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Schechter School Office Hours (Winter):

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

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

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For Your Calendar:

**May 8
Farm coming to
EC2 & EC3**

**May 11
PA Shabbat Share**

**May 15
EC2 Reggio Project**

Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Emor

Candlelighting 7:35 pm

May 4, 2018

19 Iyar, 5778

A Message from Ben Zachs (Schechter 2002)

The following is the speech given at Ner Tamid on Sunday, April 29, 2018

I joined the board of Schechter a few years ago. When joining the board, one of my jobs was to try and reconnect young alumni with the school. I called a classmate of mine and she asked me "why did you want to get involved?" I quickly told her because I

wanted more kids to be like us and our fellow alumni who, wherever they popped up, I was always impressed by. First and foremost, I see my siblings. My brother has this confidence to speak with and truly connect with every single person he



meets, regardless of background. He embodies the value of community. My sister has this dedication to helping those in the most need as a social worker. She embodies a good heart. And I'll tout my own wisdom. Really, that wisdom was to trap my wife because finding someone better than you is always the smartest thing you can do.

So, Paige and I just got back from being away for the last seven months. On our first day back, we had breakfast and lunch with my grandparents. Then, for shabbat dinner, it was the two of us, my parents, siblings, and the families of my three closest friends on the planet. The key ingredient of this group? Schechter. In an enormous upset for weird Jewish kids from small classes, there were 10 totally normal and socially well adjusted, yet incredible graduates. I didn't

Presentation

May 16
HERO Program
Parparim

May 17
Rimonim to Pequot
Museum

May 18
Special Person and
Grandparent Day

May 21
Shavuot School
Closed

May 23
7th Grade to NYC
(rescheduled)

May 24
Yad Family Program
for 5th Grade

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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Condolences to...

Former Schechter
teacher
Heather Fiedler and
her husband, **Robert**,
and their children,
Schechter graduates

major in statistics but that seems to be a statistically significant sample size. Because of such amazing friends and family, no matter where I am or how far I go, I'm am constantly caring and connected to this school I graduated from 16 years ago.



7th and 8th grade are not the best of times of kids. Personally, 7th grade gave me 25 detentions. 8th grade gave me braces, pimples, while still a few years from a growth spurt. After those two awkward years, I wasn't exactly happy at Schechter and I vowed "never to return."

Shockingly, a 13 year old was wrong. I was too young and definitely too cocky and confident to realize the actual truth of what I gained here.

Wisdom, Good heart, and community, The 3 Schechter values are not just terms and shtick. They are the things that matter most to the core of its students, teachers, and families.

This is why our family supports this school. We believe these values epitomize what Judaism is about. Schechter is a place where young minds are forced to think hard about big questions and figure out the answers or question the answer given. To never take anything at face value. For kids 2-13 years old, that's a big ask. But, that push is what creates adults who I am proud to call alumni with me.

It wouldn't be a Zachs speaking in Hartford if I didn't solicit you. However, this one is a little different. I ask all of you to go to Schechter for 30 minutes and try not to be excited. Try not to envision a future of smart and dedicated critical thinkers. Try not to be excited about the next generation of leaders and the continuity of Jewish faith and tradition. These kids are who allow for 5000 more years.

It may sound like I'm putting pressure on the students. However to the students here, don't worry. Pressure is only real when you are not prepared. I promise that all Schechter students are fully

Ben (2006), **Micah** (2008), and **Rachel** (2013), on the loss of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather,
Richard Rubin

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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!



RELISH
April 27



prepared.

Now, I present my mom. One of the two people, with my dad, who most embody wisdom, community, and a good heart.



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Stay tuned next week for MORE amazing Ner Tamid pics!





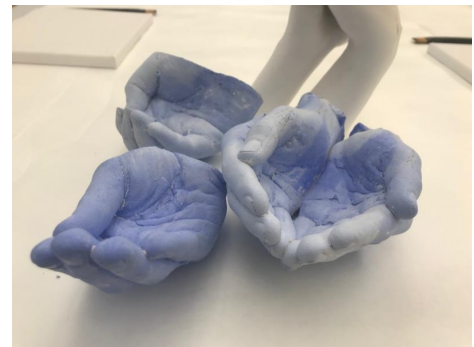
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7th Grade Memorial Project Update and NEW presentation date!

Hello Everyone,

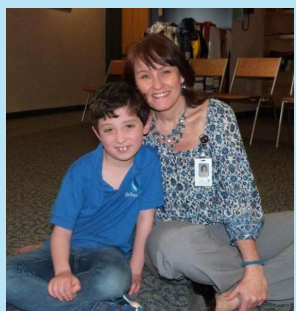
Our 7th Grade students have been doing amazing work on their collaborative Memorial project with Facing History and Ourselves.

Schechter's 7th grade students decided to create a beautiful structure on the school's campus in remembrance of the Holocaust. The structure specifically addresses the generations that thrived after the horrific genocide. Their working title is "Our Legacy Lives On." Their multi-layered sculpture will feature life-castings of their hands from which plants will grow, symbolizing the growth and beauty that has thrived after such a terrible event as well as their own personal journeys as Jews today. The students want this memorial to not only have personal meaning, but to be a beacon of hope to the viewer; even through devastation, rebirth and growth is possible.



The students were influenced by Andy Goldsworthy's monument at The Museum of Jewish History and the Miami Holocaust Memorial. They are currently in process of casting their hands, and the next step is full construction of the 4-tiered cement structure.

In November, the students had the opportunity to meet with our partners at Facing History and Ourselves, and they have continued to discuss their work and thoughts on the project. Facing History sent a videographer, and the students became a part of the organization's promotional video for this grant project. The video



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can be found on Facing History's site [HERE](#).



The cement base for the student's Memorial was laid just last week! We will be constructing the structure over the next few weeks, culminating a year long effort to bring this labor of love to Schechter and to our community. The final Presentation of this project will be on **Monday, June 4th at 7:00pm**. We welcome you to join in the presentation, celebration and conversation of this Memorial Project, proudly brought to you by our phenomenal 7th Grade Class.

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Alumni Update: Hall National Honor Society List

Congratulations to these Schechter alumni who were recently inducted into the Hall High School National Honor Society!

Ahna Bielik
Zachary Goldberg
Samara Gordon-Wexler
Claire Peikes
Izabella Raviv
Olivia Rotter

Students who are selected for the National Honor Society must excel in the following four categories: scholarship, service, leadership, and character. We are proud that so many members of the Schechter class of 2015 have been selected based on these characteristics.

Photos from their Schechter days!!!



Do you have great news to share about alumni? Send it our way! Click [here to email](#).

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EC4 Puzzle Project & Party!

What do you get when you add together 14 excited 4 and 5 year olds, 19 special guests, 2 dedicated and proud teachers, and a room filled with puzzles?

The Early Childhood 4 Class Puzzle Culmination Party!

This week the EC4 class invited their parents and caregivers into their classroom to show off the ways in which they explored and learned about puzzles over the past few months. Working on a long term project inspired by the interests of the children each year is a big part of the *Reggio Emilia* philosophy, which is an integral part of Schechter's Early Childhood program. Another important piece is partnering with the parents.

The children proudly showed the parents their puzzle display and created jigsaw puzzles together. Every visitor also decorated a couple of puzzle pieces to create a family puzzle masterpiece .

At Schechter, our Early Childhood project work always includes a

Tzedakah/Tikkun Olam piece. This class decided to purchase or donate one of their own puzzles to give to some children who don't have any puzzles. We have been collecting money and are searching for a school that could really use new puzzles to help their students develop and grow.

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7th Grade Science Trip

Our Rogow Seventh Graders had quite an exciting trip last week to the Boston area. We began our educational voyage by visiting the Ecotarium in Worcester. The students explored the property, planetarium, and all the small nature and science exhibits. **Alyssa** said, "I had a great experience going to Boston for our science trip and learned so much!" The wind tunnel was fun, as they all got to feel like superheros with the wind in their hair, Lilian certainly enjoyed her SuperGirl moment.



At the ant colony, students overcame their fears and totally immersed themselves in their experience collecting insect specimens. They ALL became super specimen finders! Shortly after that, students created their own designs for rockets and then tested these designs to determine which launched the highest. In keeping with their theme of "Flight," students viewed the Planetarium show on Flying Monsters. Later **Tzedkella** reflected, "I enjoyed learning about the dinosaurs when we went to the museum;" **Morissa** echoed her sentiment, "I enjoyed expanding my knowledge on the Jurassic world."



Each night, students returned to Camp Ramah in New England, where they enjoyed the food and camaraderie. We all enjoyed our night time meals together as well as sharing breakfast together and participating in Tefillah in the comfort of their

living space for those days. **Spencer** noted, **Will** echoed, "It was fun being with my friends on the trip and having fun at Camp Ramah." They truly enjoyed being together...playing tag and sharing stories whilst they stayed up late.

Their next stop to the Museum of Science was filled with non-stop engagement, highlighting interactive and fun learning activities. The [Mirror Maze](#) provided tests of students' memory and logic. Lilian shared a secret she realized: if we always take lefts once we are inside, we will never get lost...she was right too! We made our way through the maze quickly, since our Schechter students thrive when facing a challenge! The Golden Ratio activity was also spellbinding. Take a moment to read this article about the math experience they were immersed in:

<https://dailyfreepress.com/blog/2018/02/08/mirror-maze-reveals-mathematical-patterns-found-nature/>

We thoroughly enjoyed the Lightning Program too and all of the students were mesmerized by the Imax performance of Dream Big and they were so happy to hear their favorite song playing in the background, listen in for yourself:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huVNst8BIM8>

Did you hear it? Hope so!

Harris said his "favorite part of the trip was the IMAX movie theatre because it looked like you were in the place that they showed on the screen. It was very cool and a very fun experience!" **Morissa** deeply contemplated the lessons in the film and shared the following: "I also enjoyed watching a movie based on helping the community around you."

The educational experiences our seventh graders gained from all of their adventures can be summed up best by the students themselves...**Matthew** shared: "I feel like it was very educational, and packed with information on so many different topics." **Lilian** also said, "Whether we taught ourselves or had the "instructors" teach us, it allowed me to learn in a different way," showing the different ways our students access new information.

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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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Charter Oak

This week, Schechter donated our seedling plants to the Charter Oak Cultural Center's BOTS Pots program, which will enable specially-trained homeless men and women to nurture vegetables and herbs to maturity before harvesting them to eat. We are proud that this tradition has continued for several years!



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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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Do you know someone who would love to experience the spirit of our Shabbat RELISH? Invite them to join us for songs, dancing, and stories!

Experience the Joys of RELISH!

RELISH (n.) A morning communal celebration of song in anticipation of Shabbat. A time to sing, dance, and celebrate Shabbat together.

Friday, May 25 at 9:00am: Early Childhood RELISH (ages 0-5)

Questions? Contact Karen Shakun kshakun@ssds-hartford.org



Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford
26 Buena Vista Road
West Hartford, CT 06107
860-561-0700

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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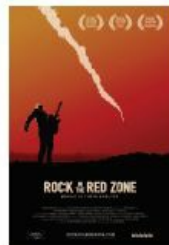
Have you shopped at the Crown Lately?



Stop By the Crown Market TODAY!



FILM



Rock in the Red Zone Featuring Micha Biton

"Rock in the Red Zone" is an intimate portrayal of life on the edge in the war-torn city of Sderot, Israel. Once known for its prolific rock scene that revolutionized Israeli music, for thirteen years the town has been the target of ongoing rocket fire from the Gaza strip. Through the personal lives and music of Sderot's diverse musicians, the film chronicles the town's trauma and reveals its enduring spirit.

Sunday, April 22 | 5 pm

Beth David Synagogue

20 Dover Rd, West Hartford, 860-298-1241

Dinner and a Movie - \$5 for Beth David members, \$10 for the community. Falafel dinner for purchase from Yosi Kosher Catering.

Tuesday, May 22 | 7 pm

Beth El Temple

2628 Albany Avenue, West Hartford, 860-233-9696

Movie and popcorn, \$10

Thursday, May 24 | 7:30 pm

Beth Shalom B'nai Israel

400 Middle Turnpike E, Manchester, 860-643-9563

\$10 includes entrance to performance on June 7.



Jewish
Federation
of Greater Hartford



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



CONCERT

Micha Biton is one of the early pioneers of the renowned music scene in Sderot, Israel.

Micha grew up in an extraordinary musical neighborhood, where creativity was abundant and children sang and played instruments, formed informal youth ensembles and dreamed of the bands that they would create. Micha was nine when his father passed away, an event which profoundly impacted his outlook, his writing, and his personal direction.

His dramatic childhood, the impact of his strong Moroccan ethnic roots coupled with cultural Ashkenazic influences led to the formation of a musician who passionately calls upon both sides of his upbringing to create songs of hope and joyfulness.

Micha performs across Israel and abroad, bringing his story and his songs of inspiration and joy to audiences throughout the world.

Sunday, June 3 | 7 pm

Beth El Temple

2626 Albany Avenue, West Hartford, 860-233-9696

\$20, \$15 for Seniors and Students.

Thursday, June 7 | 7:30 pm

Beth Shalom B'nai Israel

400 Middle Turnpike E, Manchester, 860-643-9563

\$10 includes entrance to movie on May 24.

Friday, June 8 | 6:30 pm

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation

55 Bushy Hill Rd, Simsbury, 860-658-1075

Micha Biton will be performing during Shabbat services.

Dinner is included after the service.

Free and open to the community.

CD's available for purchase at all locations - \$10

THIS Sunday!!



Jewish Teen
Learning Connection

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.

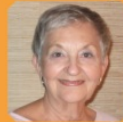
Featuring Storytellers Extraordinaire:



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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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.



THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT THE PLACE

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: Sahrskru@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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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.

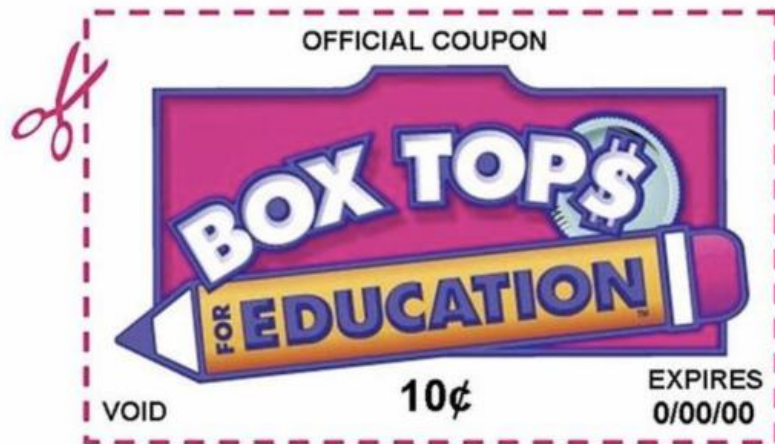
**Celebrate our Children, Teens,
Young Adults, Parents,
Supporters and Staff**

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