

Mabat At a Glance

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Super Seder Celebrations

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Schechter School Office Hours (Winter):

Monday-Thursday 8am -4pm

Friday 8am-3:30pm

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For Your Calendar:

March 29 **Passover Vacation** Begins

> March 30 First Seder

April 9 **School Resumes** **Shabbat Shalom** Parashat Tzav Candlelighting 6:49 pm March 23, 2018 7 Nissan, 5778

A Message from Nancy: Middle School Girls Lead Seder that Goes Beyond Passover

The 2018 Seder Girls

I would imagine that many of us have had that experience at least once in our lifetimes-when the printed word becomes concrete. As an educator, I experienced that feeling in an awe-inspiring moment. Several year ago, I read Ron Berger's "Ethic of Excellence" in which he describes transforming schools into communities of excellence in which students are both independent and team learners, whose research and work lead to positive outcomes that touch others outside the walls of their schools. At the end of the book, I was left in wonder-and wondering how this could happen in real life.

Then came the phenomenon known as the 2018 Seder Girls of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford. At a conference in the fall, Andrea met the founders and Head of School of



the Grace Academy, an all-girls middle and high school in Hartford. After hearing that the Grace Academy 5th grade class learns about Passover and conducts a mock seder, Andrea invited their 5th and 6th grade classes to Schechter to participate in a seder conducted by our Middle School girls. In mid-February, I began meeting with

April 16
Doug Lyons (CAIS)
presentation

April 20 Israeli Style RELISH!

April 24-26
7th grade Science trip
throughout New
England

April 27 8th grade vs. Faculty basketball game

April 29
Ner Tamid Gala!!

<u>May 3</u> Israeli Dance Festival

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Quick Links

Solomon Schechter Website

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Join Our List

Would you like a grandparent, relative, or friend to receive the Schechter newsletter? Email ASobel@ssdshartford.org and include the name, email address, and relationship to Schechter and we will add them to our list!



Burning Chanetz

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our 6th and 7th grade girls to tackle the project.

At one of our first lunchtime sessions, the girls enthusiastically chattered about their favorite parts of the seder that just had to be included in our seder with Grace Academy. We encouraged the girls to think carefully about the background knowledge of their guests in creating the seder.



They paused, and then the thoughts began to flow. "We might not understand where they're coming from. They might not understand where we're coming from, and how we got to where we are. We need to explain the seder." They considered the issue of language: "We need to keep the Hebrew because that's our language. So, we'll have Hebrew, and transliteration so they can participate, and English so they understand what it's about."

Their excitement and motivation grew, and the twice a week lunch meetings turned into 3, 4 and then 5 days a week of meetings during lunch and recess. Along the way, the group expanded to include our 5th grade female student as well. The girls chose the parts of the seder that they felt were most important and would be engaging for the Grace Academy girls. In pairs, they studied their sections, answered guiding questions that helped them express their personal connections more deeply and wrote out their parts. One pair wrote a short, engaging skit, telling the story of Passover that would follow the Four Questions. The result was a beautiful, educational haggadah that contained traditional text as well as the personal insights of this magnificent group.

Reflecting on this process, it is clear that this project did not happen in a vacuum. From early years, our students have studied Torah text in pairs, analyzing it together, listening to each other, and valuing the opinions



and contributions of their classmates. They learn that the stories of our past, of our people, remain ours to this day. Repeated biblical verses such as "Remember that you were once strangers in a land not yours. Remember that you were slaves, " as well as the lessons of rabbinic texts play an integral role in helping our students create their places in the world. The Hebrew language, shared values, Jewish life and family traditions are invaluable components of this foundation.

However, in addition to all of that, it also took motivated, engaged and excited learners who were ready to step up and step in. The girls were prepared to "sweat the details," editing the Haggadah for content as well as format, making sure that each girl had the space to share her voice, and thinking deeply and with great care and concern for the needs and comfort of their guests. They gave up their free time, practiced the skit, adding creative staging and



humor, and created google docs that they shared with each other so that they could literally all be on the same page. In the last week leading up to the seder, the girls spent more than six hours working on the

haggadah and seder- and none of that came from class time. It was at some point during this process that I realized that through their efforts, our students had embodied Berger's book and had created a community of excellence.

The seder, itself, defied all expectations. Our students were prepared, poised and confident. As the Grace Academy girls entered, our girls were ready with warm, welcoming smiles, name tags, and seating arrangements that mixed the two schools together. Some memorable moments: the expression on the face of the Grace student, surrounded by cheering new and old friends, when she found the *afikoman*... the banter between the girls leading

up to tasting the *shemura matza*... watching our girls lead the seder as naturally as breathing... listening to the Grace girls singing along with the chorus to *dayenu*. There was so much more!

On the day of the seder, I experienced another peak moment in which the abstract takes form. While I was feeling a bit sad that our time together was ending, I discovered that the girls were already



thinking ahead, moving on to their next project: an Earth Day program for the school. At that moment, I realized with pride and awe that the Seder Girls had lifted the statement, "Be the change" off the paper, creating the most breathtaking reality: our students ARE the change!

Chag sameach, Nancy Rosen

* * * * * * * * * * * *

A note from Matt Fitzsimons, Head of School at Grace Academy:

Dear Riva, Jessica, Andrea and the Solomon Schechter community,

On behalf of the Grace Academy community, I wish to thank you for hosting our girls to a beautiful Seder meal.

At Grace Academy, we work to instill in our girls five Core Values: academic excellence, courageous compassion, respect, hospitality and grace. Your students demonstrated all of these values, and the warm hospitality your students exhibited made our students feel right at home.

From the moment we arrived in the parking lot, three girls came to the door wearing name tags and they greeted each Grace girl with a warm and welcoming smile.

I, along with our three teachers, were most impressed with the booklet, presentations which engaged our girls in the readings, and the very entertaining and instructive skit. The entire program ran like clockwork. Your students clearly showed their pride in their school and their work.

Most surprising of all was the huge meal you shared with us.

Today, at our morning assembly - our Circle of Peace and Respect - we had students share their experiences.

We look forward to further collaborations with you and to having your girls visit our school in the near future.

Peace and blessings to you this Passover season, Matt

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Ner Tamid Tickets are Available Now!



Parparim explores Passover while Making "My Passover Story"continued from last week!

In case you missed our article last week about Parparim's preparations for Passover through their creation of a personalized Haggadah, here are excerpts from some of the students. Chag sameach from Parparim!

























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EC3 Inquisitive Artists!

The children in EC3 have transformed into inquisitive artists! They have been exploring the world of painting and learning all about its

history.

Our Reggio-inspired project will take EC3 on a journey that will educate their minds and inspire the artists that lie within. The children began their research with Vincent Van Gogh. The students learned about his struggles to gain recognition as an artist and how his hardships did not discourage him from pursuing his passion.





Throughout his life, he continued to paint and find beauty in his surroundings. In his words, "If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere." Some of his most famous paintings were still life's of sunflowers.

EC3 painted their very own sunflower still life. Their excitement for this lesson was perfectly captured in their own words. Students made observations about the painting process: "You get orange by mixing two colors." Another student announced, "That sunflower is beautiful!"



One student chimed in, "I cannot wait to be an artist!" Each of the budding artists shared this enthusiasm.



Stay tuned for what's to come and be sure to visit EC3, which is transforming into a blank canvas that will be filled with our children's artistic touch.



Super Seder Celebrations!

EC2 and EC3 Seder



" I liked listening to the music!" Lennox

Cute Quotes from the EC 3 children about our mock Seder.





"Can we set this Seder up again tomorrow!" Benjamin





"I liked that the 2's came here to our class...they're so cute!" Eli



" I liked the chocolate and plain matzah!" Aedyn

Burning Chametz



Middle School Boys' Seder... Almost too Cool for School!













8th Grade Israel Experience!



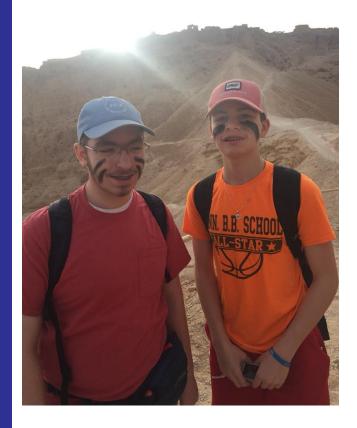
AMAZING Pics of the last few days in Israel with the 8th Grade!





Hiking at Masada!







Enjoying the Dead Sea









Post-Shabbat Meal with Friends

















The Grand return Home!!!













Last Team Huddle of the trip!





SO Many great stories to tell!

They still have smiles on their faces!!





SO happy to have the 8th grade back!.... We missed the crew, and can't wait to hear about the adventures!

Follow Schechter on Twitter & Facebook!!!

To keep up with all the happenings at SSDS, Follow us on Twitter <u>HERE</u> and on Facebook <u>HERE</u>

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Free and Open to the Community!



MONDAY, APRIL 16 The Impact of Schooling on the Development of the Life-long Learner

In the past two decades, dramatic advancements in neuroscience have given researchers a better understanding of how children, adolescents and adults learn. Scientists are discovering how memory works and what contributes to, or interferes with good memory function.

Two components of this research are particularly important for parents and teachers. These critical factors are: the role of emotion in learning and the impact of the school environment in developing the ideal graduate, defined as the life-long learner.

Independent schools have distinct advantages for students over the increasingly compliance-driven model that characterizes public education in the No Child Left Behind

After 46 years spent working with students and families, Dr. Lyons will share research and personal anecdotes that illustrate the influences that shape a child's journey from innocence to maturity.



Presenter: Doug Lyons, Executive Director of Connecticut Association of Independent Schools (CAIS)

TIME: 7:00 pm

Talk is free and open to the public!

RSVP:

rsvp@ssdshartford.org

SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL

26 Buena Vista Road West Hartford, CT 06119 860-561-0700

www.ssds-hartford.org

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Parents: Save the Dates!

Schechter's ISRAELI DANCE FESTIVAL

In honor of Israel's 70th

Please join us for a performance by Schechter's K-8 students.

Bring your dancing shoes for the audience participation grand finale!

Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 7 pm
At the Hebrew High School of New England
300 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117



EC kicks off the celebration with their Israeli dance performance during RELISH on Friday, April 20 at 8:30 am.



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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 <u>HERE</u> to see more information about how to sign up and the benefits you can earn for Schechter.

Have you shopped at the Crown Lately?



Stop By the Crown Market TODAY!





Baby and Me Music Time! Time: Thursdays, 9:00-9:30AM

Where: Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford

Begins 4.19.2018 / Ends 6.7.2018 (8 weeks)
All our welcome to register, bring your friends!

This class is free of charge! Ages 6 months- 2 years

Program capacity: 12 pairs (adult and child together)

Facilitated by Chrissy Whalen, Schechter's Early Childhood and Lower School Music teacher Tummy tickles, toe wiggles, finger plays, and bouncing babies! Join Chrissy Whalen, certified First Steps in Music teacher, in a musically nourishing class for you and your littlest musicians. Music begins to take shape in the brain from birth, and by learning songs, rhymes, and games to sing, speak, and play with your little ones from such an important age, you and your child can plant and cultivate the seeds of living a tuneful, beautiful, and artful life. Contact cwhalen@ssds-hartford.org with any questions. Register by emailing Karen Shakun at kshakun@ssds-hartford.org



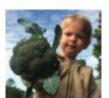


Sign Up for a Season of Fresh, Local, Organic Produce!

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





Good Deeds Day at the J Sunday, April 15, 11:00am-4:00pm

Good Deeds Day is a global day that unites people from over 90 countries to do good deeds for the benefit of others and the planet. Since 2007 when the event was founded in Israel, millions of people from thousands of communities, organizations and businesses join together every year to volunteer and do good. Join the Mandell JCC and take part in Good Deeds Day with a variety of options for all ages!

For more information about Good Deeds Day please visit www.good-deeds-day.org.

Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel

The Tale of Team Israel
11:00 am-12:30 pm
A stirring story of sports, patriotism and personal growth, "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel" charts the underdog journey of Israel's national baseball team competing for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. "Heading Home" is about the players and their connection to each other and to Judaism and as their "Mensch on the Bench" mascot tags along, the learn does much soul searching, as they represent Israel on the world stage. Mature language. Admission: Free with a day-of donation to the Israel Baseball Association Scholarship Fund which helps children from low incoming Fund which helps children from low income families participate in baseball in Israel. Tickets required, seating limited — 860-231-6316, www.mandelljcc.org/tickets

You Can Be a Super Hero!

YOU Can Be a Super Hero!
1:30-2:30pm
Help us honor our "Hometown Heroes."
our local police, firefighters and ambulance
drivers, Your "Good Deed" will be making
cards and baking cookies to let those real
life heroes know how much we appreciate
all that they do. While the cookies are
baking, Coach Thai and "Captain Armerica",
Sensel Dave will provide Superhero training,
cape and certificate included! We'll package
and deliver all the goodies, so many hands
are needed. Bring a friend!
Free and open to the community
Questions and registration: Jane Pastemak,
860-231-8342, jposternak@mandelljcc.org.

Cooking for a Cause 2:00-4:00pm

Open to 6th-12th graders Open to 6th-12th graders
Join teens from throughout the community
to help raise awareness about hunger, while
also learning culinary skills. Chef Linday
Perkins will lead us in preparing a meal to be
donated to local Hartford residents in need.
Suggested donation of
\$5 per person at the door.
Co-sponsored by JTCONNECT, BBYO,
NUTSY, Mandell JCC.
Questions and registration: Colby Wyckoff,
860-231-6376, cwyckoff @mandelljcc.org.



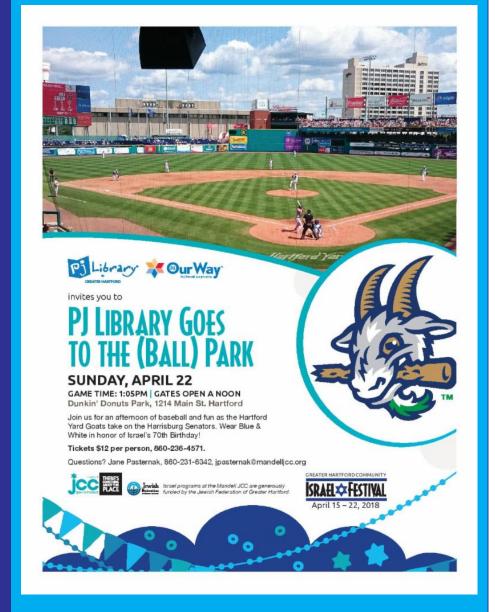
Zachs Campus | 335 Bloomfield Ave. West Hartford, CT 06117 860-236-4571 | www.mandelljoc.org











Celebrate our Learners!

Saturday, April 21 9:30am at Beth El

2626 Albany Avenue • West Hartford, CT bethelwesthartford.org • 860-233-9696





Celebrate our SULAM Beth El & Schechter Community during Shabbat services featuring SULAM & Schechter Learners! We will honor parents, educators, and teen madrichim.

Every child will participate. Community Lunch follows free and open to all!











SIGNATURE SPORTS

Choose your core focus.





SUMMER 2018 DATES & RATES

SESSION I

June 27 - July 9 \$2,925 SESSION II

July 11 - July 24 \$2,925 SESSION III

July 26 - August 7 \$2,925

All-Star Break (optional): 2-day/2-night adventure exclusively available for campers who enroll in consecutive sessions (dates: July 9-11 and July 24-26).

First time at a Jewish overnight camp?
Your child may be eligible for a need-blind grant of up to \$1,000 this summer!
Visit www.onehappycamper.org.

FIND OUT MORE AT RAMAHSPORTSACADEMY.ORG.

Summer

Ramah Sports Academy c/o BCC 212 1073 North Benson Road Fairfield, CT 06824 Winter

3080 Broadway New York, NY 10027 Contact 855-577-7678

Info@ramahsport.org

Ramah

Celebrate Israel@ 70 Community Wide **Shabbat Service and Dinner**



Friday April 13, 2018

- 6:00 p.m. Mincha and Greetings followed by Evening Services
- 6:10 p.m. Candle Lighting
- 7:15 p.m. Dinner with singing and oneg in celebration of Israel's birthday and Shabbat.

at The Emanuel Synagogue 160 Mohegan Dr. West Hartford, CT 06117

Two services will be offered: a Traditional Mechitza service and an Egalitarian service.

Rabbi Yehuda Turetsky will be the after-dinner scholar

Oneg Shabbat dessert to follow the Speaker. Services and Dinner is open to the entire community.

Dinner catered by Yosi Kosher Catering under HKC Supervision

Firm reservation deadline: Friday, March 30, 2018

Some of our Event Partners: The Emanuel Synagogue, Young Israel of West Hartford, Beth El Temple,
Beth David Synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel, Hebrew High School of New England,
Solomon Schechter Day School and Bess & Paul Sigel Hebrew Academy of Greater Hartford

To reserve a table (8-10): please list the names of those to be seated with you. Those not reserving a table will be seated with others who are attending. Questions can be directed to Jeff Rudolph - clctstamps@comcast.net

Dinner reservations may also be made online at www.emanuelsynagogue.org			
=========	:======================================		
P	lease list first and last name of each person attending:		
Name (Table Head):	Name(s) Others		
PHONE:	EMAIL:		
ADULTS (Bnai Mitzvah age and ab	ove):\$16.00/person; CHILDREN (12 and under): \$10/each		
Please select number needed o	f meal selections below, and total amount enclosed:		
# chicken meals	# vegetarian meals		
# children's meals	Total amount enclosed. \$		
Send completed form wit	Total amount enclosed. \$h h payment (note: 'Israel @ 70 Community Dinner' on memo line) ynagogue. 160 Mohegan Drive. West Hartford. CT 06117.		



PASSOVER SEDER

Saturday, March 31st

Join us for a Catered dinner and Passover seder led by Rabbi Bekah.

Begins at 6:00pm

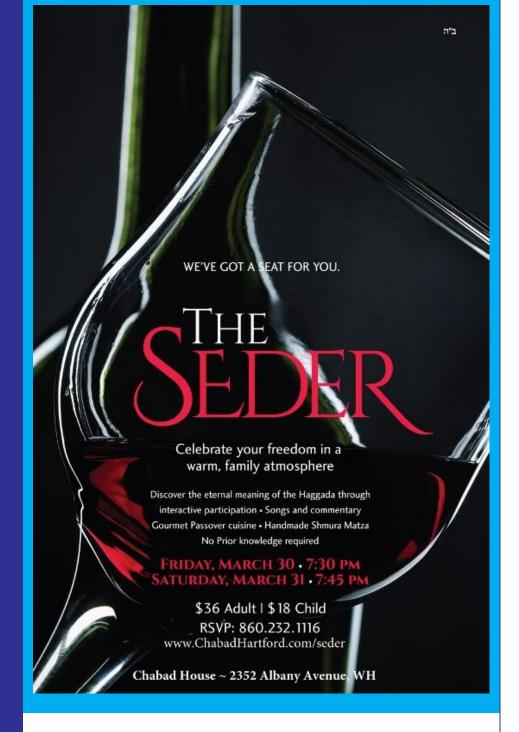
FVJC Social Hall 55 Bushy Hill Rd, Simsbury

Adults \$24 / Kids \$12 Non-member \$36/ Kids \$18

Checks can be dropped off or mailed to the office.

RSVP by March 26th https://tinyurl.com/yauq9y65

Any questions?
Mike & Moira Wertheimer
wertheimermichael7@gmail.com





Passover Food Drive

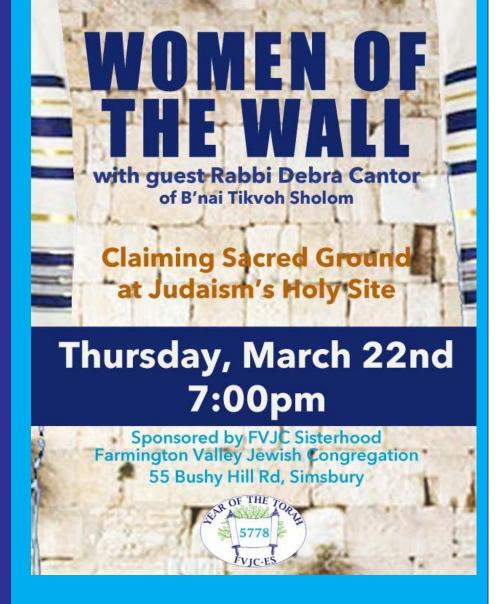


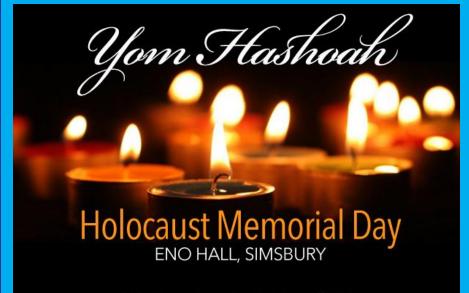
As we fill our cabinets for Pesach, lets help make sure everyone's cabinets are filled.

Purchase an extra Passover item or two and drop it into the food drive box at the Young Israel or the Crown Market to be donated to Anja Rosenberg Kosher Food Pantry.



Questions? Contact Susan Fried Jewish Family Services at sfried@jfshartford.org





Wednesday, April 11 6:50PM thru Thursday, April 12th 7:00PM

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation - Emek Shalom will continue our annual tradition of hosting a 24 hour continuous reading of the names of victims of the Shoah in front of Eno Hall.

We would like to invite you to join us to:

STOP, LISTEN & REMEMBER

Please join our members, ask questions and stand with us as we work together to

NEVER FORGET.

We will read as many names as possible so they may

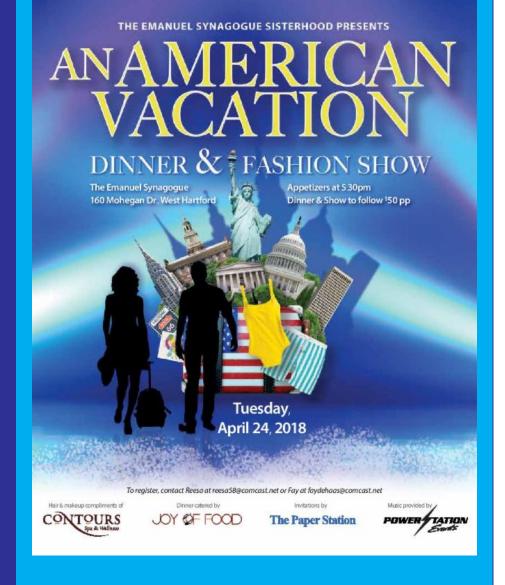
NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

Questions or to join the reading,

sign up: https://tinyurl.com/y8wqb2mz

Contact Michael Bonchick, 860-709-4383 or email: FVJCYOMHASHOAH@GMAIL.COM





Dinner and Fashion Show

West Hartford - The Emanuel Synagogue Sisterhood invites you to "An American Vacation" Dinner and Fashion Show on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Fashions for women, men and children will be provided by J.Jill and REI. The evening will begin with appetizers at 5:30, followed by a catered dinner and fashion show. As part of this event, we are giving back to the community by asking attendees to bring new baby and toddler clothing or toiletries as a donation to Jewish Family Service. This event will be held at The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. For more information, contact Reesa Olins at reesa58@comcast.net or Fay Dehaas at faydehaas@comcast.net.



FVJC-ES Sisterhood

Mah Jongg Tournament



Sunday, June 3, 2018 8:45am - 4:30pm

8:45...... Player Arrival, Coffee and...

9:00......Reading of Rules

9:30......Round 1 10:30.....Round 2 11:30.....Round 3

12:30-1:15..Catered Kosher-Style Lunch

1:15...... Round 4 2:15...... Round 5 3:15..... Round 6

4:30..... Announcement of Winners

Farmington Valley
Jewish Congregation
55 Bushy Hill Rd,
Simsbury, CT

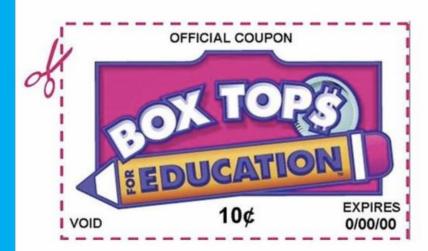


Cost: \$36

Questions? Call Terry Cole 860-558-2587 (please also use this number in case of a problem on event day)

Registration will close on May 29th or at 100 players, whichever comes first.

Name	Email	Phone Number
YESI I have o	set and I am happy to b	e East! *No black or vintage sets, please.
	Save time by purchasing	your tickets for the Cash Raffle!
\$5 for 6	\$10 for 13\$20 for 30	Yes! I've added \$to my check for raffle tickets.
Terry Cole, 5 Ba		Sisterhood. Please send to: y 06092. Your RSVP must be received by May 29th.



Let's get clipping!

Box Tops for Education is <u>free money</u> 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 <u>www.btfe.com</u> 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