



## HAPPY MOTHERS DAY From the Shames JCC on the Hudson

**Shabbat Shalom!** We want to wish everyone a happy Mother's Day this weekend! We are hoping more families can celebrate together this year in safe and joyful ways. Still looking for a gift? Here's one that is green, free, and makes a fun activity with your kids. At a previous MLK Day of Service event, we made totes out of old t-shirts that require no sewing (kids of all ages participated). [Here are the instructions](#). And for those of you that struggle with loss on Mother's Day, may you find peace and comfort on this difficult day...



**Check out our article published in Westchester Family!  
Give Your Preschooler the Summer of Their Lives! (published May 4, 2021)**

*Written by Helen Berni & Stephany Olivieri, Co-Directors of River Friends Day Camp*

Why is camp so important for a preschooler? For one, it may be their first experience of what will become a lifetime of summers at camp. For others, camp may be their first experience of a truly structured day away from their parents before starting school. And for everyone, camp is fun! It's exciting, engaging, and packed with new adventures every minute. Read the whole article on [Westchester Family](#). Contact Helen Berni and Stephany Olivieri, co-directors at [riverfriends@shamesjcc.org](mailto:riverfriends@shamesjcc.org) [Learn more about River Friends Day Camp](#) on our website.



### Spotlight on Senior Fitness at the JCC

Recently, representatives from the UJA Federation NY came in to do a short, inspirational video on the senior fitness we offer at the JCC. We hope you recognize some familiar faces and if you haven't tried a senior fitness class or done any personal training, definitely check it out! Not only do you get a challenging workout (believe us, it is!) but you also get the opportunity to mingle and meet with like-minded, interesting, and friendly people. Click [here](#) to watch the video.



### **Visioning the Twice Exceptional Bat or Bar Mitzvah**

*Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 5:30 – 7:00 PM (via Zoom)*

Many parents of twice-exceptional (2e) children—gifted with at least one of the following disabilities: specific learning disabilities (SpLD), speech and language disorders, emotional/ behavioral disorders, ASD or ADHD) are struggling with imagining how their gifted and challenged children will succeed throughout their Bar

or Bat Mitzvah journeys and ceremony. You and your children are invited to a FREE zoom discussion with Melissa Sornik, a noted therapist for 2e children and families, Gia Miller, an award-winning journalist who covers health, mental health and parenting, and Rabbi Shoshana Leis — all 2e parents. Click [here](#) for more details. *This program is made possible in part by grants from the Jewish Education Project, the UJA Federation NY, and the Shames JCC on the Hudson.*



### **For Families: Scavenger Hunt (with the UJA Westchester)**

*Sunday, May 23, 2021, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM*

UJA Westchester Families invites you to join the fun—a community-wide, one-of-a-kind, Social Action Scavenger Hunt! Gather as a family and head outside to complete a list of activities, with a focus on giving back while having fun! Designed for families with kids of all ages—calling all grandparents too! The hunt will take place in your own town, offering meaningful ways to

explore the different places and agencies that make up our UJA community. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



### **Upcoming Renard: Shem Guibbory – Violinist**

*Monday, May 10; 10:00 – 11:30 AM*

Join us for a special Renard with Shem Guibbory, a violinist, who started to play as a substitute in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra at the age of 21, sitting on the last stand of the 1st violin section for a performance of Strauss' Die Frau Ohne Schatten with Karl Böhm conducting. Since then, he has been

privileged to be a part of hundreds of amazing performances and throughout his career, Mr. Guibbory has explored ways in which music combines with other disciplines. Click [here](#) to learn more about Shem and [here](#) to register for this event. Click [here](#) for the full Renard schedule.



### Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!

Please join us in thanking our amazing early childhood teachers for Teachers Appreciation Week! We are marveled everyday about what you have been able to accomplish in a truly challenging year.

### Other Important Reminders



#### Clothing & Housewares Swap

Sunday, May 16, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (outside)

Give and Take! Bring your good-condition, quality items to swap for something new! Please be sure that your swap items are in good shape! Space is limited, so please be sure to reserve your spot! Masks and social distancing required! Email any questions to [ffvintage@hotmail.com](mailto:ffvintage@hotmail.com).

Click [here](#) to register.



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#### THIS SATURDAY! Family Havdalah (via Facebook Live)

with Rabbi David Holtz of Temple Beth Abraham and  
Rabbi Ben Newman

Saturday, May 8; 8:30 PM

Join us and connect with the community and your friends for a Havdalah ceremony, which marks the end of Shabbat. Click [here](#) at the start time or be sure to follow our Facebook page and you will receive a notification.



### SPARC (Special Needs Individuals ages 16 – 24)

Sunday, June 6; 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Join us and SPARC (Special Programs & Resource Connection) for a fun-filled active day! Participants will get to work out in the Fitness Center, learn new healthy recipes, play various sports activities, meet new people, and make new friends in a welcoming and supportive environment! SPARC offers recreational, arts, athletics, and

wellness programs for members of the Westchester County special needs community, ages 5 through adulthood.

To learn more about SPARC, please visit their [website](#). To register, contact Kara Planamento at

[kara@sparcinc.org](mailto:kara@sparcinc.org) or 914.243.0583 x 1107.



### Registration for 2021 – 2022 Early Childhood Center programs is now open!

We will be offering programming for 2's, 3's and 4's and children in all age groups will have the ability to attend school from 9 to 12 or 9 to 3. We plan to continue to build on the success of this school year with our outdoor learning environments and will continually review guidance from the CDC, the NY State Office of Children and Family

Services and the NY State Department of Health as we plan ahead. Please read more about our educational philosophy [here](#) and reach out to [Ann Zarider](#) for more information and enrollment. Registrations will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

### Camp is 52 Days Away! Reserve Your Spot Today!



Grades K – 10



Photo credit: Goodfrey Goodridge



GET READY  
TO HAVE  
SOME FUN!

Enroll today!  
[shamesjcc.com](http://shamesjcc.com)  
**SUMMER**  
**Camps**

FRIENDS  
EXPERIENCE

Harold & Diane  
Shames Jewish  
Community  
Center on the Hudson



RIVER  
FRIENDS  
DAY CAMP

Toddler – K



Reminder: We're Hiring!

**Camp counselors: River Friends Day Camp & Camp Twelve Trails** Camp Twelve Trails and River Friends Day Camp are both hiring this summer! This is an exciting opportunity to work with kids, develop your leadership abilities, and have fun! Camp employees receive generous camp discounts. River Friends Day Camp (located on the Shames JCC campus) for ages 2 – 6 is hiring head counselors and assistant counselors for the summer! **For more information about opportunities at River Friends Day Camp, please email**

**[riverfriends@shamesjcc.org](mailto:riverfriends@shamesjcc.org)**. Camp Twelve Trails is looking for a variety of specialist positions (sports, arts, drama, among others), general counselors and leaders. **To see the open positions at Camp Twelve Trails, click [here](#).** Counselors are provided transportation to the Camp Twelve Trails campgrounds.

**Fitness: Floor staff & Certified Personal Trainers** We're looking to fill a variety of positions in the Fitness department! We need qualified candidates to work the floor in the Fitness Center and we're looking for Certified Personal Trainers. All fitness employees receive a complimentary membership! Email [Lisa Bruskin](#) to learn more about these opportunities.

**Welcome Desk** Welcome Desk Staff support a positive environment for members, visitors and colleagues. Conducting themselves in a consistently welcoming, professional and courteous manner, Welcome Desk Staff are responsible for providing outstanding customer service, helping to ensure the safety and well-being of all members and guests, and facilitating a warm and friendly community experience throughout the entire JCC. All Aquatics employees receive a complimentary membership! Click [here](#) for more details. Email your resume to [Sharlene Mejia](#) and for more information on this opportunity.

**Aquatics: Lifeguards, Supervisors, and Swim Instructors** Who wouldn't want to work in our beautiful Aquatics Center? We have a variety of positions at different levels. For details on Lifeguard positions, click [here](#); for Aquatics Supervisors, click [here](#); and information on Swim Instructors can be found [here](#). All Aquatics employees receive a complimentary membership! Reach out to [Eric Hammermeister](#) with your resume or for more information on these opportunities.

### **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](#) and the [Westchester Jewish Council](#). Please check with the congregation websites (links above) for updates on closures and programs.

### **[Mishkan Ha'am](#)**

**Israeli Book/Film Discussion - "The Present"** *May 16th, 11:00am - 12:30pm* This month's discussion will be on "The Present," a 40 minute film by Palestinian director Farah Nabulsi. We will view the film separately prior to the discussion, it is available on Netflix. The film shows the difficulties of daily life for Palestinians in the Israeli occupied West Bank. It is the story of a father and his young daughter, and what they encounter as they navigate their relationship and environment. It has been reviewed as touching and powerful. Please feel free to do research

related to the film. If you need any assistance accessing the film on Netflix, please reach out to Penny Rosenblatt at 347-387-5451.

### **Rosh Pinah Chavurah of the Rivertowns**

**Kabbalat Shabbat on Zoom**, Friday evening April 30 at 6:30pm(Lag B'omer) with Guest Cantor Carl Sayres.  
Contact: [president@roshpinah.com](mailto:president@roshpinah.com)

**Tikkun Leil Shavuot on Zoom**, Sunday May 16 from 8:00-10:00pm. Contact: [president@roshpinah.com](mailto:president@roshpinah.com)

**Shavuot Services on Zoom**, beginning at 9:30am Monday May 18 and Tuesday May 19 (with Yizkor). Contact: [president@roshpinah.com](mailto:president@roshpinah.com)

**OPEN INVITATION: The Women's Study Group Invites Everyone, [Men & Women], To Participate In The Book Discussion: In The Light Of Days - Women Resistance Fighters In Hitler's Ghettos By Judy Batalion Thursday, JUNE 3 at 11:00 AM - on Zoom** The new book that has made headlines for its incredible research and masterful story telling. Most of these stories have not been known nor have the women that so courageously fought for the freedom and dignity of the Jewish people. Please email Rabbi Halina for a link to the meeting: [rabbirubinstein@optonline.net](mailto:rabbirubinstein@optonline.net)

**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.

**Incarceration and the Arts May 5, 2021 7:00-8:30pm** More than 2.3 million people are incarcerated in the US, a disproportionate number of them Black people. Join the Racial Justice Learning Group to discuss this disparity

and to hear how Rehabilitation Through the Arts has helped so many, both in and out of prison. Guest speakers: Charles Moore, Director of Operations and Allison Chernow, Board Co-Chair, Rehabilitation through the Arts. Contact [racialjusticelearninggroup@gmail.com](mailto:racialjusticelearninggroup@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

**Book Club: A Replacement Life by Boris Fishman** *Friday, May 14, 10:00am* Yevgeny Gelman, grandfather of Slava Gelman, “didn’t suffer in the exact way” he needs to have suffered to qualify for the restitution the German government has been paying out to Holocaust survivor....Discussion led by congregant Linda Gerstman. Email [info@TBA-ny.org](mailto:info@TBA-ny.org).

#### **Women's Circle**

*Friday, May 14, 5:00-6:00pm.* Coffee Date (rescheduled from April). Name someone you'd like to spend a few hours with. You can focus on a character from the Bible, but let's face it, we've all watched a lot of TV and movies this year, so feel free to name someone from there. Share with us what you relate to and what you'd like to discuss. Members and Guests are welcome. For women and those who identify as women. Email [info@TBA-ny.org](mailto:info@TBA-ny.org).

#### **Woodlands Community Temple**

**Jammin' Shavuot and First Fruits Blessing** *Fri, May 7, 5:00-5:30 pm* – (on-site weather permitting). Every year we celebrate receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai and bring the littlest members of our community to the base of the mountain! If you have a baby born in the last two years who you'd like to bring for a blessing, email [wct@wct.org](mailto:wct@wct.org) to let us know. We'd be thrilled to have you. We'll be in-person, outside on the temple lawn. If it rains, we'll move to Zoom.

**Shabbat Honoring our teachers and all educators.** *Fri, May 14 at 7:00 pm* – Our annual celebration of learning. View at [facebook.com/wctemple](https://facebook.com/wctemple).

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** *Sat, May 22, 1:00-2:00 pm and June 4 from 4:00-6:00 pm* Come learn about our Kesher Religious School Program. Meet our Rabbi and Educator. Tour the synagogue building RSVP at [wct.org/openhouse](http://wct.org/openhouse)

**Graduation Shabbat** *Fri, May 21 at 8:00 pm* – Honoring our 12th graders. View at [facebook.com/wctemple](https://facebook.com/wctemple).

#### **The Jewish Agency**

##### **Host an Israeli Shinshin!**

As more and more local Jewish organizations are going back to in-person programs, the Jewish Agency has decided to resume the Shinshinim program in Westchester. This coming fall, three amazing new Shinshinim will

arrive in Westchester with the mission to bring Israel as close as possible. We are searching for families who will be interested to host a Shinshin for a few months during the school year (all are fully vaccinated). For more information on this exciting cultural exchange, please get in touch with [Nadav Shachmon](#), Director, Westchester Shinshinim Program.



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