Shofar



Iyar/Sivan 5785 May 2025





Please Note! We are changing our mailing address!



Beginning May 1st please use the building address

444 Main St North Southbury, CT 06488

We will no longer have our PO Box









Shabbat for Israel Dinner and JNF Speaker Event Friday May 2nd

Join us for a no-cost catered Israeli dinner at 5:30 in the social hall

Guest speakers Raz Malka and Gal Ami<mark>r will</mark> join us on Zoom at 6:00 on the big screen in the Social Hall

Erev Shabbat Services begin at 7pm in the Sanctuary

Register using the QR code or by calling 617-423-0999 ext. 819 or the B'nai Israel Office

There is NO charge for dinner but reservations are required



b'nai israel

Campfire and

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat

Friday May 16th at 6pm

Family friendly service led by Rabbi Eric and Livia Mustachi who becomes Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat, with Janessa Jameson leading music

Hot dog roast prior to services and 5 more oneg following services

Where: Outside in the back parking lot

Cost: Free! All food will be provided at no cost What to Bring: Camp chairs and flashlights

RSVP: By Wednesday May 14th, Please fill out the form at the link below or email the office https://forms.gle/Gg8fd4YqCuY8psyS9

Rain Plans: We will meet for hot dogs and services in the building



Thank you to the Peklo Family for Sponsoring Campfire Shabbat and & to the Moustachi/Feinstein Family for their contributions



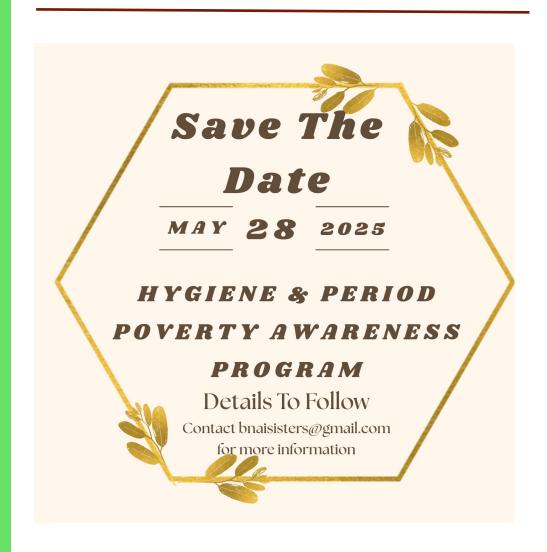
Ceremony to Honor

Linda Goodman

Please join us on Friday evening, May 30th at 6:45 p.m. in the Gallery as we honor Linda Goodman for her 15 years of dedication and commitment as the B'nai Israel Director of Sacred Music. We will honor Linda with a special plaque on the Tree of Life, just prior to Erev Shabbat services.

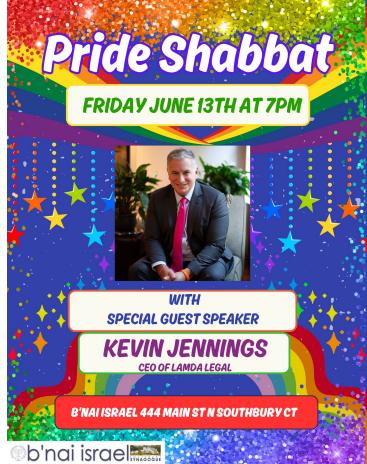












Leadership

Rabbi

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

Music Coordinator

Linda Goodman music@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

School Director

Jacqui Schulefand educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

Temple Administrator

Abby Peklo administrator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

Temple Coordinator

Lindsey Noble office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

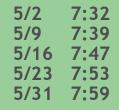
Officers

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)

Shabbat Candle lighting times for May

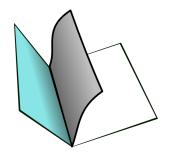




Would you like a printed copy of the Shofar mailed to your home?

We would be happy to send you a copy!

Just contact the office to let us know and provide us with your address.





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.

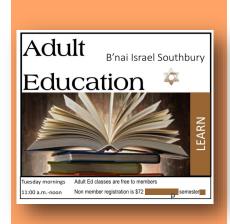
Willing to volunteer to give a ride?

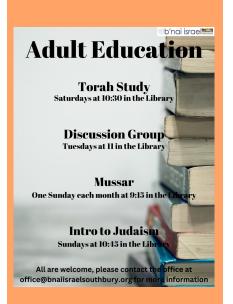
Use the QR code to sign up, follow the link below or contact the office!

https://shorturl.at/gtJW5









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

Make our Jewish Family even Stronger-Join a B'nai Israel Group Today-All are Welcome!

A Monthly Column by Congregant Melissa Fleischer

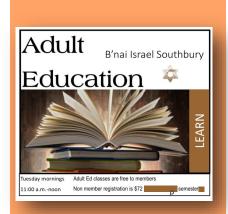
Although my goal in writing this column was to assist congregants in finding opportunities for building stronger connections by engaging in Jewish learning and involvement at B'nai Israel, these inspirations for having a closer connection to our Jewish family do not just have to come in the form of the vast array of adult education classes that B'nai Israel offers. Instead, they can merely come as those wishing to join together for an informal gathering of friends, with similar interests who are also part of the B'nai Israel family. As with our adult education classes, the possibilities are endless and I even have a proposition to create a new one, never before offered at B'nai Israel, Mahjong Madness Players.

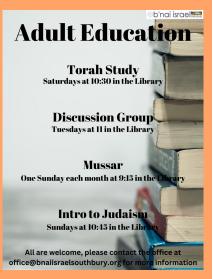
What are the opportunities for increasing your Jewish connections at B'nai Israel? They include attending a monthly B'nai Israel Knitting Circle led by Linda Goodman and Sandy Gold, volunteering in the B'nai Israel Mitzvah Garden and having the opportunity to work together with fellow Zionists to learn more about and educate others about Israel by joining the IAC. In addition, Sisterhood is sponsoring a new opportunity to come together and schmooze while playing Mahjong together with fellow B'nai Israel congregants. Mahjong is a Chinese game that has been played for centuries and often played by Jews in the U.S. who want an opportunity to gather together with friends and challenge each other at a fun non-competitive game.

B'nai Israel Mahjong Madness Players, Sponsored by Sisterhood

Sisterhood is excited to be sponsoring, Mahjong Madness Players, an exciting new opportunity to join together with fellow congregants for some fun get-togethers at the Temple for 90-minutes on Wednesday May 14th from 11am-12:30pm in the social hall. Bring your own lunch. Mahjong Madness Players will meet on Wednesdays at this time weekly. We are happy to announce that we are privileged to have a fellow congregant, Peggy Klein, who has generously offered to assist the group and teach the American version of the game to the group at the first few sessions.

Mahjong is frequently enjoyed by and has been a cultural marker for Jewish American women, and has traditionally been used as a way to better connect with family, friends, and community. Interestingly, the National Mah Jongg League (NMJL) was originally founded by Jewish women in 1937. In addition, there are many benefits to playing Mahjong, in addition to making new friendships and having fun, Mahjong has been shown to improve cognitive ability and contribute to reducing the risk of dementia. In keeping with this wonderful Jewish history and founding of this fun game, Sisterhood is bringing back this Jewish tradition by offering a new group, the B'nai Israel Mahjong Madness Players' group. Come schmooze with other Jewish congregants, learn a new game or update your current skills and have some fun times. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in playing Mahjong with us, since this is a new opportunity and it will be important to make sure that we have enough players to be able to currently offer this to our members. To attend these Mahjong Madness Players' games, just contact Michelle Rosen at bnaisisters@gmail.com.





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

Make our Jewish Family even Stronger-Join a B'nai Israel Group Today-All are Welcome!

A Monthly Column by Congregant Melissa Fleischer

Knitting Circle

The B'nai Israel Knitting Circle is made up of a group of B'nai Israel congregants including Sandy Gold and Linda Goodman who meet together Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00 pm, in the Temple Library to knit together. They would be happy to welcome additional members! The Knitting Circle has knitters of various skill levels and they would be happy to teach and/or help new participants.

They knit 7x9 inch rectangles of varying colors, using washable acrylic yarn, and then they sew them together into a quilt. They recently donated several of their quilts to a homeless shelter in Waterbury. But their assistance to fellow Jews does not stop there. Following the October 7th Hamas attack in Israel, they took on an additional significant project helping to knit black wool knit caps for the Israeli Defense Forces to wear under their helmets. They were given specific instructions on knitting the hats, and have forwarded them to various East Coast groups who bring them to Israel. They still continue to knit the hats, alternating them with their ongoing quilt projects. They estimate that they have made close to 160 hats in the last 17 months.

The Knitting Circle would welcome any new members, in addition to any donations of worsted weight acrylic yarn for their quilts, and/or gift cards to Michael's craft store or Amazon, to purchase the appropriate black wool yarn for the IDF hats. For more information, please contact Lindsey Noble in the office at office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org.

B'nai Israel Mitzvah Garden

The B'nai Israel Mitzvah Garden has been a community service project dedicated to raising fresh vegetables for the Southbury and Woodbury Food banks. Over the years, participation has varied with individual interests and availability. Currently there are four dedicated gardeners who meet on Friday mornings. They want to emphasize that they are not a club. Rather, they are a group of congregants who are enthusiastic about the planning and planting, the weeding and watering, the nurturing of plants and harvesting of fruits and vegetables. Most importantly though, they are proud to be able to help others in their communities who are in need of fresh food. B'nai Israeli's BIRS helps out on Mitzvah Day, scouts and others have helped maintain the physical garden structures, grants and funds have come from Federation, BI, foundation, business, and individuals. Gardening enthusiasts are welcomed to share the work, share the joy, and contribute to this community service endeavor. For additional information, please contact Lindsey Noble in the office at office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org.

Israel Advocacy Committee (IAC)

Led by Dan Goodman, the IAC is an amazing opportunity to delve deeper into "everything Israel" and learn from the best. The members are strong Zionists who share the vision and goals of combating antisemitism everywhere, understanding the importance of Israel in our lives and helping to "teach our congregation the essential and irrevocable connections between Israel and Diaspora Jewry, including history, culture and issues of security." The IAC actively works to protect Israel's image in the community and fights for justice for Israel! If you would like to have the opportunity to join forces with others who share your Zionist views and want to do your part to fight antisemitism at home and abroad, contact Lindsey Noble in the office at office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org and let Lindsey know you are interested in joining the IAC.

Clearly, many wonderful opportunities to get involved and join together with other fellow B'nai Israel congregants to perform mitzvahs, make new Jewish connections and have lots of fun along the way. Please contact Lindsey Noble in the office, office@bnaiisrael.org if you are interested in taking advantage of any of these opportunities. Please let Lindsey also know if you would be interested in joining our new B'nai Israel Mahjong Madness Players as we need as many members as possible to make this a success. Thank you!









MAH JONG MADNESS PLAYERS

SPONSORED BY SISTERHOOD

JOIN US FOR MAH JONG
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
BYOL - BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH
SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED
B'NAI ISRAEL SOCIAL HALL
RSVP: Bnaisisters@gmail.com

Lessons will be given by Peggy Klein for those who want to learn



Stream our Shabbat Services Online



Kabbalat Shabbat services are broadcast live through 3 different streaming services:

Zoom, Vimeo and YouTube.

Zoom allows for an interactive experience where congregants can see each other and address the congregation during services when required. For reasons of security, we ask that all who would like to access Zoom to send a request to the office for the link.

Vimeo and YouTube are one-way streaming services. YouTube is open to the public, while Vimeo is a higher quality broadcast than YouTube.



Vimeo Streaming

https://vimeo.com/event/1356106

All previous services are recorded and available. Please contact the office for links to obtain them.

YouTube streaming

https://www.youtube.com/
@bnaiisraelsouthbury9620/streams

BIRS

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



BIRS: Ice Cream

Breakfast with Rabbi

On Sunday, March 30, our BIRS students who have attended 5 or more Shabbat services were recognized and treated to a fun filled morning with Ice Cream for Breakfast with Rabbi Eric. The students enjoyed special time with Rabbi Eric and a delicious ice cream breakfast.







Students at BIRS helped to prepare and lead a Model Passover Seder on Sunday,

April 4.
They made chicken soup with matzo balls, charoset, prepared the seder plates and set the tables. They also planted parsley for the B'nai Israel Mitzvah Garden with the help of Morah Sheila.
They enthusiastically lead the seder telling us the story of our exodus from slavery in Egypt. Together they sang the Four Questions and participated in other parts of the Seder. We even had 5 Afikomen winners, although everyone received a special prize. It was a fun morning and great preparation for their family Seders



























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

Larry Smotroff and Matthew Witmeier and Linda Goodman attended a banquet honoring Matthew as Eagle Scout. As part of the work required for that award Matthew made substantial improvements to B'nai Israel's Mitzvah Garden.









Good News

For Jews!

This Month's Good News

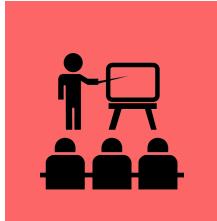
Congratulations to

Mary Beth and Michael Pratt on
becoming Grandparents!





"We are very excited to be grandparents! (The baby's name) is Leo (after Aaron's grandfather and john's great uncle) Alexander Le Provost-Pratt. By the way, the sweater that Leo is wearing in the pictures is the one that Michael's mother made for us to take Aaron home in. They can't believe I saved it for 43 years (along with other things they are not yet aware of), but I'm glad I did. The dads were thrilled to take their son home in the same sweater that Aaron wore home." - Mary Beth







Sin of the Golden Calf

Our interfaith study session on the sin of the golden calf was a huge success



Pictured: Rabbi Polokoff, The Rev. Abigail Johnson of St. James Lutheran Church, and The Rev. Brian Bodt of Woodbury United Methodist

In the Community

Congregant Ival Kovner attended a protest in Bethel and ran into some likeminded folks



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...

Murray Haber Susan Haber

Rose Menaker Susan & Coby Ben-Chitrit

Nancy Kovner Ron & Ival Kovner

General Fund

In memory of...

Judy Marangio Rose & Sidney Frenkel

Lisa K Weiss Alison & Brian Peck

Henry Fleischman Charles & Norma Fleischman

Abram Bress Norma & Charles Fleischman

Dorothy & Morris Stein Nancy & Joel Becker

Frances Winland Burt & Heather Cieply

David Zeidler *Rudy Zeidler*

Heather Kornick *Rudy Zeidler*

Jay Gleiberman & Cheryl Cieply Garber Lisa Segal

Thanks to...

Lauren Kellnhauser

<u>Linda Goodman</u> <u>Music Fund</u>

In memory of...

Allan A. Crystal Eleanor Crystal

In honor of...

Linda singing for Layla's baby naming
Alex & Jordan Cieply

Mitzvah Garden

In memory of...

Seymour Drantch Evan & Ross Cooper

Caring Fund

In memory of...

Philip Leon Schwartz Leona & Allen Schwartz

Lifecycle Fund

In honor of...

The Brit Milah for their grandson, Rafael Levi van Kampen Susan and Jedd Levine

Tribute Cards

To: Sheila Baum, in memory of her beloved "baby" brother Jay Glieberman

Susan & Tom Bleeks

To: Burt Cieply, in memory of his beloved sister Cheryl Cieply Garber

Susan & Tom Bleeks

To: Sheila Baum, in memory of her brother Jay Glieberman

Sandy Gold & Paul Medina

To: Burt and Heather Cieply, in memory of Burt's sister Cheryl

Sandy Gold & Paul Medina





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"!

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 Evan Cooper Patti Berkowitz

Stigs12@gmail.com Sherrie Bitterman sbitterman spitterman spit evanco1128@hotmail.com president@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org



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



Yahrzeits May their memories be for blessing

5/2

Dr. Martin Bodian Dora B. Feinn Felix Freedman Eli Gleiberman **Ethel Goldberg** Leo Goldberg Renee Goldman Linda Haberman Leopold Isaac Jacob Jacowitz Sam Levine Harold Levy Minnie Rich Myers Donna Noble H. Walter Pve Rose Sagal **Dorothy Stein** Leslie Strauss

5/9

Jack Cooperman
Rachel Danen
Carol Eisenberg
Martin Falk
Aaron Frenkel
Celia Karp
Fevus Landman
Josefa W. Lichtenstein
Ruth W. Littman
Esther Polen
Seymour Rosen
Ethel Weisman
Marcus Howard Weisman
Walter Wisnefsky

5/16

Max Bram
Hirsch Crystal
Oscar Dell
Howard Feinstein
Sylvia Goldman
Morris Goodman
Harris B. Gordon
Rae S. Holczer
Maurice Jackson
Jennie P. Kirschner
Minnie G. Levin
Rose Matzkin
Paul Noble
Monroe M. Pollak
Ary Reed



Benjamin Ross Stanley Roth

Evelyn Beninson Sabin

Ruth Rubin

Juanita Chichester Nathan Feinn Fannie Fingerhut Allan Chase Franken Manya Goldstein Elihu Hill Adela Landau **Edward Landau** Charles Light David Ludlow Gertrude Paul Miller Anne Nathanson Marvin M. Rechtman Leonard Segal Joseph Stammelman Selma Mazur Swerdlick Emil L. Weil Alma Cantor Weisman

5/30

Burton Albert Hilda Albert Paul Blatter Dr. Bernard Burnham **Rosamond Count** Louis 'Nate' Danen Meyer B. Erlanger Sr. Tillie Fischer Jeanette Lax Molly Liebeskind Hyman 'Mickey' Miller Dr. Norman R. Richards Mayta Saper **Barbara Weiss Pansy Wharton** Boris Woloshin





Happy Anniversary

Drs. Michael & Margaret Sermer	5/22	Sam Goldwitz & Nancy Dreishpoon	5/28
Richard & Paula Baron	5/23	Dr. David & Tracy Hill	5/29
Charlene Falk & John McNally	5/24	David & Deborah Augenbraun	5/31
Marci Silverman & William Slepoy	5/26	Happ	'V}
Gary & Lorrie Diamond	5/28	Happ Anniver	gary

Happy Birthday

			'		
Suzanne Boydstun	5/1	Marjorie Ross	5/17	Alexandra Pettengill	5/25
Anna Gelfand	5/2	Irv Borenzweig	5/18	Michael Pratt	5/26
Abhay Deshpande	5/3	Daniel Marcus	5/18	Sharon Elias	5/27
Linda Goodman	5/3	Ronald Isaac	5/19	Mitchell Solomon	5/27
Scott Segal	5/3	Jonathan Kapstein	5/19	Tammy Wisnefsky	5/27
Yolanda Vasquez	5/3	Allen Kovac	5/19	Eric Burner	5/29
Adam Packer	5/3	Samantha Pacileo	5/19	Stephen Rubenstein	5/29
Josh Isaac	5/6	Silvia Peña	5/19	Sarah E. Hill	5/29
Pamela Kosakow	5/8	Ryan McConnon	5/19	Charlene Blatter	5/31
Liliana Yelin	5/9	Richard Baron	5/20	Lance Feinstein	5/31
Adrea Jameson	5/9	Douglas Fuchs	5/20	Sophie Feinstein	5/31
Michelle Gross	5/10	Ross Cooper	5/21	Eli Pekovich	5/31
Sari Price	5/10	Susan Haber	5/21	Douglas Solomon	5/31
Bennett Samberg	5/10	Tikva Rose	5/21		
Sue Gostanian	5/11	Eileen Linnetz	5/22	Z Z	
Myra Suib	5/11	Julianna Pacileo	5/22		١
Maxine Liebman	5/12	Eric Linnetz	5/23		4
Emily Eisen	5/14	Matthew McConnon	5/24	90000	
William May	5/14	Alexander Lazer	5/25	-55550	

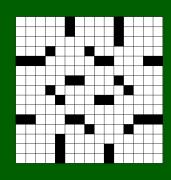


"Please God, please heal them."

Mindful of how our *Misheberach* prayers are to be timely, we seek to check on the status of those for whom we pray publicly. 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.



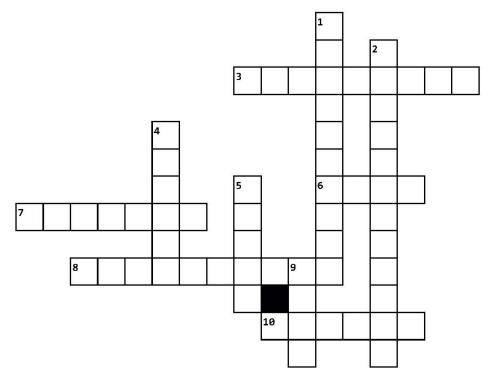




Puzzle Page

Complete a themed wordsearch or crossword online through the link below or print out this page and complete it on paper!

This month's theme is May and it's Torah Portions



Across

- 3. Holiday celebrated with bonfires
- **6.** Month of the Jewish calendar that covers most of May
- 7. Term for the priests of the temple
- **8.** The only person who was permitted to enter the Holy of Holies in the temple
- **10.** God instructs Moshe to take this of all men over 20

Down

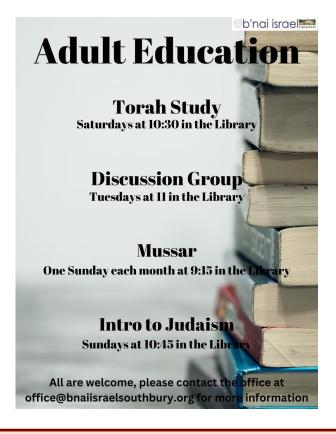
- **1.** The term for the year every 7 years when work on the land ceases
- 2. Israel Independence Day
- 4. This tribe was counted separately from the rest
- **5.** Month of the Jewish calendar that covers the end of May
- **9.** The seven week period that we count during this time



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



Date of upcoming Mussar Class: May 18







Interested in Jewish Genealogy?

Want to learn more about your your lineage?

A new group is forming!

Contact the office to be included in an introductory group chat

Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries, Inc.



Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries (GWIM) is a 501 C 3 non-profit charity. Since 1933, GWIM has provided an array of services, including daily meals in their Soup Kitchen, an Emergency Food Pantry, a Children's Center, and a Resource Center.

Feed the Need Charity Dinner

A Benefit to Support GWIM's Battle to Eliminate Hunger

Date: June 4, 2025, Wednesday

Location: Aria Wedding and Banquet Facility

45 Murphy Road, Prospect CT

Doors open at 5:30 PM

Tickets: \$70 per person Tables of 10: \$675

Dinner, Cash Bar, Dancing, and Raffles (Please bring cash for Raffle Tickets)

Entertainment brought to you by:





tps://www.quinnmitchell.com/ https://www.dj Sponsorship Levels of Event:

https://www.djbuttersentertainment.com

Your business will be displayed in our event pamphlets, website, social media, and at the Charity Event Dinner

Platinum: \$5000 Gold: \$3500 Silver: \$2500 Bronze: \$1500

Ads in Program book: \$750 Front Cover; \$750 back cover; \$250-full page, \$150-half page, and \$100 - 1/4 page

Make all Checks payable to GWIM and mail to GWIM 770 East Main Street Waterbury, CT 06702

If you want to pay any of the above with a credit card, please click the checkout button at the bottom of the page on the following website link:

http://feedtheneed2025.square.site/





TBD Stronger Together!

Join other TBD members who are walking in Steps2Cure NF! We walk in support of a TBD member who lives with NFI, Let's join her in the fight against neurofibromatosis (NF) and show her that at TBD, we are always stronger together. It's not just a walk; it's a powerful movement towards hope, resilience and progress for the NF community. (And a meaningful way to strengthen the TBD community.).

SATURDAY

DUNKIN'PARK

1214 MAIN STREET HARTFORD, CT

9:00 AM - REGISTRATION 10:00 AM - WALK BEGINS

Event Highlights

- st Photos with Chewy the Yard Goat st
 - *Community connections *
- * NF Northeast sunglasses giveaway *

REGISTER TODAY!



Questions? Reach out to Michele Jasne 502-767-2689

SocialAction@TBDCheshire.org



Neurofibromatosis (NF) is a complex genetic disorder of the nervous system that impacts the lives of thousands, often leading to painful tumors, physical and learning disabilities, and other significant challenges. There is no cure for NF.

NF Northeast is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by NF through support services, advocacy, education and research.









The Little Town That Said

the true story of Southbury CT kicking out Nazis in 1937

featuring



Melinda K. Elliott - No Swastikas in Southbury

\$10.00 (Students attend free - registration required)

7:00 PM - Monday, May 19, 2025 - Mandell JCC









World Zionist Congress Elections

VOTE REFORM

WZC Platform - 2025

A vote for the Reform Movement in the World Zionist Congress elections is a vote for our values: equality, democracy, pluralism, justice, and peace in Israel, rooted in our love and support for the people and the state of Israel.

Our "Vote Reform" slate is deeply committed to a strong and secure Israel and strengthening the Israel-Diaspora relationship, working in close partnership with our Israeli Reform Movement.

WHO WE ARE:

We represent the U.S. Reform Movement, including 2 million people across congregations, affiliates, and institutions, making us the largest Zionist Movement in the U.S. Our love for Israel reflects millennia of shared history and the intertwined destinies of Jews worldwide.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- A strong, secure, democratic, and Jewish Israel, as envisioned in its Declaration of Independence.
- Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State and defend its people from terror. We oppose efforts to delegitimize this right.
- Religious equality where all Jewish traditions and forms of observance are respected, with full recognition of liberal Movements and an end to the ultra-Orthodox monopoly as the recognized religious authority.
- Regional security through peace and stability for Israel, Palestinians, and neighbors.
- Full equality under the law for all Israelis, including minorities, women, and LGBTQ+ people.
- A secure Israel alongside a peaceful Palestinian state is vital for stability.



As Reform Zionists, we seek a democratic, pluralistic, and vibrant Israeli society. We believe deeply in Jewish peoplehood and that all Jews are responsible for one another. We support the work and mission of our Israeli Reform Movement in creating vibrant, authentic, new expressions and models of Jewish life in the Jewish State and working to provide for those who are powerless and on the margins of Israeli society. We continue to work tirelessly for the release of the hostages and an end to the war. We are alarmed by and are committed to combating the rising threat of antisemitism and anti-Zionism in the U.S. and in Diaspora communities around the world.

IN SUPPORT OF THESE BELIEFS, IN THE UPCOMING WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS, THE "VOTE REFORM" SLATE PLEDGES:

- To advocate that the government of Israel does everything in its power to maintain the ceasefire and return all hostages.
- To fight for government recognition and societal acceptance of the many diverse expressions of Jewish religious identity so that all such expressions are recognized as legitimate and equal under the law and to lend its support for Reform Judaism and other liberal streams.
- To assure that liberal streams of Judaism are provided equal financial support and resources in the Jewish State, ensuring that our Movements in Israel and all Jewish denominations in Israel remain strong, vibrant, and growing.
- To support government policy and societal initiatives that pursue a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians through a Two-State outcome.
- To influence the National Institutions (WZO, KKL, JAFI) to support a strong shared society and democratic civil society in Israel.
- To curb funding for and prevent de facto/de jure annexation of the West Bank or the resettlement of Gaza.

