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Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Naso

Candlelighting 7:56 pm

May 25, 2018

12 Sivan, 5778

**Reminder : Monday, May 28th
SCHOOL CLOSED for Memorial Day**

Schechter - Did you know?

90% of Schechter alumni are on **honor roll** in high school

100% of Schechter graduates are in an accelerated math program;
half of them even complete geometry in 8th grade

100% of the graduating class travels to **Israel**

Schechter alumni are regularly inducted into the **Foreign Language Honor Society** and their school's chapter of the **National Honor Society**. They also earn **gold and silver medals** in National Latin exams.



Schechter alums attend and excel in:
Public high schools
Magnet schools
(University High
School of Math &
Science,
Performing Arts)
Loomis, KO, Ms.
Porters, Watkinson
and other fine independent schools

Schechter School Office Hours:

Monday- Thursday
8am -4pm

Friday
8am- 3:30pm

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For Your Calendar:

May 23
Memorial Day
NO SCHOOL

May 29
Field Day

May 29-June 5
Book Fair

June 1
EC Art Show

June 4
7th Grade Presentation
of Facing History
Project

June 5
PA Picnic

June 7
Siddur Presentation

June 13
Last day of classes
8th grade graduation

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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!



Grandparents and Special Person Day!!!



HHNE

Schechter alum are:

Captains of their high school sports teams (swimming, basketball, track, soccer, cross country)

Student representatives to the **Board of Education**

Regional and Chapter Board Members of **BBYO** and **USY**

Performers in **Pops and Jazz**

Members of **Academic Quiz Bowl** teams

Leaders in **Student Government**

Schechter alumni are chosen through a competitive process to be **counselors and unit heads** at their camps

Among the many schools Schechter alumni attend:

Amherst College	Northwestern
Brandeis University	Princeton University
Columbia University	The George Washington University
Dartmouth	Tufts
Georgia Tech	University of Chicago
Hamilton College	University of Connecticut
HARTT School of Music	University of Maryland
Middlebury College	University of Michigan
New York University	University of Pennsylvania

Schechter alumni join the **IDF**, and dance in Israel; they lead **Hillels** on campus and join **boards** of Jewish communal organizations

Schechter alumni are leaders in fields such as finance, education, health, law, clergy, communications, music, the news and film industries, marketing, environment

And as one set of grandparents shared with us last week: **philanthropy, giving back** and taking part of the **community** define Schechter graduates; it runs in their blood.

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Chumash Presentation: Students are the Teachers!

Another great Schechter moment--the Rimonim Chumash Presentation! Once again, our students became the teachers, sharing Torah with parents, teachers and guests.

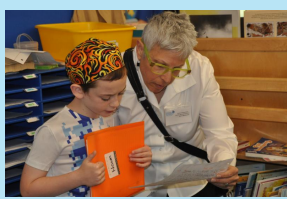


Learning about the narratives in the beginning of the book of Shemot, one group focused on the concept that heroes are people who stand up for what is right as well as on the connections between the Passover story in the Torah and Pesach today.



The second group began their study of Torah from the actual text. Studying creation and the Garden of Eden, the students learned to use context clues, familiar vocabulary and their growing knowledge of biblical grammar to analyze the Hebrew text. They focused on the idea that we are all created *b'tzelem Elohim* (in God's image), and because of that, we are responsible for caring for the world and all of its inhabitants. In addition, we need to admit to our mistakes and accept responsibility for them.

During the presentation, the students presented their favorite lessons and how they personally connected to the text. **Noah S.** said, "I learned from B'reishit that we always need to take care of the world that God gave us. God gave us the world as a gift and we need to keep this gift forever. We can plant more trees, feed the animals, keep the water in the ocean clean, and make sure there is no pollution. **Antonio** noted, "The most important lesson that I have learned from B'reishit is that God gave us Shabbat as a gift. Shabbat is a day of the week on which I rest. As a family, we eat Shabbat dinner together and we rest at home. Let all your thoughts drift away, be calm, rest well, light the candles, say your prayers, and enjoy the interior and the core of Shabbat. This lesson tells me that God cares for us because God gives us a chance to save the world."



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Chumash Presentation!



Other students gleaned different messages from their studies. **Avi** wrote, "I learned from Parashat Bo that we eat maror during the Seder because it reminds us of the bitter lives of the slaves. B'nai Yisrael ate maror and matzot before they left Egypt. We need to remember that because we are free people and we can make choices every day. Slaves cannot choose for themselves." **Alex G.** commented, "The most important lesson that I've learned in B'reishit is to take your time doing a project. Even if you don't have good materials you can always make something good out of it." **Marcus** said, "The most important lesson that I have learned from Gan Eden is that you should not listen to someone when you know it's wrong."

Bringing their lessons to life, the students became heroes who used their b'tzelem piece to make a difference in the lives of others. Leading up to the presentation, they made peanut butter sandwiches for the homeless, created Inspirational beads for people in the hospital, made delicious chocolate balls for firefighters, and picked up trash on the school grounds.

After singing and dancing, each student received a copy of the *Etz Hayim Chumash*, a resource to be treasured for years to come. It was so beautiful to note it was difficult to take a class photo because rather than looking up at the camera, the students had their heads buried in their books. An auspicious beginning to a lifelong journey of Torah study!



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Gloomy Grammar Exercises? No Way!

In early May, Schechter's new Learning Specialist **Patricia Dabney** began working with 6th and 7th graders to provide them with additional practice with writing mechanics. But these aren't the typical "drill and kill" grammar exercises you remember from your school days; instead, students participated in an interactive activity in which they moved around the classroom from station to station, examining sentences in order to identify the sentences without errors.



Students explored writing mechanics such as capitalization, punctuation, and subject-verb agreement. Based on their answers, they moved to a different station until they had visited 10 stations. When students finished the tasks, they reviewed the answers on the smart board as a group to better understand writing mechanics.





The next week, students participated in a different interactive writing activity... this time, held in the gym! Placed in pairs, the students, seated on scooters, were given a task: analyze several paragraphs about a given topic, find the errors, and correct them.

Students analyzed the sentences based on important skills such as spelling, capitalization, subject-verb agreement, and punctuation, especially comma and apostrophe usage. After Mrs. Dabney and Bobbi Woodbury reviewed the errors and corrections, students were allowed to throw 10 baskets per group.



It was a win-win... the students worked hard using their writing mechanics skills, and they enjoyed fun physical activity!

Mrs. Dabney and Bobbi look forward to three more interactive meetings with the middle schoolers this year in order to further strengthen their skills with writing mechanics and have fun in the process.





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Alumni Accomplishments!



Schechter wishes **Leo Gold** (2016) and **Eitan Ehrlich** (2016) a hearty *Mazal Tov*! Both were inducted into the National Honors Society at University High School of Science and Engineering this month.

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Alumni Visit: Cantor Gideon Zelmeyer



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Hero Show!



This week, Schechter welcomed Cantor Gideon Zelermyer (Schechter 1989) for a visit. While we are always excited to welcome alumni back to the school, this visit was especially fun... when Gideon and Andrea realized that they had known each other years ago as students at George Washington University! It was a great reunion and a chance for Cantor Zelermyer to see the innovative ways that Schechter has developed since he was a student.

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Israel @ 70 Wraps Up with Concert & Schechter Dancers!

Our students have been invited to dance at the Greater Hartford community "Israel @ 70" program at the JCC on June 3rd. Our dancers will provide a strong close to the day with their performance at 5:30. We already have an enthusiastic group of multiage dancers, and we would love to increase the number! If your child is available to dance, please encourage him/her to participate to make this day even more special for our school and for the community. Contact Nancy Rosen at nrosen@ssds-hartford.org if you'd like to get in on the fun!

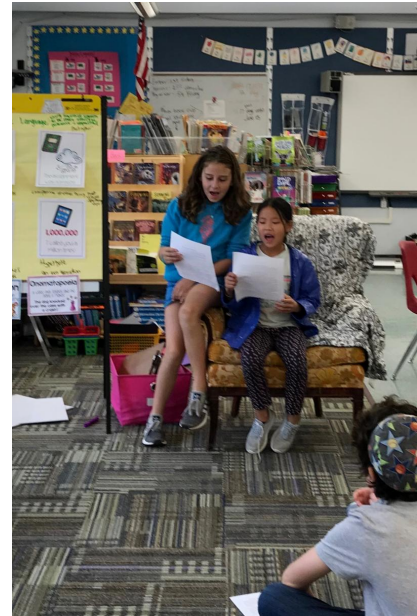
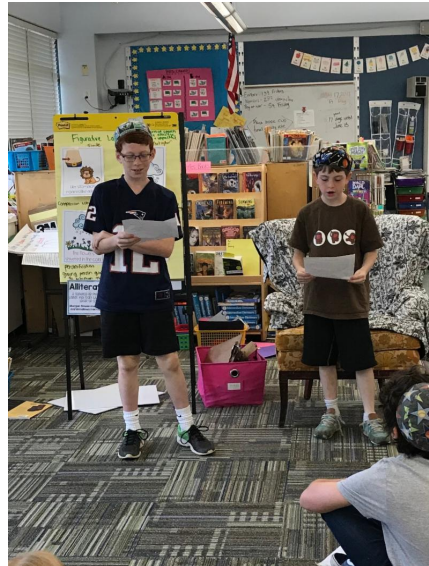
For more information about the final Israel@70 event, please click [here](#).

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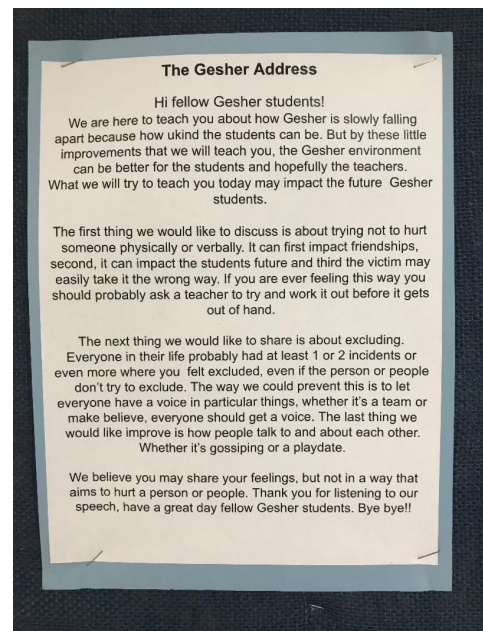
Gesher and the Gettysburg Address

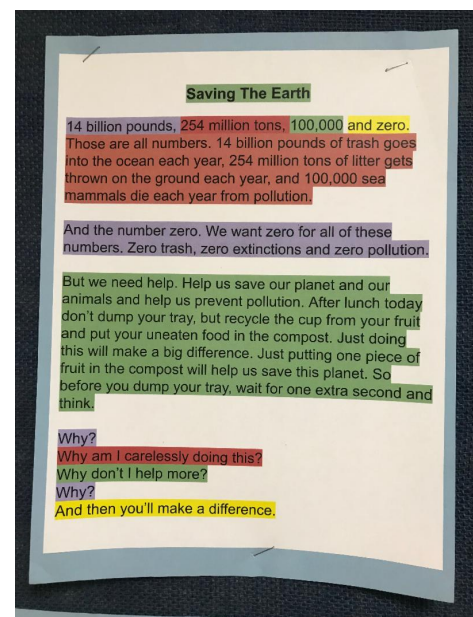


This past week, Geshher students learned about the Gettysburg Address and the important message it spread to the American people during the time of the Civil War.



The students discussed that it reminded the Americans that they should be united as one, to not abandon the idea of one country and that this country is run by the people for the people. During this troubled time in American history, this is what the Americans needed to be reminded about from President Lincoln, so they could make the necessary changes for this country to move forward.





After this discussion, the students split into groups to think about what kind of message they might deliver to either their classmates or their country, something that would resonate for all of them.

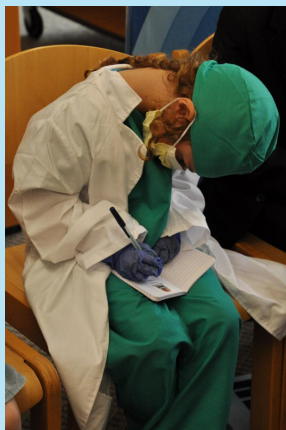


The students turned these ideas into their own 21st century Gettysburg Address speeches with titles such as: *The American Address*, *The Gesher Address*, and *What Change Can Do*. Each group articulated strong messages about their feelings of our country/community and presented them to the class.

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Research and Writing Skills to Portray Parparim Heroes

The Parparim gathered with their families at "Cafe Parpar" to begin a new Hero Day tradition. This was a culminating event for a semester-long joint literacy and social studies unit focusing on research around the idea of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world.



The first year Parparim students chose heroes in our community including firefighters, teachers, and scientists, while the second year Parparim conducted focused research on a specific hero from history who embodied the idea of Tikkun Olam.



Research took place over the course of one month using library texts and web-based articles, followed by rough drafts of reports about each hero. Once their written work was published and ready, they began preparing for Hero Day where they would read their

written work dressed as the hero of their choosing in front of parents at Cafe Parpar.

Second year Parparim students chose to research the following people who embodied the idea of Tikkun Olam: Abraham Lincoln, Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, Hillary Clinton, Martin Luther King, Ruby Bridges, Theodore Hertzl, George Washington, and Davey Crockett.



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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 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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Please Join us for this Event!!



'Our Legacy Lives On'



A PFLI Collaboration of Solomon Schechter Day School and Facing History and Ourselves: The Memorial Project

The Event

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.

Where

Solomon Schechter Day School
26 Buena Vista Rd, West Hartford, CT 06107

When

Monday, June 4, 2018
7:00 PM

Contact Us

If you have questions or want to know more about our project please feel free to contact us at:

monumentproject7thgrade@gmail.com

Please also check out our website and video at:

<https://monumentproject7th.wixsite.com/2018>

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Have you shopped at the Crown Lately?



Stop By the Crown Market TODAY!

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Come Join the Celebration!

Greater Hartford's Jewish community will come together for a free celebration of Israel's 70th birthday on Sunday, June 3 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford. All are welcome to attend.

The festival will include a wide variety of artistic, cultural, educational and recreational activities. The Klezshpiel klezmer band, choirs from local synagogues, and emerging Israeli R&B star Noam Wolf will perform along with Israeli folk dancers Or Chadash and dance troupes from the Mandell JCC and Solomon Schechter Day School. Adults will enjoy Israeli films and engaging speakers, while children enjoy Israel-inspired arts and crafts, games, face painting, bounce houses and a parade. A shuk (market) will sell Israeli snacks and crafts, and food and beverages will be available for purchase from Yosi Kosher Catering, The Crown Market and The Emanuel Synagogue Brotherhood.

Parking will be available at the Mandell JCC. Overflow parking with a shuttle bus service will be available at the University of Hartford, Lot A, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford.

Presented by Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and the Mandell Jewish Community Center, the June 3 celebration is part of a yearlong commemoration of Israel's 70th anniversary made possible by generous support from the Jewish Community Foundation and Federation. Local businesses, individuals and families have also provided financial support, including Jerusalem Sponsor Data-Mail and Tel Aviv Sponsors Nefco and Solinsky Eyecare.

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TWO GREAT WAYS TO SAVE ON JEWISH SUMMER CAMP



Hartford County families: Are you ready for the summer? Save on camp and give your child an unforgettable Jewish experience with these two amazing offers.

1. One Happy Camper grants for first time overnight campers



One Happy Camper provides grants of up to \$1,000 for a child attending a nonprofit, Jewish overnight camp for the first time. One Happy Camper is a program of the Foundation for Jewish Camp in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. You can choose from over 150 camps for Jewish kids of all ages. For more information, visit onehappycamper.org or contact Heather Fiedler at

hfiedler@jewishhartford.org or 860.727.6121.

2. \$500 grants to attend Camp Laurelwood

A friend of Camp Laurelwood is offering a special \$500 incentive to attend any session of two weeks or longer this summer. The incentive applies to first time campers and anyone who did not attend Camp Laurelwood last year. Camp Laurelwood is Connecticut's premier Jewish co-ed overnight camp located in Madison, Conn. It has served Jewish families for more than 80 years. For more information, contact Heather Golub at heather@camplaurelwood.org or 203.421.3736.



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The Story of Hebrew

A lecture by Professor Lewis Glinert



Professor of Hebrew Studies and Linguistics at
Dartmouth College

- **Wednesday, May 30, 2018**
- **7:30pm**
- **The Emanuel Synagogue**

In celebration of Israel's 70th Anniversary, join us to hear Professor Glinert tell the amazing story of the creation of Hebrew; from its biblical origins to emerging as the everyday language of the modern Jewish State of Israel.

Refreshments will be served; FREE & Open to the Public

RSVP to: gailadler@aol.com

*This program is supported in part
by a generous donation in memory of Eugene Frisch.*

The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford CT 06117
<https://emanuelsynagogue.org/>

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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, 860-238-1241

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

2626 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

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SAVE THE DATE

YOUNG ISRAEL OF WEST HARTFORD ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

SIYUM TANACH

Honoring Elisheva & Zev Davidovics

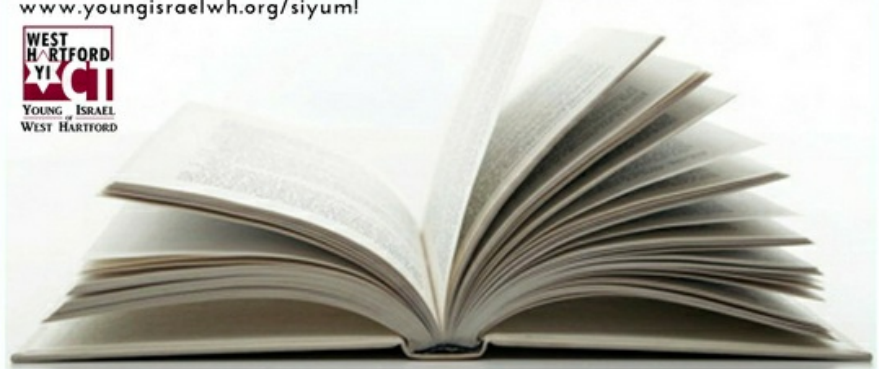
and Daniella & Rabbi Avi Robinson

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

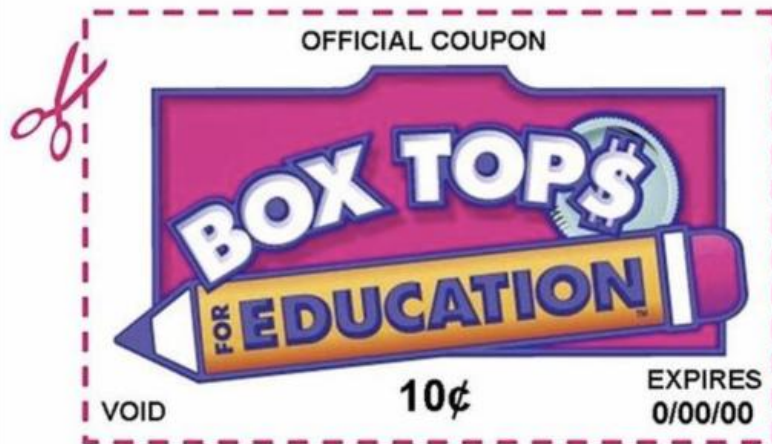
SIYUM TANACH CAMPAIGN? Join us as we work to study and complete the entirety of the Hebrew Bible for a communal celebration June 10!

Choose a portion to study on your own, with friends or in your family! Visit

www.youngisraelwh.org/siyum!



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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