

Reform or 'Open to All' Jewish Teen Organizations & Volunteer Opportunities (in addition to Shir Ami Teens)

Israel Club of Greenwich High School

Teacher Advisor, Steve Swidler,

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Also led by the Greenwich Jewish Emissaries

Co-President, Cassia Bardos, cbb130@gmail.com

Supported by the United Jewish Appeal of Greenwich, the Israel Club consists of students who are concerned with promoting accurate, factual, information about Israel and the situation in the Middle East. The group brings in speakers and holds discussion groups and fundraisers. Money is raised to support a variety of programs in Israel. Grades 9-12. Must attend GHS, non-Jews welcome. Meets on Thursdays from 2:30-3:30.

Kulanu Stamford

www.kulanustamford.org

Elise Passy, Director

elise@ujf.org

203-321-1373

Kulanu offers a wide variety of educational programs for teens in grades 8-12 to enable them to continue their Jewish education after Bar/Bat Miztvah. Classes are not just studying the Torah, they include subjects like Politics in Israel, No Religion is an Island, and Making a Jewish TV Show. Classes take place on Wednesday evenings. They also offer Hebrew classes on Saturdays. Currently they are not showing the 2013 class schedule on their website and their website has been down lately. Not sure about their status.

Judah BBYO Chapter at Temple Sholom in Greenwich

www.templeholom.com/our-community/teen-programs/bbyo

Rabbi David Singer

ravdavid@templeholom.com

203-542-7163

Launched in 2012, Judah BBYO grew from 2 participants to 45 during its first year. BBYO is comprised of 8th-12th grade Jewish teens from Greenwich, Stamford and Rye Brook, and all Jewish teens, regardless of Synagogue affiliation, are welcome to join. Meetings are held every other Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:00pm, and once a month there is a program on Saturday or Sunday. Members are also encouraged to participate in the monthly regional programs, such as conventions and service learning trips. BBYO also partners with organizations such as AIPAC and JTeen. Most of the current officers are from GHS.

Miller High School Honors Program for Young Jewish Leaders at Hebrew Union College (HUC) in New York City

www.huc.edu/academics/high-school-and-youth-programs/miller-high-school-honors-program

11th and 12th grade students from the greater New York area join together in NYC to learn with HUC students, faculty, and leaders of the Reform Movement. The program provides an opportunity for Reform Jewish teens to expand their Jewish knowledge and awareness of contemporary issues and develop their capacity as young leaders for your congregation and Reform Judaism. The program meets twice monthly, on Saturdays from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm, in the Greenwich Village campus of HUC and in/around NYC. Congregation leaders may nominate participants; there is no charge for the program. Cassie Bardos has more information.

Friendship Circle at Chabad of Stamford

http://www.friendshipct.com/templates/youth/article_cdo/aid/77479/jewish/Volunteers.htm

Malya Shmotkin, malya@friendshipct.com, 203-329-0015 #414

Extremely well run volunteer opportunity for Jewish teens to work with/mentor children with special needs for hours of fun and friendship. These shared experiences empower children with special needs, while enriching the lives of everyone involved.

Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Greenwich

www.jfsgreenwich.org

Phone: 203.622.1881

Lisa-Lorraine Smith, Executive Director

llsmith@jfsgreenwich.org

Lisa Goldberg

lmgoldberg@jfsgreenwich.org

JFS has a program to help teen volunteers find the right, meaningful fit for their volunteer needs. For more information visit <http://jfsgreenwich.org/volunteer/teen-volunteers/>. JFS also organizes and runs a program for 7th grade girls called Rosh Hodesh. Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing is a unique program created especially for girls in 7th and 8th grade. Jewish girls of the same age get together to explore such issues as body image, friendship, relationships, and family, make arts & crafts, and have fun! The group meets once a month, each grade on a separate night. <http://jfsgreenwich.org/services/teen-services/rosh-hodesh-its-a-girl-thing/> Since 1983, the mission of Jewish Family Services of Greenwich has been to improve the lives of families and individuals of all ages in the community of Greenwich, Connecticut and beyond, while embracing Jewish wisdom, tradition, and compassion. Shir Ami helps to maintain the 9/11 garden right outside their front door.

United Jewish Appeal of Greenwich (UJA)

www.ujafedgreenwich.org

The mission of the UJA Greenwich is to support and strengthen the Jewish community here, in Israel, and throughout the world. The UJA mostly runs educational programming for adults, such as their recent anti-bullying program, but occasionally will have a program suitable/of interest to teens. They publish *The Jewish News* – September 2013 issue sample -

[http://www.ujafedgreenwich.org/newsletter/gjnsept2013web%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.ujafedgreenwich.org/newsletter/gjnsept2013web%20(1).pdf)

They have a Community Resource guide on their website but the link is currently broken.

http://ujafedgreenwich.org/?page_id=34

They also provide support for the Israel Club of GHS, coordinate the Israeli Emissary program in Greenwich, and provide information on Teen trips to Israel. <http://ujafedgreenwich.org/get-involved/>

The UJA powers the JCC of Greenwich. See below.

JCC of Greenwich

www.jccgreenwich.org

The JCC is the 'programming' arm of the UJA but do not have a facility like the Stamford JCC. They don't do much in the way of teen programming and you can't search their calendar by 'teens' but sometimes Jewish teens (via the Israel Club at GHS) will volunteer to help out at their events, such as movie nights. JCC Greenwich enriches the cultural, spiritual and social life of Greenwich while connecting all of us through exceptional programs and media. JCC Greenwich nurtures creativity and Jewish identity through programming.

Stamford JCC

www.stamfordjcc.org

The website says "The JCC offers high school teens the most innovative recreational, educational and social programs with a focus on youth issues, teen life and being part of a Jewish community." However, teen programs are limited.

http://www.stamfordjcc.org/index.php?submenu=high_school&src=gendocs&ref=HighSchool&category=youth There is significantly more programming for middle school students in grades 6-8.

http://www.stamfordjcc.org/index.php?submenu=middle_school&src=gendocs&ref=MiddleSchool&category=youth

North American Federation of Temple Youth - NFTY (a program of United Reform Judaism URJ)

www.NFTY.org

NFTY is a great website featuring resources, camps & leadership programs for Reform Jewish teens.