



VOICE OF SHAI



SPRING-SUMMER 2018

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Dear SHAI Community:

SHAI has an abundance of news to share with you about the enormous good will and good works our community continues to prize.



SHAI was delighted to host six hundred members of our community and many dignitaries at our Biennial Gala held on March 14, 2018. The evening was successful beyond anyone's expectation: we recognized deserving student and professional honorees; we laughed good naturedly at ourselves thanks to the comic insights of our celebrity emcees Dan and Dave Ahdoot; and we celebrated the "mitzvah shel simcha" joyous work that SHAI does, year in and year out. Take a look at the centerfold of this newsletter for a collage of photos from the event and visit SHAI's website www.shaiusa.org to find write ups, photos, and a special montage screened there <https://vimeo.com/259225013>.

In the pages which follow you will see that SHAI does not rest on its laurels. In the short two and a half month span since the Gala, SHAI delivered a film for families about the Shoah with the Gold Coast Arts Center; a "Feast in the Middle East" Sephardi Shabbaton for Hillel college students; an important panel discussion with lead experts regarding psychological, professional and academic hazards of social media posts; a Shabbaton service and luncheon with the Persian Center at Park East Synagogue; a Mother's Day luncheon for hundreds of our matriarchs and patriarchs, and need-based educational scholarships to a stream of deserving applicants.

In the next few weeks, SHAI will march proudly in the Memorial and Celebrate Israel Parades, host a Young Professionals social networking event, a Stars singles party, convene a forum regarding organ donation, support the seventh summer of Sephardi Summer Day Camp, and convene an August forum against the virus of BDS (Boycott Divestment and Sanctions against Israel movement) spreading across local and national college campuses.

As I shared at the Biennial Gala, SHAI is in effect a Jewish Community Center without walls. Indeed, our community is so robust that no walls could contain us! The SHAI Board is grateful to be able to serve our students, campers, singles, elderly, community, and civic groups. We rely on your ideas, attendance, and financial support. Send your ideas, contributions, home and email addresses to info@shaiusa.org or to me at rebeccasassouni@gmail.com. Be in touch!

See you at the Celebrate Israel Parade on Sunday June 3!

Be well,
Rebecca Sassouni
President
SHAI

SHAI MARCHES IN NEW YORK PERSIAN PARADE

On Sunday, April 22, 2018, SHAI marched in the New York Persian Parade following a banner with Jewish Menorah symbols. SHAI members marched down Madison Avenue, dancing to Persian music and proudly waving Persian Flags. After the parade, the No-Ruz festivities continued at Madison Square Park where SHAI mingled with the Iranian-American community.



SHAI SPONSORS FIRST-EVER NASSAU COUNTY NO-RUZ CELEBRATION

On the evening of March 21st, invited by Nassau County Legislator Ellen Birnbaum, over 150 Nassau County residents celebrated No-Ruz, the Persian New Year, at the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building in Mineola. The event included a Haft Seen No-Ruz Ceremonial table, a musical performance, and poetry readings. SHAI sponsored traditional No-Ruz refreshments including fresh and dried fruits, nuts, and pastries. This first-ever event in Nassau County acknowledges the importance of our Persian Jewish community to our elected officials and municipal governance.



SHAI HOSTS PANEL PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Together with United Parent Teacher Council, SHAI convened its annual education forum on April 23. SHAI and UPTC have partnered for over a decade regarding subjects important to families with students of all ages and in all school settings. This year's event drew over 250 parents, adolescents, and children from public and private school who attended to learn about the serious ramifications of social media postings: In addition to the negative social emotional effects of students who are bullied and targeted on the internet, the panel also addressed the legal, academic, and employment consequences of improper social media posts, shares, and likes. These include: student suspensions, lost college admissions and scholarships, and lost jobs. The panelists included Superintendent of Great Neck Schools Dr. Teresa Prendergast, Psychologist Rena Gombo, Provost Nancy Kaplan, ED.D., Police Detective Rory Forestal, and Supreme Court Justice Hon. John Iliou. A thought-provoking question and answer session followed the presentation.



SHAI SPONSORS HOLOCAUST FILM FOR FAMILIES

MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE AND THE GOLD COAST ARTS CENTER
present

THE LONG ISLAND PREMIERE OF THE NUMBER ON GREAT-GRANDPA'S ARM

A SPECIAL FAMILY SCREENING FOLLOWED BY A CONVERSATION WITH
HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR IRVING ROTH

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 | 11AM | DOORS OPEN AT 10:30AM

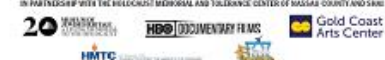
Box The Squire Cinemas, Great Neck, NY
FREE EVENT - RESERVATION REQUIRED 516-829-2570

Join us for a special presentation of HBO's short family film that introduces Holocaust history to a new generation. When 10-year-old Elliot asks his 80-year-old great-grandfather, Jack, about the number tattooed on his arm, he sparks an intimate conversation about Jack's life that spans happy memories of childhood in Poland, the loss of his family, surviving Auschwitz, and finding a new life in America. Their tender exchange is woven with historical footage and hand-drawn animation to tell a heartbreaking story of Jewish life in Eastern Europe before and during the Holocaust.



PLEASE NOTE: FILM IS RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN 8 AND ABOVE.

THIS FILM IS BEING SCREENED IN COMMEMORATION OF YOM HASHOAH
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND TOLERANCE CENTER OF NASSAU COUNTY AND SHAI

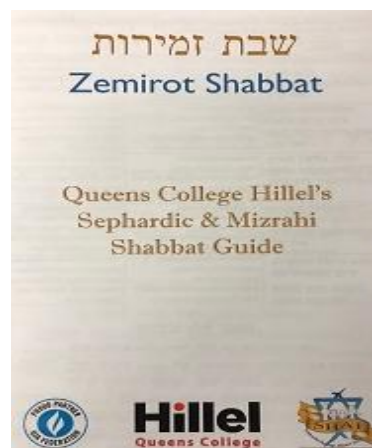


GOLD COAST CINEMA SERIES
FREE - RSVP REQUIRED
goldcoastfilmfestival.org
516-829-2570

On Sunday, April 22, SHAI, in cooperation with the Museum of Jewish Heritage, the Gold Coast Arts Center, and the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County, held the Long Island premiere of the HBO documentary film, *The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm*. The film is an introduction to the Holocaust for the fourth generation of children, and focuses on the tender conversations between 10-year-old Elliot and his grandfather, a Holocaust survivor. The film's original artwork and drawings are very profound. This special family event was followed by a conversation with a Holocaust survivor. Due to overwhelming response, a second screening was added to accommodate the community. The 18 minute film may be viewed on the internet at www.hbo.com/documentaries/the-number-on-great-grampas-arm.

SHAI SPONSORS SEPHARDI SHABBATON AT QUEENS COLLEGE'S HILLEL

SHAI sponsored its third Sephardic-themed Shabbaton with Hillel at CUNY Queens College. This year's "Feast in the Middle East" themed Shabbaton, co-sponsored with UJA Federation of New York, included Friday night Sephardi Kabbalat Shabbat services, a delicious Sephardi Shabbat dinner, and after-dinner activities. Over one hundred students from many backgrounds attended, including Persian, Bukharian, Moroccan, Iraqi, and Ashkenazi Jews. The Sephardi Shabbaton presents an amazing opportunity to unite Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews.



SHAI BIENNIAL GALA 2018





SHAI SOCIAL SENIOR CENTER CELEBRATES MOTHER'S DAY, NO-RUZ, AND PURIM

Three hundred matriarchs and patriarchs of our community were treated to an elaborate Mother's Day celebration on May 14, 2018. Held in Great Neck Synagogue's ballroom, catered by Lederman Caterers, the SHAI Mother's Day event has become an annual custom as an outgrowth of SHAI's weekly programs in collaboration with the Town of North Hempstead Senior Social Center.

The Social Senior Center celebrated No-Ruz this year with a ceremonial Haft Seen table, singing, dancing, and food. They enjoyed the traditional No-Ruz meal of Polo Sabzi and fish served from Shiraz. SHAI Board members, Town of North Hempstead Councilwoman Anna Kaplan, Town Clerk Wayne Wink, Supervisor Judi Bosworth, and Receiver of Taxes Charles Berman also joined the celebration.

This Purim, nearly 120 seniors attended the Social Senior Center Purim celebration with singing and dancing. Over 60 North Shore Hebrew Academy students dressed in costumes visited the center with their teachers.



**APPLICATIONS
FOR
NEED-BASED
SHAI
EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIPS
ARE AVAILABLE
AT
SHAIUSA.ORG**

**Summertime in Great Neck
is about having a great time.**

160 Steamboat Road

Cost is
\$170
per week!

Grades
1-6th

June 25
through
August 17

**SEPHARDIC
DAY CAMP
2018**

**Basketball clinics for all kids;
Football Clinics for all kids; Zumba;
Bowling; Field trips; Swimming; Arts & Crafts;
Edible Arts Projects; Music; Jewish Learning;
DRONE Training and Competitions.
Weekly Trips**

**Register Now! Call Samira 348-3757
Daily Lunch & Snacks. Space is limited!**

**DONATE TO
SHAI
SUPPORT
SENIORS,
CAMPERS,
AND
STUDENTS
AT
SHAIUSA.ORG**

SHAI YOUNG FAMILIES CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY AND PURIM



On May 5th, SHAI Young Families partnered with the Persian Center at Park East Synagogue to host a children's Shabbat service followed by a festive catered Shabbat luncheon. During lunch young children were treated to singing and a juggling, comedy and magic show, while their families mingled and moms had the day off. Over 120 adults and 50 children enjoyed.



Earlier this spring, SHAI Young Families hosted a Purim service and seudah with Persian Center at Park East Synagogue. More than 550 attendees enjoyed a festive Purim celebration, dinner, face painting, music, and a costume contest.




The Persian Jewish Center of Manhattan & SHAI Young Families invite you & your family to a Pre-Mother's Day Festive Kiddush Luncheon thanking our Mothers and Wives.

Saturday, May 5th 2018
 Services at 9:30am, Children's service with Toby at 11:00am, followed by a Kiddush Luncheon at 11:45am.

Children's entertainment during Kiddush (Magic Show, Comedy Show, Juggling, & more) by the Amazing Ron

RSVP
 shaiyoungfamilies@gmail.com

Park East Synagogue
 164 East 68th Street



PARK EAST SYNAGOGUE, SHAI YOUNG FAMILIES, AND THE PERSIAN CENTER OF MANHATTAN INVITE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO JOIN US IN A PURIM CELEBRATION

CHILDREN'S PURIM PROGRAM FROM 6-8:30PM
 A PURIM'S CHILDREN SERVICE AND PUPPET SHOW WITH TOBY EINSIDLER AND RIVKHA HALPERT, AT 6PM IN THE WOOL LECTURE HALL, FOLLOWED BY DAIRY DINNER SPONSORED BY JOAN JAKUBOVITZ IN THE CHARLES BROOKS BALLROOM WITH MUSIC, FACE PAINTING, BALLOON BLOWING, MAGIC SHOW, MAKE-YOUR-OWN MASK ART PROJECTS, AND A COSTUME CONTEST WITH OUR JUDGES: ALEXANDRA GOHARI, ERIKA KASHI, AND ELIZABETH SUTTON. THE 3 BEST COSTUMES WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE.
 GIFTS FOR ALL CHILDREN
 ADULTS ARE WELCOMED TO JOIN IN COSTUME



THE PERSIAN CENTER OF MANHATTAN WILL HOST AN ADULT PURIM PARTY WITH DINNER AND MUSIC FROM 8-10PM IN THE BERNARD AND CAROL GOLDBERG BALLROOM

RSVP TO SHAIYOUNGFAMILIES@GMAIL.COM

PARK EAST SYNAGOGUE
 FEBRUARY 20, 2018
 PARK EAST SYNAGOGUE
 164 EAST 68TH STREET
 NYC





MARK YOUR CALENDAR





**Organ Donation:
 Perspectives from a
 Transplant Surgeon, a Rabbi, a Donor, a Recipient**

**Monday June 11, 2018
 8:00 PM**

 Dr. Aaron Winnick is a transplant surgeon specializing in liver and kidney transplantation. He received his medical degree from UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School (now known as Rutgers Medical School), and then went on to do his residency in General Surgery at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. He subsequently completed a fellowship in abdominal transplantation at NYU Langone Medical Center, where he worked as an attending for over 5 years. He started working at Northwell Health in 2017, where he is currently involved in starting up the liver transplant program.

 Rabbi Howard Stecker became senior rabbi of Temple Israel of Great Neck in 2003 after serving the Jewish Community Center of West Hempstead and the Shelter Rock Jewish Center in Roslyn. He graduated Columbia University with a BA in English and was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He is an officer of the New York Board of Rabbis and a Senior Rabbinic Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute. He and his wife, Deanna, have three sons.

 Rebecca Klar graduated from Binghamton University in 2017 with a degree in English with a concentration in rhetoric. She lives in Jericho and currently works as a reporter for Blank Slate Media, covering the Willistons and New Hyde Park. Klar's article, "My Dad Needed a Kidney, I Had One to Spare" can be found at <https://theislandnow.com/featured/my-dad-needed-a-kidney-i-had-one-to-spare/>

Multipurpose Room, Temple Israel of Great Neck
 108 Old Mill Rd., Great Neck, NY 11023
Refreshments provided courtesy of SHAI



AMUDIM
 CHANGE LIVES.
 BUILD FUTURES.

HOW WE AS A COMMUNITY
 CAN ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF:

**SUBSTANCE
 ABUSE AND
 ADDICTION**

SPONSORS:


**SUNDAY EVENING
 6.24.2018**

SHAARE ZION SYNAGOGUE
 225 Middle Neck Road
 Great Neck, NY

SPEAKER: RABBI ZVI GLUCK
 FOUNDER & DIRECTOR OF AMUDIM
 For 14 years, Zvi's telephone number has been on the speed dial of community leaders, rabbis, politicians and anyone involved in community support. His phone rings 24/7: arrests, overdoses, suicide, sexual abuse and diplomatic issues.

8:00 P.M.

On Monday June 4, SHAI will convene an important informational panel regarding the vital subject of Halakhic Organ Donation. The event will be held at Temple Israel of Great Neck, and will include rabbinic, medical, and community organization leadership.



LOOK FOR:

SHAI

Young Professionals

June 12 in NYC

SHAI Stars

June 23 on

Long Island

SHAI Anti-BDS

Forum,

for college students,

this August

**CELEBRATE ISRAEL WITH
SHAI ON JUNE 3RD**

**CELEBRATE ISRAEL WITH
SHAI ON JUNE 3RD**



**CELEBRATE ISRAEL DAY PARADE
JUNE 3, 2018
PARADE WITH SHAI
SABABA**

- * Free air-conditioned buses provided.
 - * Advance registration required!
 - * Buses will leave promptly at 11:45 AM
 - From: Ahvat Shalom Synagogue
130 Cuttermill Road, Great Neck
 - * Rain or Shine!
 - * In Manhattan? Meet us at 1:30 PM
on 52nd St., bet 5th & Madison Ave.
(Call in advance to get t-shirts)
 - * Need to wear parade t-shirt to participate. Parade@Shaiusa.org
- For information & registration call:
- Mike Delafraz: 516-384-1333
 - Raymond Eshaghoff: 917-806-8000
 - Shahruz Shahery: 212-391-1050
 - Or: 516-466-8947
 - Email registration:

Wave your flags! Enjoy the pageantry! Celebrate the day! Applaud the participants!

COME & BE COUNTED