

Shofar

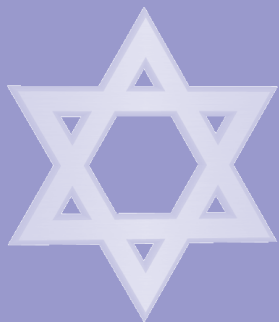
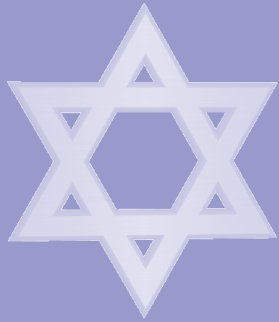


Tevet/Shevat 5785

January 2025



Jerusalem in the snow



The Rev. Kristopher Reese to Speak at B'nai Israel



Yesterday in a Zoom session with Rabbis from across North America, a leading scholar referred to the interfaith community's reaction to October 7th as "the great silence." Nationally and in many regions, few religious leaders stepped up to unequivocally support the victims of Hamas terror and the right to self-defense. Nationally, but not here. On October 8th The Rev. Kristopher Reese, Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Waterbury, not only completely altered his schedule to be at our Solidarity gathering, he generously contributed to relief efforts in Israel. In well-known remark Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lamented, *"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."* At that tough hour, beginning with Pastor Reese the Jewish people's local friends were not silent. Instead, they steadfastly stood with us, offering comfort and solidarity. We are delighted to welcome the Rev. Reese as we commemorate the work and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Officially installed at Grace Baptist in 2015, Pastor Reese's ministry has been greatly impactful within his church, Waterbury and beyond. Under his leadership the church has been renovated, its programs expanded to include a senior center and monthly free community breakfasts. Pastor Reese led the effort within his community for Covid-19 education and vaccination. He participates on several communal and interfaith initiatives, co-chairing the Waterbury Diversity Committee and serving as a trustee on the St. Mary's Hospital Mentorship Board, and has worked with Rabbi Eric on the Connecticut Community Foundation Pathways Committee and Interfaith Action Fellowship. Ordained to the ministry in 2004, he holds academic degrees from Community College of Philadelphia, Villanova University and Cairn University. A highly acclaimed national preacher, he's the author of *The Morning Word* with Pastor Reese. Pastor Reese is a husband and father of five children.

Honoring our strong personal and institutional bonds, hearing a most thoughtful and accomplished voice, join us for the annual MLK Jr. Shabbat Commemoration on Friday, January 17th at 7 PM.

Leadership

Rabbi

Eric Polokoff, D.D.
rabbi@bnaisraelsouthbury.org

Music Coordinator

Linda Goodman
music@bnaisraelsouthbury.org

School Director

Jacqui Schulefand
educator@bnaisraelsouthbury.org

Temple Administrator

Abby Peklo
administrator@bnaisraelsouthbury.org

Temple Coordinator

Lindsey Noble
office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org

Officers

Patti Berkowitz, President
Sheri Kipperman, 1st VP
Alexis Zimmerman, 2nd VP
Eric Linnetz, Secretary
Greg Estra, Treasurer
Steven Reps, Past President

Trustees

Marci Durnell (2025)
Lisa Segal (2025)
Peggy Klein (2025)
Iurie Schwartz (2026)
Kathryn Albee (2026)
Dana Packer (2026)
Sylvia Pena (2027)
Brittany Weiss (2027)
Margie Hertz (2027)

www.bnaisraelsouthbury.org

**Shabbat
Candle lighting times
for January**

1/7	4:56
1/14	5:05
1/21	5:13
1/28	5:22



Greeters Needed!

Dear BI Congregants -

As our building is now always locked for everyone's safety, we are seeking volunteers to serve as **Erev Shabbat Greeters** every Friday from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m., as congregants and guests enter for services. Our armed security guard, present for every service, is stationed at the door during this time.

Please consider signing up for one or more Friday evenings. Your assistance is greatly appreciated! Use below or QR code anytime you can help. This sign up form will be active for the next several months.

Thank you for your volunteer commitment!

<https://bit.ly/ErevShabbatGreeter>



Looking for a ride to service?

Looking for a ride to services? We have congregants who have volunteered to help drive those in need of a ride. Please contact the office if you would like assistance with arrangements.

Willing to volunteer to give a ride?

Use the QR code to sign up, follow the link below or contact the office!

<https://shorturl.at/gtJW5>



B'nai Israel- Stronger Connections: Opportunities for Jewish Learning and Involvement

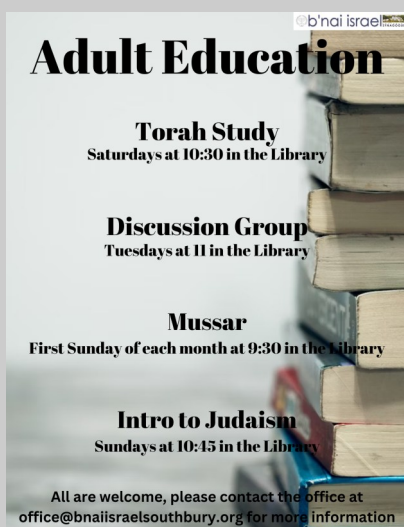
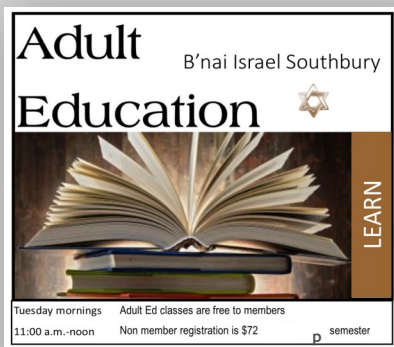
A Monthly Column by Congregant Melissa Fleischer

Introduction to Judaism

As we come into the Chanukah season, it is a great time for all of us to become better connected with our Jewish roots and build Jewish bonds with other congregants by taking the Rabbi's Introduction to Judaism class. This class is a special opportunity for anyone, including those that know very little about their Jewish heritage in addition to those that are well versed in all things related to Judaism, to reconnect with everything Jewish and learn about the basics of Judaism, including who we are as a people, what some of our most firmly held beliefs are and what we treasure as our most important customs and traditions. It covers everything from the writings of the Torah and Mishna, to how we celebrate and what is required for each of our holidays. We all get bits and pieces of this from the Rabbi's weekly sermons, and we especially remember those customs and traditions he reminds of us annually on Yom Kippur at Kol Nidre. But this class is more than that, a compilation of everything Jewish from foods, customs, traditions and holidays to our most firmly held beliefs, laws, and how Judaism differs so distinctly from Christianity and other religions. A must take class for all!

Another wonderful opportunity for all of us to reconnect with our Jewish values and connections and with our fellow Jewish congregants is the opportunity for communal outdoor Menorah lighting for all eight crazy nights of Chanukah that B'nai Israel offers each night of Chanukah at 5pm (5:55pm 12/27). Join together with friends, family and other congregants to light the Menorah together and celebrate the festival of lights for each of the nights of Chanukah from December 25, 2024-January 1, 2025. Ring in the New Year with other Jews celebrating the best holiday of all, Chanukah!

For more information, please contact Lindsey Noble at office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org. We look forward to seeing you at B'nai Israel's next Intro to Judaism class and at Menorah lighting! Happy Chanukah!!!



BIRS Students Explore NYC



If you are interested in enrolling
your child in religious school
please call Education Director
Jacqui Schulefand at
(203) 687-5745 or e-mail
educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org



The BIRS Confirmation Class had a wonderful day as we journeyed to New York City to tour the Tenement Museum and the Eldridge Street Synagogue. We learned about how a Jewish and an Italian family lived in an Orchard Street tenement in New York City during the early 1900's and participated in a walking tour of the Lower East side after touring the synagogue. After our official tours ended, our very own Alan Blatter took us on an unofficial food tour of the Lower East Side. We visited the Pickle Guys, Economy Candy, Yonah Schimmel's Knishes and more. We had a wonderful day while learning so much.



BIRS Students Celebrate Chanukah



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educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org



The students of BIRS celebrated Chanukkah a little early this year and had a a fabulous time doing so.

This year we learned the blessings for candle lighting, decorated Chanukkah cookies, made cards for a nursing home with former BIRS student Lauren Bearz, made edible dreidels, played the dreidel game, learned about the Chanukkah story and the great miracles that G-d performed for us, read Chanukkah books, decorated tzeddakah boxes which were graciously given to us by B'nai Israel Sisterhood, sang Chanukkah songs with Morah Linda, and more.

Everyone had a wonderful morning.





Shabbat



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your child in religious school
please call Education Director
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BIRS Families

Welcome Shabbat

B'nai Israel Sisterhood, under the leadership of Michelle Rosen, has created Shabbat Bags for our students. Two students are chosen each week and share their experience of how they welcomed Shabbat.



The Liebman Family celebrated Shabbat on November 22, with a delicious Hello Fresh meal of chicken, broccoli, and potatoes. Kimiye, Ruby, Maxine, and Jesse shared in singing the prayers, while Maxine lit the candles. Maxine says, "lighting the candles makes me feel glad that I'm a Jew." Kimiye expressed how enjoyable it was to have ritual in our lives. Ruby says, "it made me happy to have friends and family to celebrate Shabbat." Jesse welcomed the tradition which, as a child, he did not regularly celebrate. It builds family communication and sharing. Thank you, Shabbat Bag and Bnai Israel Sisterhood!

Good News For Jews!



We have excellent news to share about congregant Will Qualls. He has a match for a live liver donation and is awaiting surgery.

The Qualls family thanks everyone who helped spread the message about this critical need.

Good News For Jews!

We would like to share YOUR good news in our monthly Shofar. Please send us simchas, happy news, newspaper photos or clippings featuring you or your family, or announcements for plays, art exhibits, shows, or other events that fellow congregants might be interested in attending or learning about. We would love to share your Good News for Jews!

This Month's Good News

Mazal Tov to
Pat and Matt Magida on the
birth of their first grandchild!



Good News For Jews!

Sheri Kipperman's daughter Elyssa was named Goalkeeper of the Month in her professional soccer league in Israel!
Way to go Elyssa!



Donor Opportunities



Yahrzeit Plaque

Purchase a plaque to memorialize your loved ones with a memorial plaque
Each plaque is \$380

Please contact
Sharon Goldman
sharon.goldman@hotmail.com

Contact Us

Phone: (203) 267-3394

office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

administrator
@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

rabbi@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

Visit our website for a full list of staff email addresses



Celebrate a simcha, remember a friend, or share a milestone by sending a tribute card. Cards are hand calligraphied and still only \$5 including postage!

Contact Doris Landaeta:
dorikam1958@gmail.com

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of...

Mildred Schwartz

Leona, Allen, Ronald, Ellen & Douglas Schwartz & Kevin and Leslie Hotary

Irving G Abramson

Joel Abramson

In honor of...

General Fund

In memory of...

Irving & Ruth Landress

George Landress

Morris Sperling

Daniel Marcus

Fred Barr

Carol Kozac, Seth Ward, & Family

Marilyn Engelman

Deyanira Engelman

Rita Idelson

Eleanor Saperstein

Barbara Levitt

Ruth Pearl

Ida Epstein

Sharon Goldman

Harold Epstein

Sharon Goldman

In honor of...

Rabbi performing a beautiful service

The Lowinger Family

Linda Goodman

Sheri Kipperman

Ryan Blumberg's baby naming

Jan & Eric Albert

Thanks to...

Jonathan & Rachel Albert

Linda Goodman

Music Fund

In memory of...

Patricia Levine

Rochelle Gershenow

Edna Purrinson

Rochelle Gershenow

Leo Menaker

Susan & Coby Ben-Chitrit

In honor of...

Linda Goodman—For 13 years of friendship, inspiration and leadership with love
Susan & Tom Bleeks

Adult Education Fund

In memory of...

Elaine Sampliner

Margie & Jonathan Hertz

Caring Fund

In memory of...

Janet Meyers Hennick

Marjorie Ross

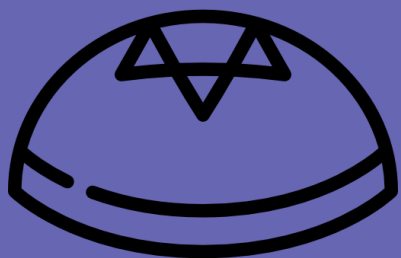
Tribute Cards

From Sandy Gold

In memory of Francine Cohen

From Debbie Garber

In memory of Francine Cohen



B'NAI ISRAEL JUDAICA SHOP

Stop in and check out the beautiful Judaica on offer!



Thank you to these individuals for purchasing leaves on our newly re-designed "Tree of Life"!

Your name here

Please consider purchasing a leaf for our new tree.

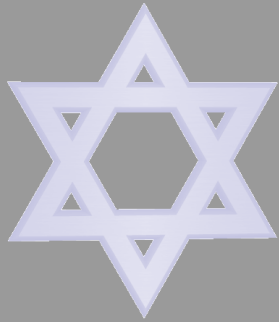
Contact Sharon Goldman at sharon.goldman@hotmail.com for more information.

To our B'nai Israel Family -

Caring for others is an important Jewish value. Our congregation's caring committee is called *Chesed v'Shalom*. *Chesed*, in Hebrew, means compassion and *Shalom* translates to peace and love. Our Chicken Soup for the Soul program delivers homemade chicken soup to those in need. Volunteers can provide a ride to worship services, prepare a meal for those who are ill, or lend a friendly ear when you are experiencing a challenge. Please let us know how we can help you.

Sheri Kipperman
Sherrie Bitterman
Evan Cooper
Patti Berkowitz

Stigs12@gmail.com
sbitterman5@yahoo.com
evanco1128@hotmail.com
president@bnaiisraelouthbury.org



*each name in
bold has a plaque
in the B'nai Israel
sanctuary

*May their memories be a
blessing*



Yahrzeits

May their memories be for blessing

1/3/25

Charlotte Berman
Elizabeth Weisman Davis
Joan Dolcort
Ida Edlin
Laurel Falk
Ida Fleisher
Lilian Garber
Alexander Greenberg
Hattie Greenberg
Harriet Ludlow
Harriet Marcus
Gussie Matzkin
Molly Phillips
Joseph Protter
Frances Rachells
Marion Silver
Beatrice Slater
Fannie Spirt

1/10/25

Albert Augenbraun
Regina Augenbraun
Ann Freeman Bacher
Philip Bernstein
Belle Bram
Samuel Brandvein
Sigrid Brorson
John 'Jack' Curran
Ida Epstein
Rebecca Feitelson
Cary Fishman
Ida Freedman
Fay Friedman
Lilian Garber
Madelyn Griner Keiser
Morris Klein
Harold Lawson
Harry C. Lichtenstein
Pauline K. Novak
Ben Oshins
Jacques Pollock
Marcus Schwartz
Elsa Siegel
Jules Silfen
Marcy Taurig
Elliott V. Wright
Molly Rudolf Zeidler

1/17/25

Sylvia Albert
Anna Alexander
Jacob Brandvein
Charles Dannemann
Louis Decker
Celia Fetbroth



Isaac Gaber
Sam Golub
Edward Gorman
Jacob Korkin
Patricia Liebeskind
Ida Medina
Morris Novak
Leo Schein
William C. Shepard
Fanny Sperling
Irving Steiglitz
Joel Sukman

1/24/25

Aida Abramson
Celia Baum
Yetta Loew Blank
Bert Boyson
Dvora Rose Brodsky
Harold Epstein
Paul Frenkel
Samuel R Greenblatt
Florence Silverman Horn
Irving Kantrowitz
Jean S. Keiser
Richard Krasow
Mary Pollock
Harry Simon
Theresa Taurig

1/31/25

David Joseph Beninson
Bernard Blick
Charles Cohen
Virginia Earing
Ben Farer
Clara Drazner Fischbein
Clara Gaber
Donald Garber
Ilya Gelfand
Louis Gershenow
Myron W. Green
Irving Gross
Annette Hall
Hyman Hochheiser
Jacob (Uncle Jack) Horn
Bernard Lerner
Gladyce Lerner
Naomi M. Rearson
Cecille Rhodes
Dorothy Griner Strisik
Andrea Constans Wolf
Aranka Zelinger

JANUARY

Happy Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Mahler	01/05
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Samberg	01/09
Mr. & Mrs. Bror Jameson	01/14
Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Klein	01/25
Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Mirrer	01/27

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday

Jehsinia Weiss	01/02	Ariel Hogan	01/24
Deborah Garber	01/03	Marcy Feinman	01/25
Rachel Basch	01/05	Leah Obenshain	01/26
Mia Polokoff	01/08	Meris Rader	01/28
Sandra Gold	01/09	Eric Greenberg	01/30
Don Durnell	01/10	Hanna Reps	01/30
David Hill	01/10	Richard Getnick	01/31
Henry Price	01/12	Jesse Langer	01/31
Sheila Baum	01/13		
Connor Jameson	01/13		
Mia McConnon	01/13		
Heather Cieply	01/14		
Brittany Weiss	01/15		
Donald Liebeskind	01/19		
Ellis Gerstenfeld	01/20		
Barbara Rachells	01/22		
Carolyn Strauss	01/22		
Gisselle Rodriguez			
Pessin	01/23		
Lily Slepoy	01/23		
Lisa Segal	01/24		



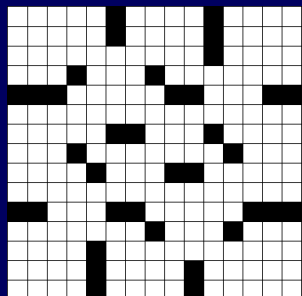
"Please God, please heal them."

Mindful of how our *Misheberach* prayers are to be timely, as we begin the New Year 5783 we seek to check on the status of those for whom we pray publicly. Beginning December 1st, to maintain, add or remove a name from the list, the office *must be notified on a monthly basis*. Call the office at 203.267.3394 or email: office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org to maintain, add, or remove a name.

CELEBRATE!

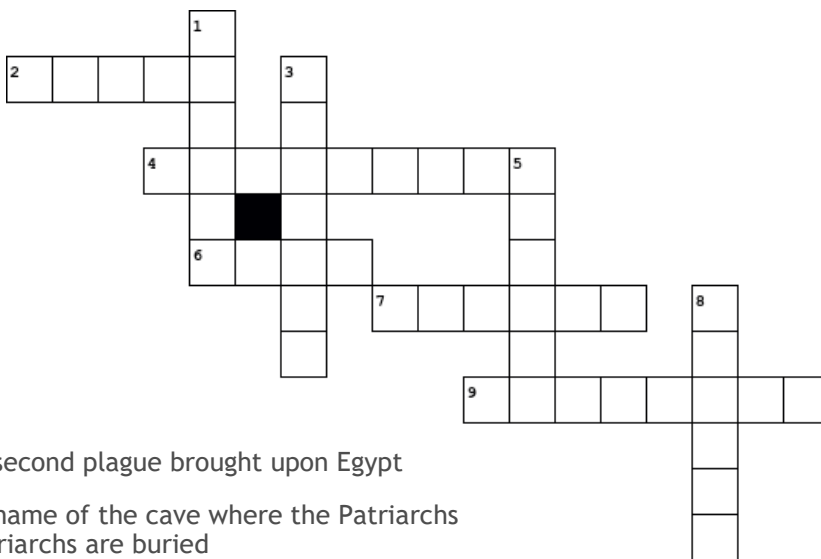


Puzzle Page



A new monthly feature where you can complete a themed wordsearch, crossword, or other word puzzle either online through the link below or print out this page and complete it on paper!

This month's theme is the January parshas!



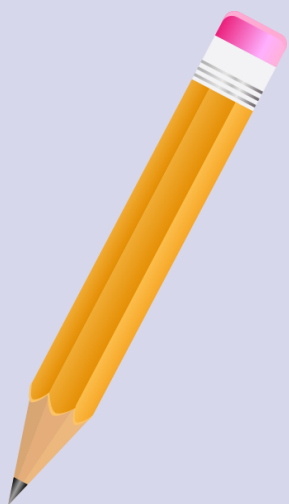
Across

2. The second plague brought upon Egypt
4. The name of the cave where the Patriarchs and Matriarchs are buried
6. What symbol is Judah associated with
7. Who says "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."
9. Moses' wife's name

Down

1. What is Jacob's name changed to before his death
3. What Hebrew phrase means "how good", such as when referring to the tents of Jacob?
5. How did Moses respond when G-d called to him from the burning bush?
8. Who sang the song to Jacob to tell him that Joseph was alive?

<https://crosswordlabs.com/view/january-shofar-torah-crossword>



Interested in studying to become an Adult B' Mitzvah?

We are thinking of starting an adult B' Mitzvah Class!

Contact Rabbi Polokoff for more information

@b'nai israel southbury

Adult Education

Torah Study
Saturdays at 10:30 in the Library

Discussion Group
Tuesdays at 11 in the Library

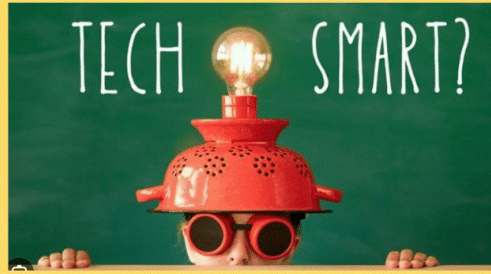
Mussar
One Sunday each month at 9:30 in the Library

Intro to Judaism
Sundays at 10:45 in the Library

All are welcome, please contact the office at office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org for more information

Dates of upcoming Mussar Classes:

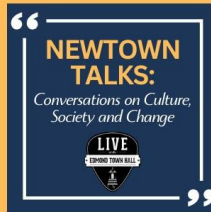
January 12
February 9
March 9
April 6
May 18



Tech Corp Needs You!

Tech Corp is in need of volunteers. Tech Corp members are responsible for the streaming of services, shivas, meetings, etc. Are you able to multitask? Do you have an understanding of the Windows operating system? Do you have an artistic eye? Are you willing to arrive 30 minutes early for services? If you have a willingness to learn, Steven Reps will provide the training.

RSVP smreps@gmail.com



The Speaker Series at Edmond Town Hall

Hosted by
Suzy DeYoung
&
Lee Shull



October 24

SEBASTIAN JUNGER

Award winning journalist, filmmaker, Peabody award winner and best selling author of "The Perfect Storm" and "In My Time of Dying: How I came Face to Face with the Idea of an Afterlife"

November 21

DANI SHAPIRO

Author of memoir "Inheritance", a New York Times bestseller, and the host and creator of the hit podcast "Family Secrets". Her most recent novel, "Signal Fires" was named a best book of 2022 and is being developed into a TV series.

December 19

BRIAN REED

Host and co-creator of podcasts "S-Town" and "The Trojan Horse Affair", a former producer of "This American Life". His new project, "Question Everything" is an exploration of journalism itself, starting with his own work and the experience of being questioned as a journalist.

January 16

ANTHONY EDWARDS

Actor and survivor, Chairman and national spokesperson for the organization 1in6, which was founded by and for male survivors of sexual abuse.

&

STEPHEN MILLS

Author of "Chosen: A Memoir of Stolen Boyhood," Ambassador for CHILD USA, and board member of Darkness to Light, a national organization empowering adults to prevent child sexual abuse.



TICKETS CAN BE
PURCHASED AT
WWW.EDMONTTOWNHALL.ORG

Books are provided by
Byrd's Books
for pre-purchase
through the store website
and the night of the event
for signing by the author.

For \$5 off your ticket
Enter code Welcome5 when checking out!



Jewish Federation[®]
OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT



GET INVOLVED. GET EMPOWERED.
GET TRAINED.

COUNTERING ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING (CATT)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Identify and explain the steps to survive an active threat incident: RUN, HIDE, FIGHT.
- ✓ Understand how to prepare for an active threat event.
- ✓ Know how to respond to law enforcement's arrival.
- ✓ Recognize the importance of additional trainings such as Step the Bleed™.
- ✓ Commit to action during an active threat event.



DATE & TIME: January 9, 2025

LOCATION: Jewish Federation of Western CT
444 Main St. North Southbury, CT 06488

Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Community Function Hall

TO REQUEST TRAINING, CONTACT

training@jewishcommunitynetwork.org

www.jewishcommunitynetwork.org

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/jewishcommunitynetwork)

[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/jewishcommunitynetwork)

[LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/jewishcommunitynetwork)

[JEWISH COMMUNITY NETWORK.ORG](https://www.jewishcommunitynetwork.org)



Solid Gold Times Two

Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 12PM

Bob and Josie are a husband and wife duo from Sandy Hook. Bob, a published singer-songwriter plays guitar, while Josie sings and plays the flute. They have an electronic drum & bass synthesizer that make the duo sound like a four piece band. They play popular songs from the 1940's to the 1980's. Please RSVP by Thursday, November 15, 2024. Couvert: \$10



Pierce Campbell

Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 12PM

Pierce Campbell served as the Connecticut State Troubadour for several years and has dedicated over 35 years to a full-time music career. His extensive repertoire features a mix of Rock & Roll, Celtic Jazz, and original folk songs. Please RSVP by Thursday, December 6, 2024. Couvert: \$10



The 'Schwartzes'

Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 12PM

Carolynn Schwartz Black is a local singer-songwriter focused on bringing joy through music. With over 30 years of experience, she excels in blues, jazz, folk, classic rock, funk, R&B, and soul. Known as "SoulMama," a nickname given by Clyde Stubblefield. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 2, 2025. Couvert: \$10



Bob & Claudia Hughes

Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 12PM

Bob and Claudia Hughes are vocalists and have been singing together in the area since 2009.

Their repertoire features duets and solos from the Great American Songbook, Broadway, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme hits, and numerous other well known songs imaginatively arranged. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 30, 2024. Couvert: \$10

Events will be held at the Jewish Federation of Western CT Walzer Family Jewish Community Campus 444 Main St N, Southbury, CT 06488