



# Inside SCHECHTER

March 15, 2024 / 5 Adar II 5784  
Weekly Parashat : [Pekudei](#)

Candle lighting: 6:38 PM  
Shabbat ends: 7:40 PM

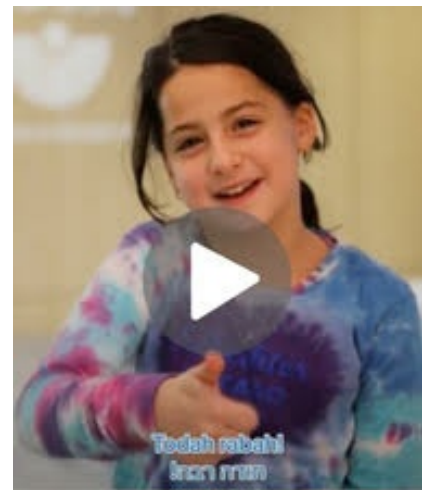
## A Message From Dr. Lena Kushnir About the Chai Five Challenge

I am filled with gratitude as I write this message. From students to alumni, parents and grandparents, parents of alumni, tzevet members, and friends of Schechter, it is so inspiring to witness the strength and unity of our Schechter community.

As our students expressed so joyfully in their video messages, every single new and increased gift counted — and brought us closer to our goal of 360 donations in 48 hours. Your contributions not only helped us to exceed our Chai Five Challenge goal (with over 415 donations!); they also reaffirm the profound impact of our shared mission and values.

**Thank you for being a valued member of our Schechter community. You helped us rise to the Challenge for our kids!**

*If you wanted to participate but didn't have an opportunity, feel free to add your support [HERE](#).*



## Celebrating Comfort and Joy in Adar Bet



Our thanks to our enthusiastic 1st and 2nd graders for suggesting that we welcome the joy of Adar Bet with an all-school Pajama Day! It was so much fun to come to school on Monday dressed in the comfort of our cozy PJs!

## Memorable Moments with Our Mifgash From Kiryat Gat



We were thrilled to welcome 12 students and two teachers from Kiryat Gat thanks to the support of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. Some families hosted students in their homes, allowing us to embrace the mitzvah of *hachnasat orchim*, or welcoming guests.

In addition to inviting the *mifgash* into our classrooms, everyone enjoyed bowling, exploring Jewish life locally, and ice skating on Saturday evening after Shabbat.

On Tuesday, our 8th graders traveled to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago with the *mifgash*. And on Wednesday, we said *l'hitraot* to our guests, however we look forward to continuing to nurture these special friendships.



## Young Hearts, Big Impact: 1st & 2nd Graders Visit Feed My Starving Children



On Thursday, our 1st and 2nd-graders — joined by their teachers and parent and grandparent volunteers — participated in a social action project at *Feed My Starving Children*. Together, they packed meals that will help nourish hungry children in nearly 70 countries across the globe. Throughout the experience, students discussed the Jewish value of *Tikkun Olam* and reflected on their individual responsibility to repair the world.





"We are filled with pride and gratitude for our students' unwavering commitment to create a better world," said the 1st and 2nd grade team. "Their passion, empathy, and determination serve as a beacon of hope for our community and beyond."

## Ginsburg ECC Celebrates Purim!



This week, our Ginsburg ECC got ready for Purim! Students created and decorated puppets to tell the story of Purim using paper bags, string, gems, crowns, and felt. "We saw a lot of Queen Esthers and discussed her story and the courage she displayed," said Sandra Greenblatt, Alonim Aleph teacher. "Students also reflected on what it means to be a hero and how to be brave. They shared their thoughts about their own acts of courage — from seeing a fox to going to the dentist!"

## Kol Hakavod to our Welcome Wagon Volunteers!



Thanks to our many tzevet members (some pictured) who delivered welcome bags to our incoming Kindergarten students throughout the North Shore. The bags included Schechter swag and a personalized message from one of our 8th graders.

"Mrs. Ochana stopped by our home to deliver a welcome bag to Shai and it was the highlight of our week!" said Eliana Swislow Wool (SSDS '05'). "That was such a warm and thoughtful welcome! Honestly, the most meaningful piece was the letter from the 8th grader, I love that touch, that was very impactful."



"We are so excited about our incoming kindergarten cohort and can't wait to see them learning and growing in our classrooms," said Hillary Dunn (SSDS '87), Director of Admissions. "It was also such a beautiful opportunity to engage our outgoing 8th graders in welcoming the newest members of our school community!"

## Mazal Tov to Jacob Simon on His Bar Mitzvah

Jacob Simon (SSDS '25) became a Bar Mitzvah this past Shabbat at Northwestern Hillel. He read parashat Vayakhel and celebrated this milestone with family and friends. Jacob loves playing soccer with FC Lakeshore and basketball on the SSDS team. He also plays clarinet in the 7th grade band.

Mazal tov to Jacob's parents, Claire Sufrin (SSDS '92) and Michael Simon; his loving Savti Irene Sufrin (former SSDS board member, Learning Center Director, and Principal of the ECC) and Sabi Barry Sufrin; his brother Ethan Simon (SSDS '25); and his many aunts, uncles, and cousins who traveled from around the country to Evanston to participate — including Zach (SSDS '95), Hanna (SSDS '00), and Nat (SSDS '03) Sufrin.



## A Purim Message from Rabbi Jonathan



We really need Purim this year — not only to add joy to a broken world and to our grief-stricken homeland, but also to remind ourselves of one of the main messages of the holiday. Purim tells us that life — in an instant — can change from bad to good. *V'nahafoch hu*: expectations inverted. Travails overturned. Fates flipped.

This year, may we garner the hope that despite the world that we see, things can transform dramatically for the better, and we can be a part of that change.

*Take a look at our Purim Holiday Resource Guide for some ideas of how to celebrate the holiday, increase your joy, and bring light into the world.*

[Check Out the Purim Holiday Guide](#)

**Mark Your Calendars to Join us for Seussical! Jr.  
Tickets Go on Sale Next Week!**

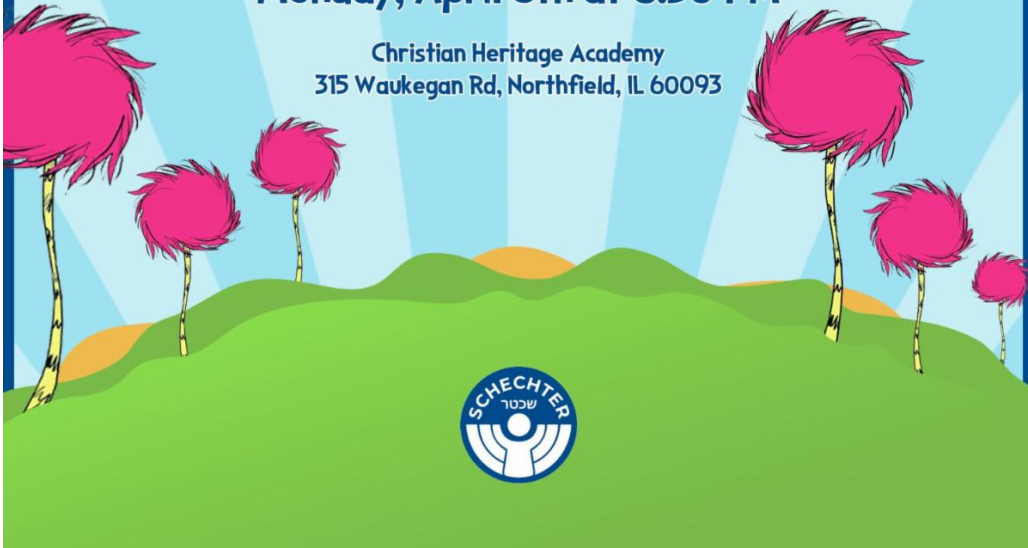


SCHECHTER IS PROUD TO PRESENT

# Seussical™ JR.

Sunday, April 7th at 3:30 PM  
Monday, April 8th at 6:30 PM

Christian Heritage Academy  
315 Waukegan Rd, Northfield, IL 60093



**Calling All Grandparents:  
Join Us For This Special Workshop!**

## Grandparent & Me: Passover Discovery Workshop

Sunday, April 7, 10am - 11am  
SCHECHTER Northbrook Campus

Join award-winning Theater Artist and Jewish Educator **Jonathan Shmidt Chapman** (founder of The K'ilu Company) for this hands-on workshop designed for grandparents and grandchildren in Kindergarten-3rd grade!



Explore the story of Pesach together - "k'ilu" - as if you were there - through imaginative and creative play.



Cost: Donation of \$18 per grandparent/child(ren) to attend this event

**REGISTER HERE**

Questions? Contact  
shira.rozgovich@schechter.org



This program is being presented in partnership with Jewish Grandparents Network.



## JUF Launches Resources to Help Us Talk About Tough Issues



As our community faces record antisemitism, JUF has launched a new microsite as a resource to help individuals talk about tough issues, in settings ranging from Shabbat tables to social media. **[The Power of One: A Community Toolkit for Creating Allies & Advocacy](#)** begins as a guide to broaching conversations with non-Jewish friends about the conflict in Israel, antisemitism here at home, and more. It also contains best practices for addressing challenges in your child's school, on campus or in your own workplace; resources for communicating with elected officials; how to care for your family's mental health, Our thanks to JUF for this important resource.



# Moriah Congregation Judaic Art & Jewelry Fair

**MARCH 16 & 17, 2024**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16 | 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.**  
Sponsor Event: Minimum \$500 Donation

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17 | 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**  
\$10 General Admission Fee



*All artists are exclusively Israeli!*

**FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES OR TO LEARN MORE**

**CALL MORIAH CONGREGATION (847) 948-5340**



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A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

Solomon Schechter Day School | 3210 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL 60062

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