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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 29  
Ner Tamid Gala!!**

**April 30/May 1  
EC3 and EC4 Reggio  
Project Presentations**

**May 3  
Israeli Dance Festival**

**Shabbat Shalom**

Parashat Acharei-Kedoshim

Candlelighting 7:27 pm

April 27, 2018

12 Iyar, 5778

**We LOVE Schechter because...**

EC4 students love Schechter because:



**Lily F-** I wrote a book!

**Rafi-** I like the stories, especially "Capsfor Sale."

**Stella-** I get to play with my friends.

**Zachary-** We play a lot.

**Inez-** I get to see my friends.

**Jonathan-** I love playing with blocks and I learned how to write my name.

**Albert-** I learn how to do math.

**Lily K.-** I love to play in Dramatic Play!

**Caleb-** I like to play on the ipad.

**Henry-** I love puzzles!!

**Eli-** I like my brother picking me up after school.

**Liam-** Because my friend, Brendan, is back from vacation.

**Brendan-** I like playing teams outside and learning how to draw Kaleran.

**May 4**  
8th grade vs. Faculty  
basketball game

**May 11**  
PA Shabbat Share

**May 15**  
EC2 Reggio Project  
Presentation

**May 21**  
Shavuot School  
Closed

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

**May 29-June 5**  
Book Fair

**June 4**  
RESCHEDULED  
7th Grade  
Presentation of Facing  
History Project

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

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### Quick Links

[Solomon Schechter  
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!



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## A Message from Andrea

### Ner Tamid and Following our Youth

There has been a movement afoot at Schechter, a movement of student leadership and mentoring; this past weekend it came to the fore on Schechter's Inaugural Earth Day Festival. There is a group of girls in the 6th grade who have come forward to faculty and administration with ideas and a willingness to make those ideas happen. They are driven to do good in the world, and they are bold and confident knowing they are the ones to make it happen. It began with TEVA and composting, then a Purim play; it was developed during Pesach as the Seder Girls planned for their guests from Grace Academy, and most recently, they hatched the idea to celebrate Earth Day. It goes something like this: it begins with a conversation, which leads to some planning, more talk,

**Mazel Tov to...**

Schechter teacher  
**Susan Kurtis**,  
and Schechter  
graduate

**Ryan Kurtis**  
(Schechter 2001)  
and his wife, **Hadass**,  
on the birth of their  
grandson/son.

**Samuel Zac Kurtis**  
was born on Friday,  
April 20, 2018.

We wish them a  
lifetime of happiness!



Former Schechter  
teacher  
**Sue Goldberg**  
on the birth of her  
granddaughter.

**Lucy Harris  
Goldberg** was born on  
April 18, 2018.

We wish her family a  
lifetime of happiness!

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**Celebrating  
Earth Day!!!**



seeking out of advice,  
developing a plan,  
finding support among  
students and,  
ultimately, to  
implementing it. With  
each new idea, the  
skills of leadership and  
organization are  
honed. These students  
want to give back, to  
the school, the  
community and the  
world. These girls have  
a voice and a  
presence; they are  
respectfully



demanding to be  
heard, to find their way as leaders and contributors. In the process,  
they are inspiring leadership for girls, both older and younger, in the  
school.

Without realizing it, they have created a girls' leadership mentor  
experience. While they worked to do good, while they planned and  
organized, they also were reaching to grades above them and  
grades below them, inviting others into their leadership and into  
their vision. When they stood at RELISH last Friday to remind  
everyone of the Earth Day Festival, there were girls with them  
spanning in age from 8-12, and each one had a part. They are finding  
their way, they are paving a leadership of collaboration, with an  
unbending commitment to give back.



On Sunday, April 29, we come together as a Schechter community to  
celebrate Schechter and give gratitude to those who help make a  
Schechter education possible. This year, we are privileged to honor  
Eric, Jessica, Ben and Paige, Jacob, and Zoë for their familial and



individual leadership, commitment and generosity. They are a family driven to contribute and make a difference. They are dedicated to passing on their leadership from generation to generation, not only within their family, but as mentors for communal leadership as well. How fitting that we should honor them as we watch this incredible group of girls lead and mentor new leaders.

If you haven't bought tickets yet, it is not too late! You can buy tickets online right now

<http://www.ssds-hartford.org/donate/ner-tamid>



Join us for an incredible evening and a wonderful party.  
Shabbat Shalom,  
Andrea

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**We will see you this Sunday!**





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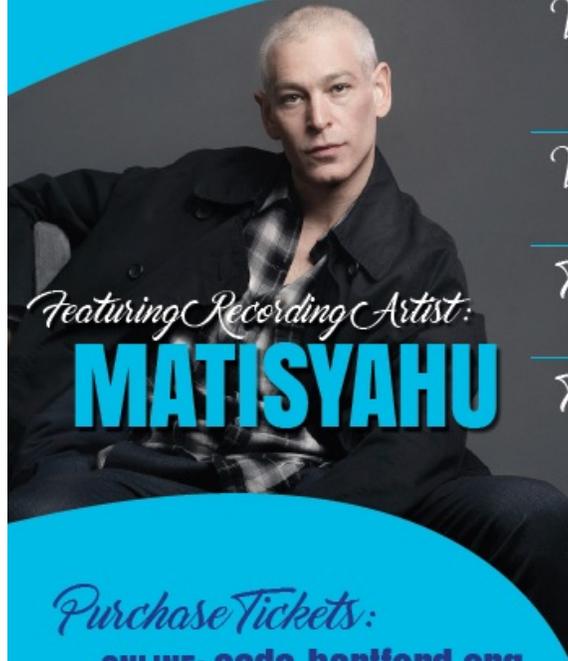
**RELISH**  
Israeli Style!!!  
April 20th



# Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford Ner Tamid Gala

*Honoring:*

**Jessica & Eric  
Zachs and Family**



*Featuring Recording Artist:*  
**MATISYAHU**

*Where:*

**BETH EL TEMPLE,  
WEST HARTFORD**

*When:*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup>**

*Time:*

**7:00 PM**

*Tickets:*

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

*Purchase Tickets:*

**ONLINE: [ssds-hartford.org](http://ssds-hartford.org)**

**CALL: 860.561.0700**

Solomon  
Schechter  
Day School  
of Greater Hartford 

## Early Childhood Celebrates Israel's 70th

Celebrating our friends' birthdays is a favorite activity in Early Childhood. Each year for Yom Ha'atzma'ut we also celebrate Israel's birthday, and this year for the 70th, we did something extra special.



We talked about Israel being a very young country compared to our state of Connecticut, which is 230 years old. **Eli**, an Early Childhood 4 student, proudly shared, "Israel is younger than my Bubbie!"



We prepared for the special day by learning a very funny dance, The Israeli Bird dance. Each class practiced with their teachers and then joined for a community practice. We all decorated bird hats, wore Israel's colors of blue and white, and then debuted our dance at RELISH this month. It

was fabulous!



Other activities we did in celebration were preparing Israeli foods of salad, pita and cookies to share for snack as a community. We also learned some songs with Roni and Tomer, our Israeli emissaries, listened to stories about Israel and explored artifacts that came from Israel. The most popular artifact was the salty rock from the Dead Sea.



Yom Huledet Sameach L'Yisrael!!



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## EARTH DAY!!!!

Written by Talia Gr. 6

This past Sunday, we organized an Earth Day Festival.

Our goal was to celebrate the Earth and teach ways that other people can help the Earth. The idea came from our 6th grade TEVA trip to the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center that we took in early November, which focused on the relationship between



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Judaism and protecting the environment.

We created many different activities for the festival, including building solar ovens to make s'mores, recycled crafts, a recycling relay race and an endangered species habitat matching game. To make the festival happen, we also enlisted the help of some of the girls from Gesher and Rimoni.

We raised over \$200 to donate to the Environmental Defense Fund and we hope to have another Earth Day Festival next year.



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## What is Happening in the ArtStudio??

The ArtStudio has been busy, busy with lots of awesome creations and artworks! Make sure to follow [@Schechter\\_Art](#) on Twitter to see all the happenings, as they are happening!!!

## Parparim:

Our young artists in Parparim have been learning about Ancient Art and the Lascaux Cave Paintings. We transformed the ArtStudio into our own cave to learn the challenges and fun of painting on a

verticle, rough surface, just like early cave painters! Avery exclaimed, "This is fun!"



**Parparim** has also jumped for joy that it is finally SPRING!! We have started our work with Georgia O'Keefe and exploring Nature, Still Life, and Perspective. The pictures below show students working on a series of still

lives in Watercolor, Oil Pastel, Tempera, and Pencil.





**Parparim & Rimonim** have also begun looking at Cultural Arts, specifically Aboriginal Arts and their Dot-work.



We have looked at the relationship between the Aborigine people, Earth, Environment, and Art. The respect for plants, animals and preservation is key in the culture and FolkArt of the Aborigine people. Not only is their Art beautiful, it honors their beliefs, animals, and their environment.

**Rimonim**

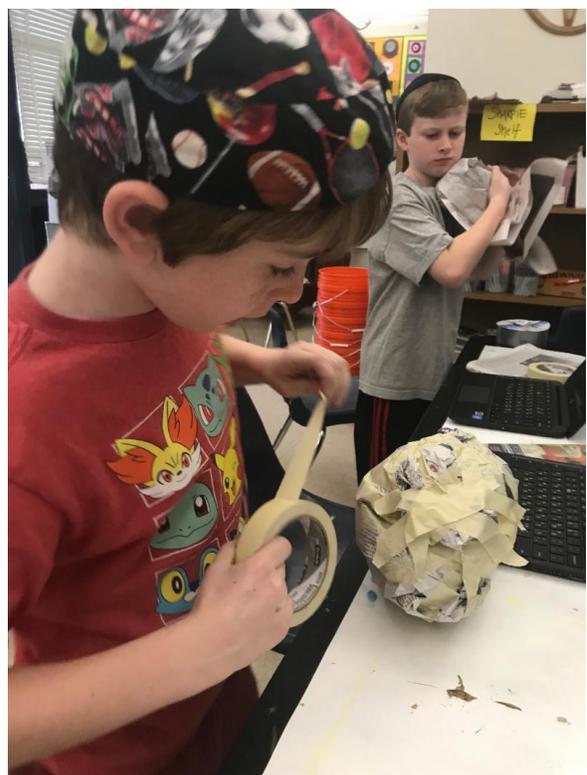


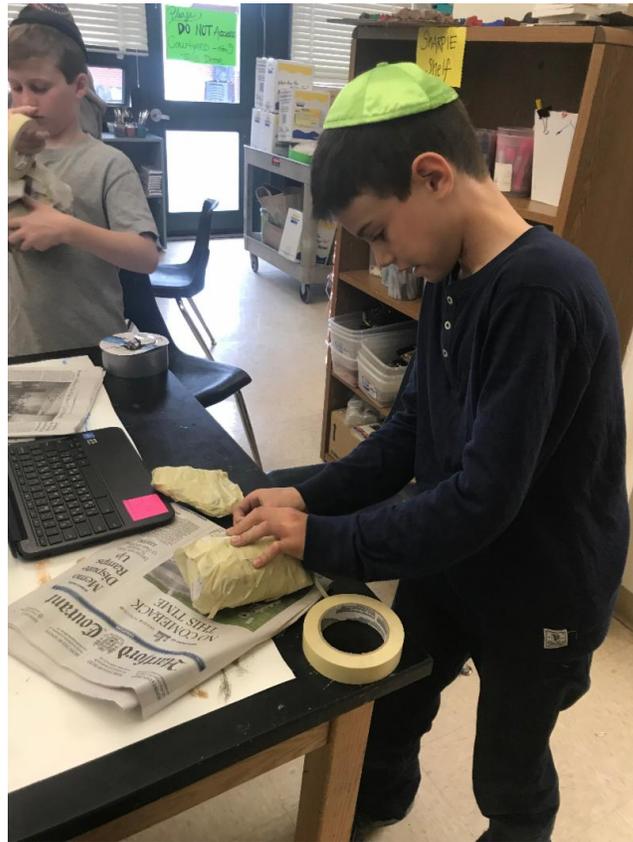


## Gesher

Gesher has begun their sculpture unit!

This year we will be doing Papier-mâché! Students have been challenged to make an animal of their choice; they may create either the head, or the full body. Students are expressing their creativity with a variety of wild animals, pets, and even imaginary animals!





## Hall High School Language Honor Society



We are proud to announce that these\* Schechter graduates were inducted into the Language Honor Societies of Hall High School last night. To qualify for this honor, students needed to demonstrate not only high academic standards, but also a commitment to improving the world around them through volunteering and participation in clubs. Our Schechter grads demonstrate their passion and facility for a THIRD language while maintaining their commitment to improving the world around them with a Lev Tov (Good Heart).

Research shows that learning a second language boosts problem-solving, critical-thinking, and listening skills, in addition to improving memory, concentration, enhanced creativity and mental flexibility. Acquiring a second language early in life primes the brain to learn multiple other languages. Additionally, learning languages increases compassion and empathy by developing cultural competencies. Our Schechter graduates embody this when they move on to high school, often gaining recognition for their achievements in both academic and community service realms.

\* Mazal tov to the following Schechter graduates:

Pictured from L-R:

**Matt Patchen** (2014), Senior Officer of Chinese Language National Honor Society

**Victoria Boustani** (2017), Societe Honoraire de Francais

**Coby Noll** (2016), Chinese Language National Honor Society

**Zachary Sobel-Pressman** (2016), Chinese Language National Honor Society

**Jonah Gershon** (2016), Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica

**Ruth Nawy** (2016), Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica

**June Laub** (2016), Chinese Language National Honor Society

Missing from photo:

**Izzy Raviv** (2015), American Sign Language Honor Society

**Dylan Landau** (2014), Senior Officer of Chinese Language National Honor Society

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## Schechter Spotlight

Faculty Spotlight: **Trisha Dabney** (a.k.a. Ms. D)

**Q: What do you love about being an Academic Support Specialist?**

I love being an Academic Support Specialist because I love working with students in order to help them reach their potential especially in the areas of reading and writing.

**Q: As you begin your first month, what are you excited about for your students and Schechter?**

I am excited about getting to know all of the students at Schechter, not just the ones I work with. I am also excited to collaborate with the excellent teaching staff at the school as well as to work with the families of the students.

**Q: What inspired you to be an educator?**

It all started when I met my husband. He and his friends were volunteering at a nursing home on Saturday mornings to play games and serve treats to the residents. I joined him several times and then decided to pursue my own volunteer service. I became a swim coach for a Special Olympics team in West Hartford. I eventually became the assistant swim coach for



the Connecticut swim team which was completing in the Special Olympics World Games the year it was held in CT. During those years, I began taking classes at St. Joseph College in West Hartford to learn more about working with students with special needs. I really enjoyed what I was learning and the work I was doing with the

athletes, so that I left my job and returned to school full-time at St. Joseph College to become a teacher and to earn my Master's degree in Special Education.

**Q: Has anything surprising or funny happened since you came to Schechter?**

I am pleasantly surprised by how happy the students are at school and how much everyone cares for one another.

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

I grew up in West Hartford. I attended local schools before going away to college. After college I returned to my hometown and have not left the area.

**Q: What's your favorite ice cream flavor?**

Mint Chocolate Chip!!!

**Q: What's your favorite quote?**

Bloom where you are planted. St Francis DeSales

**Q: What's your favorite song?**

"Do Something" by Michael West

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

Positive

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**Israeli Style Relish Last Week was a Blast!!  
Happy 70th Israel!**



Check out more pics of the celebration in our Photo Section!

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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!**

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# MISHEGAS

## AN AFTERNOON OF STORYTELLING

TO SUPPORT JTCONNECT

Modeled after NPR's The Moth and Hartford's own Tell Me Another, the afternoon will feature an ensemble of local storytellers sharing true stories about funny, joyous and significant Jewish moments in their lives.

### Featuring Storytellers Extraordinaire:



Terry  
Wolfisch  
Cole



Mathew  
Dicks



Barbara  
Klau

**Sunday, May 6th at 4:00pm**  
Congregation Beth Israel  
701 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford



**TICKETS: \$36**

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT JTCONNECT

RSVP JTCONNECT  
860-727-6110

OFFICE@JTCONNECT.ORG  
WWW.JTCONNECT.ORG

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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: [elglp@comcast.net](mailto:elglp@comcast.net)

For event questions, contact Synagogue VP Board of Trustees Dave Bomzer: [tdbomzer@gmail.com](mailto:tdbomzer@gmail.com)



The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford CT – 860 -236 -1275 [emanuelsynagogue.org](http://emanuelsynagogue.org)

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This  
Sunday!



This  
Sunday!

## Are Jews Still Funny?

Men's Club and Adult Education present University of Hartford  
Professor Avi Patt for a talk on, "Why are the Jews so funny?"

**Date:** 4/29/18

**Time:** 9:30am – drop the kids at Sunday school and join us! All are  
welcome.

Light breakfast will be served. \$5 donation recommended

### What's This All About Anyway?

Are Jews funny or at least funnier than other people?  
What's unique about Jewish humor? Why are so many  
comedians, satirical novelists and film directors Jewish? Are  
Jews as funny as they used to be? Come find out the  
answers from Professor Patt!

Questions: Call Rob Dulitsky @ 203-641-1689

**Located at Temple Sinai**

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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](mailto: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

##### Jerusalem Sponsor



##### Tel Aviv Sponsors



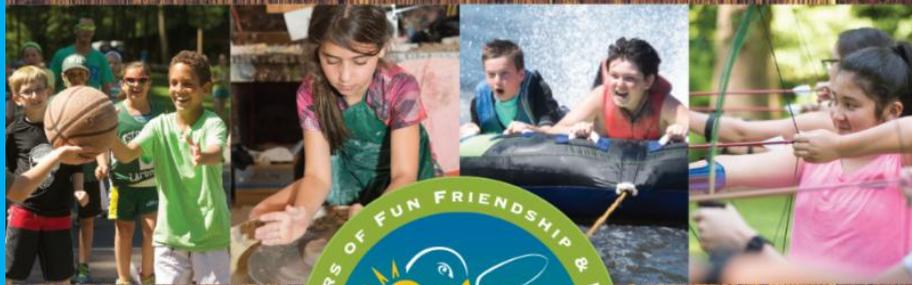
##### HaNegev Sponsors

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

#### Presented By



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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](mailto: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](http://www.mandelljcc.org)

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Fostering Imagination and Independence

A large, colorful rainbow arching across the top of the page. The text 'Imagine With Me at FVJC' is written in a playful font across the rainbow's center.

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**

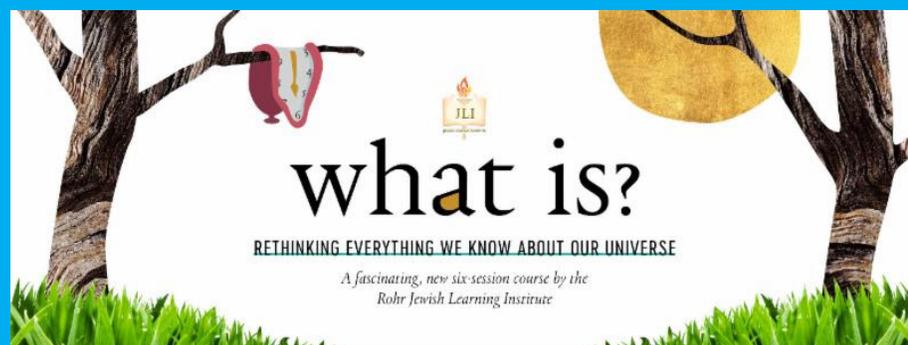
**Session 4 July 23-27**

Directed by Sarah Stromberg Kruger  
PreK/K Hebrew School Teacher

**Sign Up Today!**

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

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***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](http://whcsa.adamah.org)**

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# JOIN OUR CIRCLE

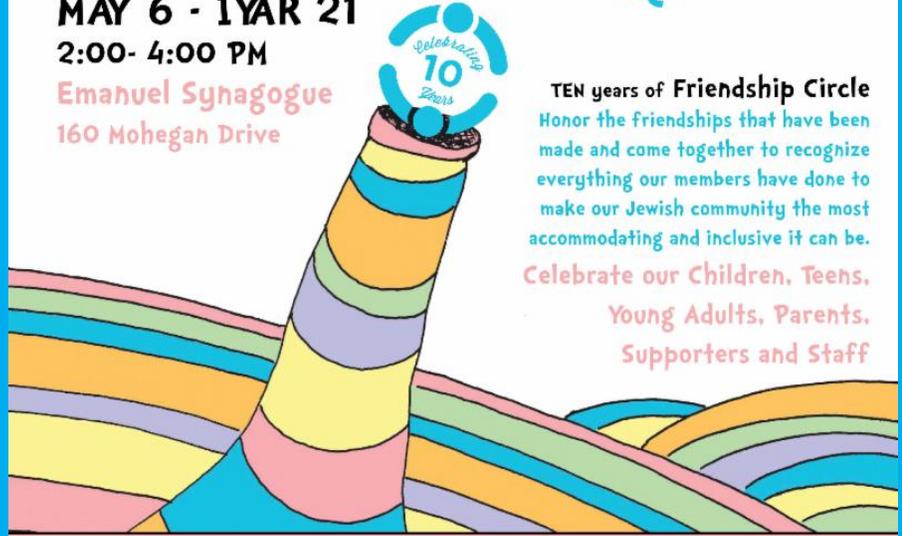
Oh the places  
we'll go

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**

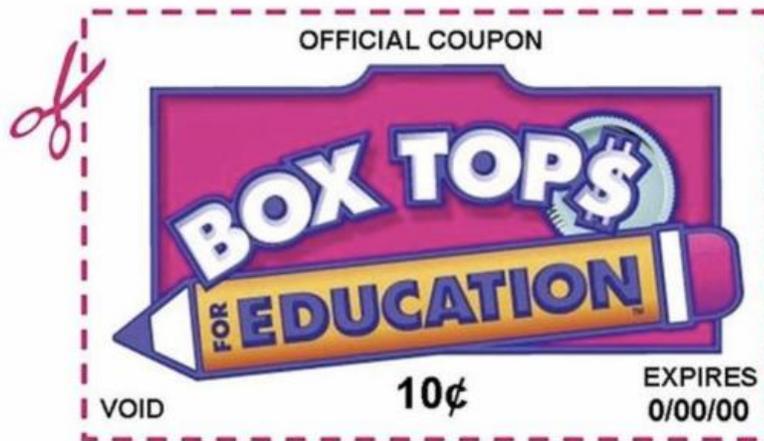


#### Program Chairs:

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](http://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