realize how much we owe to all of the Israeli soldiers who have fought to defend our Jewish homeland over the past seventy years. We are Americans, but as Jews Israel is also our country. We want to thank all of the past and present Israeli soldiers, and we will never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service for their country. We also want to wish a big Yom Huledet Sameach to Israel on its 70th birthday.



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Ner Tamid Tickets are Still Available! Get yours today!

Jonathan, and their children, Schechter graduates **Ethan** (1994), **Ezra** (1997), and **Eli** (2001), on the loss of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather,

Leo Pinsky

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Mazel Tov to...

Samantha and Dominic Mendolia
on the birth of their daughter.

Arista Aurora Mendolia was born on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, and joins big sisters **Valentina** (EC4) and **Bianca** (incoming EC2).
We wish them a lifetime of happiness!

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EC3 House Painting!!!



Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford Ner Tamid Gala

Honoring:

**Jessica & Eric
Zachs and Family**



Where:

**BETH EL TEMPLE,
WEST HARTFORD**

When:

SUNDAY, APRIL 29TH

Time:

7:00 PM

Tickets:

**\$118 PER PERSON
\$54 STUDENT WITH VALID ID
(INCLUDES PERFORMANCE
AND DESSERT RECEPTION)**

Featuring Recording Artist:

MATISYAHU

Purchase Tickets:

ONLINE: ssds-hartford.org

CALL: 860.561.0700

Solomon
Schechter
Day School
of Greater Hartford



Come join us this Sunday!!!



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MORE Pics!!!!



Earth Day Festival

Join us on between 3PM - 5PM on Earth Day for nature games, crafts and more!

All ages are invited.

\$2 per person admission donated to the Environmental Defense Fund.

Sunday, April 22, 2018

3PM - 5PM

Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford

26 Buena Vista Rd

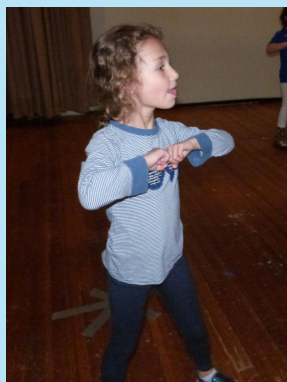
West Hartford, CT 06107

Solomon Schechter Day School
of Greater Hartford

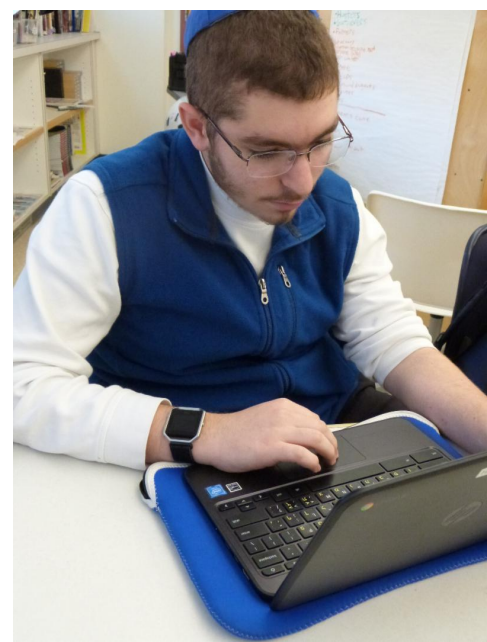


8th Graders Show the Importance of Close Reading... and Discover a Discrepancy in the Research!

In 2017 the Southern Poverty Law Center conducted research that found that the United States is not adequately teaching the hard history of slavery. Among some of their findings was that American high school students struggle with the most basic questions about the enslavement of Africans by



Americans - including twelve of the first eighteen US presidents. We should be proud to note that not only do our eighth grade students have an understanding of this terrible history, they were able to correct an article put out by NEWSELA, an online educational platform. The 8th graders had been asked to read the article, "When Humans Become Inhumane." In the course of reading the article, the students noted a discrepancy regarding the number of people who had been brought over to the Americas during the Middle Passage. The article they were reading cited a substantially lower number of enslaved Africans who came to the Americas as part of the Middle Passage.



The students were confident in their numbers because they had used resources made available by the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database. According to its website, this database was created over several decades using data found in libraries and archives from countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean. This database is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Emory University,



the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute of Harvard University and the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery. During their studies, the students searched through the primary documents provided by the Trans-Atlantic Slave Data Base, and they

discovered that 5.7 million enslaved Africans had been illegally taken from their homeland. The NEWSELA article (based upon an article written by the Big History project) used the number 2.7 million which negated the lives of three million enslaved Africans. Before sending the email to NEWSELA, the students verified the information by looking at the original articles as presented by The Big History Project. If you are interested in reading the original article [click HERE](#).

The students immediately sent an email to Newsela which read:

We are 8th graders from a Jewish day school in Connecticut. Our class



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has been learning about the Middle Passage. One resource we used to learn about the Middle Passage was the database located at <http://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/search>. According to the database there were 5.7 million slaves who disembarked from 1519 to 1800. Additionally, there were approximately over two million slaves who disembarked between 1800 - 1866.

Our teacher assigned the article "When Humans Become Inhumane."

While reading the article we encountered a misleading fact about the numbers of slaves who disembarked. In the article it was



stated that there were 2.7 million slaves that disembarked. Your article makes it sound like the chart reflects all slave trading countries. If this is the case then why is there a 3 million slave difference between your article and the database we reviewed? What are the 2.7 million slaves specifically referring to? In our research we have found charts that more accurately reflect the number of enslaved Africans who came to the Americas.

Newsela responded right away stating, "Thank you again for taking the time to do your research. It is important to always check the legitimacy of the sources you encounter..." and included a promise to look into the matter. True to their word, on March 23, a representative from Newsela wrote, "Our Content Team did confirm that there were discrepancies because of mistakes from our content provider for this article." NEWSELA also stated that before they can make a change in their article, they need to receive confirmation from the original author Big History Project. But NEWSELA agreed with our 8th graders and confirmed that they believe a mistake has been made as well. The 8th graders are still awaiting final word. If their numbers are shown to be accurate NEWSELA will add an editorial comment to their article, thus ensuring that future readers will have the most accurate information. Whatever the outcome, many valuable lessons were learned not only about the horrors of the Middle Passage, but about the importance of checking and validating all sources used in their research.



Jack said, "I felt good because we helped a big website out and they listened to what we had to say and considered our suggestion." **Michael** noted, "I was proud of myself and my classmates because after doing a lot of research about the Middle Passage, we were able to correct a mistake that a big company made."

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Students Hear First-hand From Holocaust Survivor

Last Friday, the Rogow Middle School and Gesher class were fortunate to host Abby Weiner, grandfather of **Alyssa** (Schechter 2019) and **Lily** (Schechter 2021). Weiner, a survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald (Kinderblock 66), described his experiences and those of his family during the Holocaust.



Despite the hardships and suffering which he recounted, Weiner emphasized a message of hope; he called on the students to reject hatred, and to stand up for those who are victims of hate and prejudice, as well as to stand up to those who preach and encourage hate and violence.



Weiner has told his story to many high school students, and has been very encouraged by their responses. Several of our students shared their reactions. Jack learned how Jews developed a way to survive in the ghettos by bartering precious items for food.



Brady noted that "although I had heard him speak before, I always hear something new." **Harry** opined, "even though I've heard the horrific details of the Holocaust before, it's important to keep on hearing them again and again." Hopefully, our students will heed his thoughtful admonition, and become powerful voices for tolerance.

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EC3 Reggio Emilia Exploration through Paint

Last week, the children in the Kochavim class received a special delivery related to their Reggio project work! Karen Shakun delivered a large box that had been shipped from Amazon! As the students opened the box, they wondered, "What could it be?"



The children anxiously helped Bree open the box...to see what was inside! It was a child-size cardboard house that the children could paint!



Throughout the year, the EC3 class has been exploring the art of painting as part of their *Reggio Emilia*-inspired work. Their inquiry into artists and the process of painting shows curiosity and excitement. As part of this activity, the class discussed that painters use a wide variety of mediums: of course people paint on paper and canvas, but there are also painters who paint buildings and houses. In an effort to include the favorite colors of all members of the EC3 class, Sophie suggested, "Let's paint the house rainbow colors!" The other children unanimously agreed!

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Living Tikkun Olam: Middle School Tradition of Helping Out at House of Bread Soup Kitchen



For over 20 years, the Rogow Middle School students have been serving lunch once a month at the House of Bread, a soup kitchen serving the disadvantaged in Hartford. By serving lunch there, the students have an opportunity to expand their understanding of community, take real action in service of their community, and practice compassion.

Students participate on a rotating schedule so that all Middle Schoolers have an opportunity to go. Huge thanks to all the parent volunteers who bring our students there and back each month. We couldn't do it without you!

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Yom Haatzmaut Celebrations!!

Thanks
to
Israeli



Emissaries Roni and Tomer, Schechter was in full celebration on Thursday for Israel's 70th birthday. Led by our 7th and 8th graders, the K-6 students celebrated with dancing, games, artistic

expression, Israeli-style obstacle courses, and even science experiments.











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Solomon
Schechter
Day School
of Greater Hartford

**PLEASE JOIN US ON
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2018
for
GRANDPARENTS AND
SPECIAL PERSONS DAY**

8:30am - 10:30am
Join us for Shabbat RELISH,
classroom activities and brunch

**PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 10th to:
specialdaySSDS@gmail.com
or call 860-561-0700**

Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford
26 Buena Vista Blvd. West Hartford CT 06107

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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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Parents: Save the Date!

Schechter's ISRAELI DANCE FESTIVAL

In honor of Israel's 70th

Please join us for a performance by
Schechter's K-8 students.

Bring your dancing shoes for the audience
participation grand finale!

Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 7 pm
At the Hebrew High School of New England
300 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117



EC kicks off the celebration
with their Israeli dance
performance during RELISH
on Friday, April 20 at
8:30 am.

Solomon Schechter Day School
of Greater Hartford



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Do You Shop at Big Y??

Big Y Education Express is a Family Program to help

local schools get FREE, much needed supplies & equipment!

Everyone can participate! Do you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or even neighbors? You can support Solomon Schechter by signing up for Education Express. Click [HERE](#) to see more information about how to sign up and the benefits you can earn for Schechter.

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Have you shopped at the Crown Lately?



Stop By the Crown Market TODAY!



Emanuel Connections Presents
Make your own Pizza Bagels
Sunday, April 22nd 12:00-1:30
(our final event of the 2017-2018 school year)

Meet us in Silverman Auditorium

Pizza making 12:00-12:30
Lunch and games 12:30-1:30

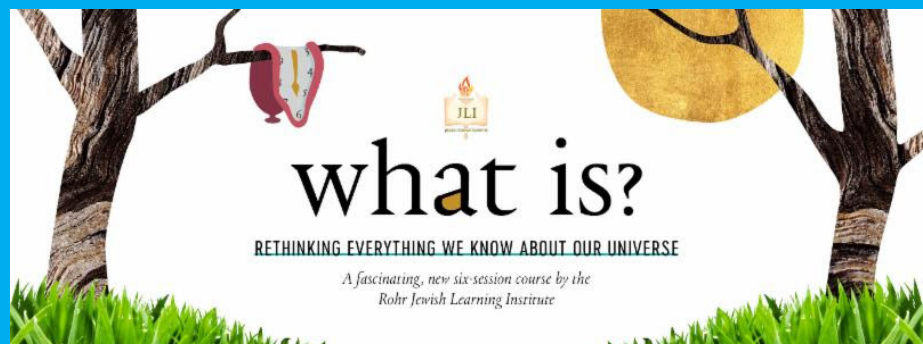
Pizza bagels, salad, pasta, drinks, dessert

Face painting!
Gaga!
Music!

Free & open to synagogue and unaffiliated families!



160 Mohegan Drive
West Hartford, CT 06117
RSVP by April 15th to Elana Schaner at
elana_schaner@yahoo.com



Click [HERE](#) for Details



Special Event!
JUDY GOLD
Live at The Emanuel
Comedy Night & Fundraiser
Sunday, June 10
6:30 pm
At The Emanuel Synagogue West Hartford

General Admission:
\$54/TICKET
includes:
6:30 pm: Complimentary wine, hot hors d'oeuvres & live jazz piano with Dan Fine
7:30 pm: Stand-up comedy from world class comedian Judy Gold, followed by dessert & coffee
Can't find a babysitter? Bring kids (3-13) for movie & pizza, while the adults enjoy the show!!

Premium ticket options available! Details online

Open to the community, age 21+

Purchase Tickets online by June 4 at:
<https://goo.gl/Wuu9do>

Event proceeds help support ongoing programs and activities at The Emanuel

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Synagogue President Elysa Graber-Lipperman: elg1lp@comcast.net

For event questions, contact Synagogue VP Board of Trustees Dave Bomzer: tdbomzer@gmail.com


The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford CT – 860 -236 -1275 emanuelsynagogue.org



Beth David
SYNAGOGUE



Celebrate Israel @ 70

Sunday, April 22

5:00pm - Falafel Dinner / 6:00pm - Movie Presentation



Greater Hartford
celebrates



Please make your reservations now!

Dinner and a Movie - \$10.00/person

Beth David Synagogue, West Hartford

To make reservations, visit

www.bethdavidwh.org/event/Israel70.html

or call Beth David at 860-236-1241.

Admission also at the door.

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CELEBRATE ISRAEL@70 & OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH A FREE CONCERT

ROCK WITH SHIR BA'EMEK

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018 | 7:00 P.M.
SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL OF GREATER HARTFORD
26 BUENA VISTA RD, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107

FREE | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

RSVP to Deb Howson, dhowson@jewishhartford.org or 860.727.6103
Donations to Federation's Israeli Young Emissary program are welcome

Shir Ba'Emek (Song in the Valley) is the internationally acclaimed, award-winning singing ensemble from our partnership region of Afula-Gilboa, Israel. The group represents the city of Afula in all public ceremonies in Israel, and has performed at the Knesset and on Mount Herzl for Israel's Independence Day ceremony, as well as at venues throughout Israel and around the world.



Partnership 2Gether, a joint project of the Jewish Agency and Jewish Federations of North America, was launched in Afula/Gilboa in 1995, twinning the city of Afula and the Gilboa Regional Council with the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC), composed of 11 communities in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Sponsored By



Tel Aviv Sponsors



HaNegev Sponsors

Bounce About Inflatables
Gary and Joan Greenberg
Judie and Coleman Levy Family
Marilyn Steinmetz, Private Capital Group, LLC
70 years ago... from a dream to a reality!
Irma Wallin, Wallin Group Inc.

Presented By



JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Your Community. Your Legacy. Your Way.

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OPEN HOUSE AT CAMP SHALOM

Sunday, May 6 | 1-3pm | Rain or Shine
Camp Shalom, 425 Merriman Road Windsor, CT 06095

Register your child for Camp Shalom at our open house event and receive \$100 for 4 weeks or more, or \$50 off of a 2 week registration.*
-OR-
Share the Camp Shalom spirit and both you and a friend can receive \$100 off your camp registration!*

- Tour the facility
- Meet administrative staff
- Family activities
- Crafts
- Refreshments

Prospective and new campers and their families are invited to join us for an open house at Camp Shalom. Tours, crafts and refreshments will be provided.

For additional information, please contact
Karen Wyckoff, 860-231-6317, kwyckoff@mandelljcc.org.

*Discount applicable only once per family for the 2018 camp season. For new Camp Shalom campers only.



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

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Fostering Imagination and Independence



Imagine With Me
at
FVJC

TODDLER SUMMER PLAYGROUP

**Ages 2.5 - 4
years**
(must be toilet
trained)

**Play based, Drop-off
Summer Program**

Open to all

Designed to foster imagination and
independence through open-ended activities



**Weekly sessions offered in July
Mon-Fri, 9:00-11:30am**

Session 1 July 2-6

Session 2 July 9-13

Session 3 July 16-20

Session 4 July 23-27

Directed by Sarah Stromberg Kruger
PreK/K Hebrew School Teacher



Sign Up Today!

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation
55 Bushy Hill Road, Simsbury, CT
Email: Sarahrskru@gmail.com Phone: (860) 940-3664

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Adamah CSA



West Hartford, CT

Sign Up for a Season of Fresh, Local, Organic Produce!

Pickup Location: Beth David Synagogue 20 Dover Rd, West Hartford

Pickup Time: Thursdays 4:30 - 6:45pm from 6/8 - 11/9

Size: Seasonal shares like the one pictured weekly or every-other-week



Learn More and Register at
whcsa.adamah.org

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Celebrate our Learners!

Saturday, April 21

9:30am at Beth El

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



Celebrate our SULAM Beth El & Schechter Community during Shabbat services featuring SULAM & Schechter Learners! We will honor parents, educators, and teen madrichim.

Every child will participate.
Community Lunch follows
free and open to all!



Beth El
Temple
Be★
Community You
Can Believe In

SULAM
Seek. Understand. Learn. Act. Marvel.


THE SOLOMON
SCHECHTER
DAY SCHOOL
OF GREATER HARTFORD

Shabbat Club


Shabbat Clubs &
Mazel Tots at
11:00am too!

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SIGNATURE SPORTS

Choose your core focus.



SUMMER 2018 DATES & RATES

SESSION I

June 27 – July 9
\$2,925

SESSION II

July 11 – July 24
\$2,925

SESSION III

July 26 – August 7
\$2,925

All-Star Break (optional): 2-day/2-night adventure exclusively available for campers who enroll in consecutive sessions (dates: July 9-11 and July 24-26).

First time at a Jewish overnight camp?
Your child may be eligible for a need-blind grant of up to \$1,000 this summer!
Visit www.onehappycamper.org.

FIND OUT MORE AT RAMAHSPORTSACADEMY.ORG.

Summer

Ramah Sports Academy
c/o BCC 212
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Winter

3080 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

Contact

855-577-7678
info@ramahsport.org



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Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat / April 27 & 28, 2018

Awakening the Heart and Empowering Practice

with Rabbi Barry Dolinger

Barry Dolinger graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied Political Science. He received his J.D. from Fordham Law School and received his ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary affiliated with Yeshiva University in 2011. He is currently the Rabbi and Spiritual Leader at Congregation Beth Shalom, a Modern Orthodox synagogue on the East Side of Providence, where he has served since 2011. Barry is an active member of both the Rabbinical Council of America and the International Rabbinic Fellowship. Barry is a member of Rabbis Without Borders, and has also part of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality's Hevraya network. Using a different model of supervision, he serves as the head of Lighthouse Kosher, which supervises several vegetarian and vegan restaurants and chains, incorporating the treatment of workers, environmental, and holistic well-being into the process. Together with colleagues Rabbi Elan Babchuck and Nicole Jellinek, Barry serves as a co-founder and instructor at Thrive RI, a Rhode Island based center for mindfulness and well-being.

Friday Night Dinner-

Lecha Dodi & Yedid Nefesh - Meditations on the Divine Name

Shabbat Morning Beit Medrash -

Before Prayer: Mishnaic Mindfulness Mandates for a Transformative Prayer Experience

Shabbat Lunch -

Renew Our Days Like Old: Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev's Radical Teaching for Full Living

Shabbat Afternoon, 4:30 p.m., home of Alyssa and Joel Norwood (48 Farnham Road) -

I Will Place Hashem Before Me Always: An Introduction to the Sheviti - Judaism's Classic Meditative Image & Guide

Saturday, Seudah Shlishit -

Sefirat Haomer - Sefirot as a Meditation Tool

Please RSVP by April 23

Friday Night Dinner -

Adults - \$20.00 / Non-Members - \$25.00

Children 5-12 - \$7.50 (includes supervised child care)

Shabbat Lunch -

Adults - \$7.50

Children 5-12 - \$5.00 (includes supervised child care)

Vegetarian options for dinner and lunch
may be selected on the sign-up page.



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THE EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE SISTERHOOD PRESENTS

AN AMERICAN VACATION

DINNER & FASHION SHOW

The Emanuel Synagogue
160 Mohegan Dr. West Hartford

Appetizers at 5:30pm
Dinner & Show to follow '50 pp



Tuesday,
April 24, 2018

To register, contact Reesa at reesa58@comcast.net or Fay at faydehaas@comcast.net

Hair & makeup compliments of

CONTOURS
Spa & Wellness

Dinner catered by

JOY OF FOOD

Invitations by

The Paper Station

Music provided by

POWERSTATION
Events

Dinner and Fashion Show

West Hartford - The Emanuel Synagogue Sisterhood invites you to "An American Vacation" Dinner and Fashion Show on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Fashions for women, men and children will be provided by J.Jill and REI. The evening will begin with appetizers at 5:30, followed by a catered dinner and fashion show. As part of this event, we are giving back to the community by asking attendees to bring new baby and toddler clothing or toiletries as a donation to Jewish Family Service. This event will be held at The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. For more information, contact Reesa Olins at reesa58@comcast.net or Fay Dehaas at faydehaas@comcast.net.

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JOIN OUR CIRCLE

Oh the places
we'll go

When the Me
become
We

Sunday,

MAY 6 - IYAR 21

2:00- 4:00 PM

Emanuel Synagogue

160 Mohegan Drive



TEN years of Friendship Circle
Honor the friendships that have been made and come together to recognize everything our members have done to make our Jewish community the most accommodating and inclusive it can be.

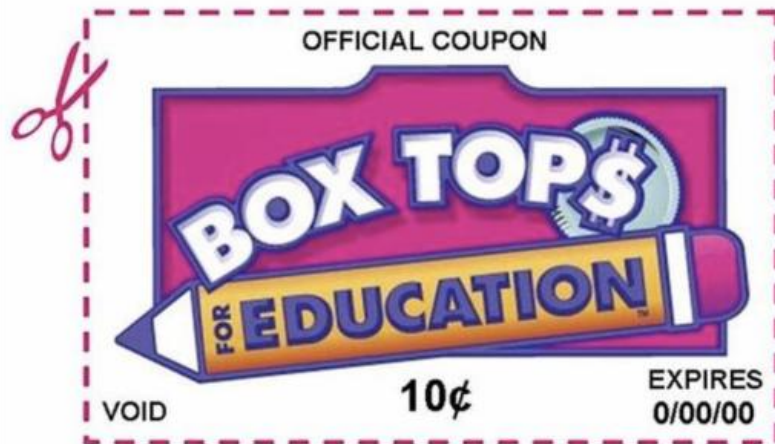
**Celebrate our Children, Teens,
Young Adults, Parents,
Supporters and Staff**

Program Chairs:

Wendy Amblo, Lisa Berman, Louisa Kalsner, Dana Keller, Robin Landau, Michelle Patchen, Sherri Pliskin, Amy Raisner, Laurie Silverman, Lauren Drazen, Hope Bash, Dana Greenberg



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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