



**December 11, 2020**

**Shabbat Shalom and Happy Hanukkah!** We hope everyone is finding a special and safe way to celebrate this year and we understand it will be different. During these challenging times, we must remember what Hanukkah represents and for those feeling overwhelmed, Rabbi Ben Newman sends this message of hope for the holiday season: "Hanukkah teaches us that when times are challenging, and the darkness seems overwhelming, we should ignite lights—to remind us that each one of us has an inner light of hope, joy, and creativity, and that it is our job to 'publicize this miracle,'—and share this light with others. This year contained many challenges. May the lights of Hanukkah remind us that within us we have the sparks of hope for a better future, joy and gratitude for the gifts of the present, and the creativity to ignite this hope for others!" Happy Hanukkah from all of us at the Shames JCC on the Hudson!



**Vote for us in Best of Westchester for Westchester Magazine!**

Are we your favorite Fitness Center? The best Early Childcare Center in Westchester? Let your voice be heard in Westchester Magazine's "Best of Westchester" awards! Also, there are many categories so please vote for your other local favorite restaurants, stores, florists, and more! Click [here](#) for the Health & Fitness category, [here](#) for children's programs, and explore all of the categories [here](#).



**Renard Lecture Series (via Zoom)**

*Select Mondays, 10:00 – 11:30 AM; beginning January 4*

Join us for musical concerts, explorations into architecture, insights on current events and pop culture, and delve deep into history Monday mornings—all led by scholars, artists, and experts in their fields. The series is open to all and geared toward people 50 years of age and older seeking a cultural and intellectual experience. And this year's series will be held virtually on Zoom. This program is free and open to everyone so feel

free to invite your cousin in California! Join us once or participate in all. Click [here](#) for the calendar and to register (please note more events will be added for later in the spring and early summer and registration is open for events through February only currently).



### **LIVE on Facebook & in-person: Drive-Thru Community Menorah Lighting &**

**Havdalah** Ceremony Saturday, December 12; 4:30 PM

Don't miss out on connecting with the community this Saturday for Hanukkah! If you can't make it the in-person event, please join us on Facebook live. You do NOT need a Facebook account to view this broadcast. Click [here](#) for event details and click [here](#) at 4:30 PM on Saturday to watch. VERY limited tickets are still available [here](#).

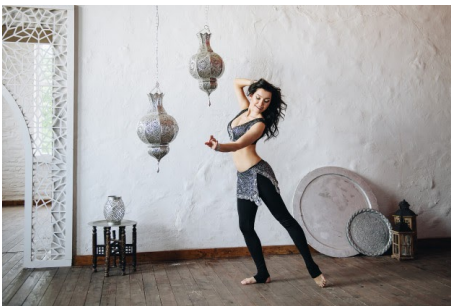


### **Personal Training**

*By appointment only*

Health is on our minds more than ever. While there are many issues we can't control, we can commit to doing the things we can control. Together we create a powerful team to help improve and enhance your quality of life. We are offering all members a complimentary training session and orientation so we can determine what types of training you may benefit from and how to use our equipment in the Fitness Center. Click [here](#) for more information on our expertise, our COVID-19 prevention protocols, and

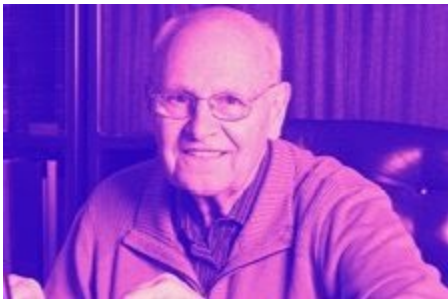
package prices. Email [lbruskin@shamesjcc.org](mailto:lbruskin@shamesjcc.org) to set up time with a trainer.



### **Belly Dancing in-person or on Zoom**

*Thursdays, 5:30 PM*

Come join us for Belly Dancing in-person or on Zoom! Dancing in front of others can be intimidating but Sadari is great at instruction and will get you so comfortable with the moves, you might be ready to bust them out at your next party (which won't be for a long time so you have plenty of time to learn!). Register [here](#) up to 24 hours in advance. Included with membership.



### **Westchester Circles with the UJA**

If you find yourself spending the majority of your time at home, especially now during Covid, and wishing you could find new and interesting ways to meet people—you're not alone. UJA invites you to learn about Westchester Circles, a 60+ online community. Beginning this winter, they are offering a variety of small virtual groups created especially for people who may feel isolated and are looking for conversations and connections with their neighbors around common interests. Click [here](#) for details and to register.



### **Chanukah Sing-Along for Preschoolers & Toddlers with Mr. Amichai Margolis of The Leffell School (via Zoom)**

*Sunday, December 13 from 10:00 - 10:20 AM*

Ready to rock it out to Chanukah songs? Join a Chanukah kids sing-along on Zoom! This engaging and interactive experience will be meaningful for kids and grownups alike.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/dreidel2020>



## UJA Westchester and Westchester Jewish Council Hanukkah Celebration & Tribute to Representatives Eliot Engel and Nita Lowey

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:00 PM

Join us to celebrate the Festival of Lights and recognize Rep. Eliot Engel and Rep. Nita Lowey for their decades of public service. We'll enjoy a special musical performance by Tizmoret, Queens College Hillel's professional Jewish a cappella group, and Rabbi Howard Goldsmith of Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester and president of the Westchester Board of Rabbis will light the Hanukkah candles. Click [here](#) for details.



## Wine & Dine with Jake Cohen with UJAPride, Live on Facebook

Tuesday, December 15; 6:00 PM

Join UJAPride for a virtual cooking and wine demo that will take your Hanukkah celebration to the next level. Whet your appetite as popular food influencer [Jake Cohen](#), author of upcoming cookbook *Jew-ish* prepares delectable holiday treats, and learn which wines pair perfectly with the culinary creations. You'll also learn about UJA's response to the rise in food insecurity during these challenging times. Click [here](#) for event details and live link.

## Previously Published In Case You Missed It

### Support the Shames JCC when you shop on Amazon!

The holiday season is here and did you know you can support the JCC when you shop on Amazon? Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) (with the JCC on the Hudson as your selected charity) and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Make a difference while you shop!

### Special Needs Caregiver Schmooze

Monthly on Wednesday; 7:00 – 8:00 PM—next session on December 16

While the love for our children is unwavering, raising a child with a disability offers a unique set of challenges. We understand the importance of parents and caregivers to have a network of people who can relate to them. Join us and connect with other parents & caregivers while having a bit of fun and still practicing social distancing. Facilitated by Amanda Gabel, LMSW, and Shames JCC's Director of Special Needs Services. For more information please contact [Amanda Gabel](#) and check out our [website](#) for more dates and other events.

### Get Reacquainted with the Fitness Center with a complimentary consultation (ALL members)!

By reservation in 90-minute blocks

When's the last time you took a visit to the Fitness Center? While you will still find our state-of-the-art equipment in our spacious facility, you will notice some changes for your safety such as: equipment is spaced for safe distancing, Merv-13 filters have been installed in the HVAC system, the layout has been redesigned for easier flow, capacity is limited to 33% and reservations are required, our staff is continuously cleaning and the center is closed every 90 minutes for a deep cleaning, and everyone is wearing a mask! To help you get reacquainted, we are offering **ALL members a complimentary consultation, whether you are just starting or have been here for a while. Our trainers can show you how to use our equipment, review our current workouts, walk you through our COVID-19 protocols, and get you started on your wellness journey.** Click [here](#) for more details and to reserve a spot. To schedule your complimentary consultation or facilities tour, please reach out to [Lisa Bruskin](#).

### Gymnasium Time for Families & Family Swim

*Gym: Sundays, between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM*

*Swim: Sundays, 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM and weekdays, 5:00 PM – 5:45 PM*

No matter the weather outside, come play in the JCC's beautiful gymnasium. With room to accommodate up to 3 families per reservation slot (one family per hoop and surrounding area), families can play basketball, work on skills, or just have fun shooting hoops! Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

### **River Friends Day Camp 2021 is on! (ages 3 – 6)**

*Registration opens in January*

The Shames JCC is thrilled to announce that this summer, River Friends Day Camp will be back in action, keeping campers safe and engaging them with fun activities all day. Over the past few months, we have been working closely with the NYS DOH and have implemented strict COVID-19 mitigation protocols throughout our facility that we will readily adapt to fit River Friends' specific needs. We are proud to serve the River Friends community and can't wait to see your children's smiling faces again! Click [here](#) for more details and stay tuned for even more details!

### **Open Enrollment for Almost School December**

Almost School is much more than a computer connection—we connect your children with other students and peers for fun and socialization; and with educators and childcare professionals who assist with remote learning and develop enriching activities during downtime or when a student has completed their work. We have a large campus with outside facilities and an indoor basketball gym for recess and other breaks during the school day. Our Almost School staff has extensive experience working with children and is well prepared to extend your child's experience in our program. Click [here](#) for details and enrollment information.

Please also review all of our COVID-19 policies [HERE](#).

### **The Rivertowns Jewish Consortium and Beyond**

The Shames JCC is a part of the Rivertowns Jewish Consortium, a group that includes [Greenburgh Hebrew Center](#), [Mishkan Ha'am](#), [Rosh Pinah Chavurah of the Rivertowns](#), [Temple Beth Abraham](#), [Temple Beth Shalom](#), and [Woodlands Community Temple](#), as well as the [Westchester Jewish Council](#). The Shames JCC is also pleased to be a key network agency of the [UJA Federation of New York](#). Please check with the congregation websites (links above) for updates on closures and programs.

### **GREENBURGH HEBREW CENTER**

**Comedy Night Saturday, December 19, 8 pm - 11pm** Join us for a virtual night of hilarious stand-up comedy featuring Jon Fisch and Moody McCarthy, both often seen on late night TV. All adults are welcome! Cost is \$50 per household. For more information or to RSVP, please contact [vpfundraise@g-h-c.org](mailto:vpfundraise@g-h-c.org) or call 914-693-4260 (synagogue office). Information on attending the event via Zoom will be sent upon receipt of payment.

**Show, Tell & Kvell: Sisterhood presents a special Hanukkah celebration** *Wednesday, December 16, 7:30 pm*: a virtual candlelighting, contest (door prizes will be awarded) and an opportunity for participants to share a story about a special possession or family heirloom that is particularly meaningful. Zoom link will be sent out prior to the event. If you have an item to show, tell and kvell about, or you want to RSVP, please contact Robin at [Sisterhood@g-h-c.org](mailto:Sisterhood@g-h-c.org).

### **Mishkan Ha'am**

### **Chanting and Meditation Shabbat Service**

*December 19th, 10am-11am* This alternative Shabbat morning service will allow for contemplation and reflection about the week, and the year, as we move toward the close of 2020. Join us for meditations that are grounded in the Shabbat morning liturgy and Torah portion. Visit [www.mishkanhaam.org](http://www.mishkanhaam.org)

**Temple Beth Abraham:** All activities take place on Zoom. Please contact the office to register at [info@TBA-ny.org](mailto:info@TBA-ny.org)

**Bible Study:** *Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 AM*

Rabbi Holtz leads a class every Wednesday morning, which goes at its own pace through the Tanakh [Torah (Law), Nevi'im (Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings)] in English. No previous knowledge is required, and you can join in at any point in the cycle.

**Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming the Sabbath) Reform Evening Services** *Fridays, 6:00 PM*

Join us for a warm and spiritual start to the weekend. The Service is available on our Livestream: [tba-ny.org/live-service-streaming](http://tba-ny.org/live-service-streaming)

**Shabbat Morning Conservative Services** *Saturdays, 9:00 AM*

Join our conservative minyan for services Saturday on Zoom.

**Israel's Current Standing in the Middle East and the World: An Afternoon with Chuck Freilich**

*December 13, 12:00 PM*

Recent events have changed the course of Israel's standing in the Middle East and the world. On the Israeli domestic side, another election is looming. Join Chuck Freilich as he unpacks things for us and brings to light some sensitive, and perhaps controversial, issues. Chuck Freilich is a former deputy Israeli national security adviser, an internationally renowned political analyst, strategist, and professor.

